

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 12 October 2005

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14 October, 2005



Rainfall and Inflows

Light rain fell over the southern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with 25 to 50 mm recorded over the Upper River Murray catchment and in a band over Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Adelaide hills in South Australia. Little or no rain fell in the northern parts of the Basin (*see attached map*).

Following the rainfall, there were minor increases in the inflow to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs, which peaked at 8 000 ML/day and 23 000 ML/day, respectively. The inflow from the Kiewa River at Bandiana is now less than 3 000 ML/day and the Ovens River at Wangaratta is about 5 300 ML/day. This is the lowest level of inflow from the Ovens River in over two months.

Barmah-Millewa Forest Watering

During September, inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers resulted in an extended period of above channel capacity flows through the "Barmah" choke, which commenced watering of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. This week, the NSW and Victorian governments agreed to release water from the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Account to continue the watering of the Forest (*see attached MDBC and RMW media releases*).

A program of increased release from Hume Reservoir and Yarrawonga Weir commenced this week in order to deliver the environmental flows to the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

Further significant rainfall and increased inflows from the tributaries to the River Murray (in particular the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers) may provide further opportunities for environmental watering and possibly allow access to supplementary water by irrigators.

River Murray Operations

Release from Hume Reservoir has been gradually increased over the past week, as the inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers receded. The increase was initially made to supply increasing irrigation demands, however further increases were made following the decision to release water for the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The release from Hume is now 13 000 ML/day, and may be further increased over the coming week to meet both the irrigation and environmental flow requirements.

During the week, the flow downstream of Yarrawonga was gradually decreased to 9 000 ML/day following the last inflow event, however Wednesday marked the commencement of the release of the environmental flow for the Forest, and an initial increase was made to 11 000 ML/day. The flow will be further gradually increased to 18 000 ML/day, and subsequently varied between about 15 000 and 18 000 ML/day. Without further rain, it is expected that flows downstream of the Barmah-Millewa Forest will remain in channel and will be captured in Lake Victoria and used to assist with the supply of South Australia's entitlement flow.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 13 October 2005

Increase in Release from Hume Reservoir and Yarrowonga Weir for Barmah-Millewa Forest



A program of increased release from Hume Reservoir and Yarrowonga Weir has commenced in order to provide increased flows for environmental benefit for the Barmah-Millewa Forest, River Murray Water announced today.

“This program was initiated following requests from the Victorian and New South Wales agencies for a release of the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Allocation,” RMW General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said.

Flow downstream of Yarrowonga Weir is now being progressively increased from 9 000 to reach 18 000 ML/day by about 18 October. In order to achieve this flow rate downstream of Yarrowonga, the release from Hume Reservoir is being progressively increased from about 7 000 to about 18 000 ML/day by 16 October. As a result, flow at Albury is expected to increase to about 21 000 ML/day by 15 October.

“Following this initial increase in flows in the Murray, some variability in flow at Yarrowonga between 15 000 and 18 000 ML/day is to be implemented unless there is significant rain and changes in flow in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers upstream,” Mr Dreverman added.

“As a result of this release program, it is likely that the water level of Lake Mulwala will be varied a little more frequently than would otherwise be the case, however, the water levels will still be within the normal operating range of the Lake.”

It is currently expected that, if dry conditions occur, the release of the Environmental Water Allocation for the forest would continue until summer. The release program will be continually reviewed in consultation with State agencies, and may be varied to suit changed conditions. Further details of changed flow requirements will be advised as necessary.

River users are advised to take this operation into account when planning their activities.

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(Allison Hicks is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

TRIM Ref: 05/17861



MEDIA RELEASE

(Thursday, October 13, 2005)

Barmah-Millewa Forest to receive healthy flood

Environmental flows will be released into Barmah-Millewa Forest starting today to improve River redgum health and flush out the wetland system. The flooding over the coming months will boost breeding of native fish, frogs and birdlife and improve the habitat of other animals such as tortoises.

Chair of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council, The Hon Peter McGauran MP, welcomed the release and commended the NSW and Victorian governments for making water available through the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Allocation.

"It is 5-years since the forest experienced a flood of this kind and over time the health of the vegetation has declined. Under pre-regulated conditions, floods of this size would have happened at least every second year," he said.

Australian Government Minister for Environment and Heritage and member of the Ministerial Council, Senator The Hon Ian Campbell, supported the action. "The floods will improve vegetation health and water quality, and enhance breeding conditions for wildlife, including the threatened White-breasted Sea-eagle," he said.

Minister McGauran said the proposed flooding is one of a series of initiatives the Ministerial Council is undertaking to improve the health of the River Murray.

NSW Minister for Natural Resources, The Hon Ian Macdonald MP said the floods would contribute to achieving the Living Murray ecological objectives for the Barmah-Millewa Forest, one of the six significant ecological assets.

Victorian Minister for the Environment, The Hon John Thwaites MP said the proposed flow release would not adversely impact the provision of water to irrigators in coming months.

Both Ministers Macdonald and Thwaites agreed the impact of the flooding on the river and wetland health would be monitored closely. An adaptive management approach would be taken to enable governments to learn from environmental flow release.

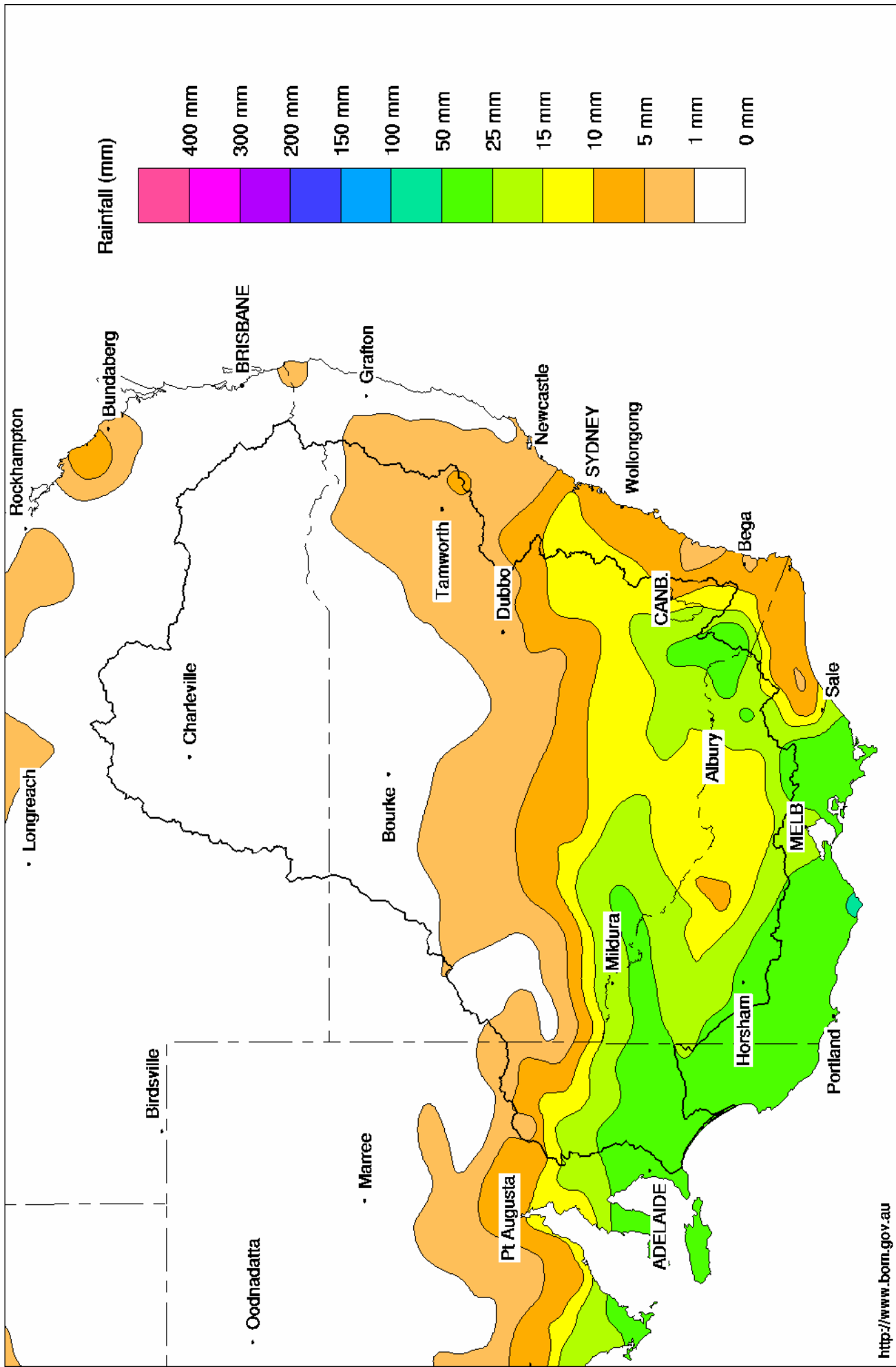
Further information on the Barmah-Millewa 'significant ecological asset' and the Living Murray is available at: <http://www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au/>

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th October 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	459.21	2 372	61%	80	2 292	+37
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	190.59	2 761	91%	30	2 731	+99
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.99	675	100%	100	575	+8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		472	27%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		6 281	67%	--	5 599	+140

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **66%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	659	64%	3	656	+8
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 012	62%	24	988	+78
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 574	46%	100	1 474	+25

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-Oct-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 255	+36	Snowy-Murray	+4	338
Snowy-Murray Component	1 082	+34	Tooma-Tumut	+12	181
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	-7.7	157
			Murray 1 Release	+25	570

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	36.9	168.4
Wakool System loss	0.0	9.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	1.8
Licensed Pumps	6.5	50.6
Lower Darling	1.6	14.7
TOTAL	45.1	244.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	9.8	25
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	12.0	135
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	8
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	3
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.1	46
TOTAL	29.3	217

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170	
Flow this week	75.8	(10 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	125	
Flow last month	239	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	90	90	110
Euston	90	100	140
Red Cliffs	130	130	150
Merbein	120	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	530	530	530
Lock 9	120	120	150
Lake Victoria	190	180	190
Berri	190	200	260
Waikerie	270	280	400
Morgan	290	280	410
Mannum	420	420	460
Murray Bridge	430	440	460
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 310	1 310	1 380
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	880	900	1 000
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 110	2 050	2 070
Goolwa Barrages	1 540	1 550	1 990



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	5 270	S	5 540	9 520
Jingellic	4.0	2.59	209.11	13 080	F	15 110	25 910
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.95	218.84	2 540	F	2 860	3 390
Heywoods	5.5	2.68	156.31	11 500	R	6 550	600
Doctors Point	5.5	3.02	151.49	14 300	R	9 710	6 450
Albury	4.3	2.00	149.44	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.46	128.48	11 100	R	7 770	7 060
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.62	116.66	8 990	S	10 400	14 790
Tocumwal	6.4	2.19	106.03	9 600	F	12 620	14 010
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.46	81.01	7 450	F	7 390	8 470
Swan Hill	4.5	1.44	64.36	7 390	F	7 570	9 170
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.68	52.80	11 340	F	12 070	13 120
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.12	43.96	11 090	F	12 050	13 700
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.31	10 610	F	10 980	11 240
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.40	28.16	10 330	F	10 540	10 800
Rufus Junction	-	4.09	21.02	10 380	F	10 130	9 130
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	11 100	S	9 570	9 040
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.27	155.50	3 080	R	3 980	8 860
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.59	147.27	5 546	F	6 050	9 770
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.32	92.74	639	F	870	950
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 250	F	1 640	2 310
Edward at Liewah	-	2.98	58.36	2 620	F	2 800	2 510
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.74	55.23	1 200	F	1 460	1 500
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	249	S	240	670
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	20	F	60	170
Darling at Bourke	-	4.09	-	329	F	380	450
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	36	R	40	70

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	26 350	48 300
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.22	+1.78
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.13	+0.75
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.10	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.50	+0.56
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.51	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.23	+1.27
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.76	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.56
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	+0.77	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.55
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.64	+0.63	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.12	+0.29

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.04	1.83	71.18	2490
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.21	0.26	61.56	373

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.86

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.92	3
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.91	5

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level