

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 5 October 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs,jm
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7 October, 2005



Rainfall and Inflows

This week, whilst most of the Basin received some light showers, there were good falls of 50 to 100 mm over the catchment of the upper River Murray. The rain produced renewed inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs, which peaked at about 13 000 ML/day and 56 000 ML/day respectively. The inflows from both the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers increased to about 13 000 ML/day.

River Murray Operations

During the past week, the release from Dartmouth Reservoir remained at the minimum flow of 200 ML/day. The low release, combined with the increase in inflows, lead to a 60 GL increase in storage volume, bringing the total storage to 2 335 GL (or 60% capacity). Local inflows to the Mitta Mitta River upstream of Snowy Creek were highly turbid following the recent heavy rainfall, as the catchment is still recovering from the impact of the bushfires in January 2003. To improve the water quality, the release from Dartmouth was increased to 400 ML/day on 6 October for five days.

The release from Hume Reservoir was also maintained at the minimum level (600 ML/day) during the week, but was increased on Wednesday 5 October to supply the increasing irrigation demands. This release corresponded with receding inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 280 GL during the week, and is currently at 2 663 GL (or 88% capacity), the highest it has been in the last five years (ie since December 2000). The rate of storage rise will slow significantly, however, if there is little further rain and irrigation demand rises.

The flow downstream of Yarrawonga was temporarily increased to 17 000 ML/day over the weekend to pass the inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, but has since been reduced to 12 000 ML/day. The release will be further reduced over the next few days as the inflows gradually recede. Further downstream, the flow at Euston is currently about 12 500 ML/day, and the flow to South Australia is about 10 000 ML/day, which remains well above the October entitlement flow to South Australia of 5 500 ML/day.

Summary for September 2005

During September 2005, much of the Murray-Darling Basin received average or above average rainfall (see attached map). This rain fell on a wet catchment, following on from similar conditions in recent months, and resulted in improved inflows to the River Murray System. Total inflows to the River Murray System over the month were marginally above average, and would be expected to be higher in only 4 years out of 10. Notably, inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs were very good, and would be expected to be exceeded in only 3 and 20 years out of 100, respectively. This has provided a significant boost to water resource availability for this and coming seasons. During September, the total volume in MDBC storages has increased by 1 200 GL to 5 200 GL (active storage), which is about 1 500 GL greater than at the same time last year, and the highest it has been since January 2002 (see attached graph).

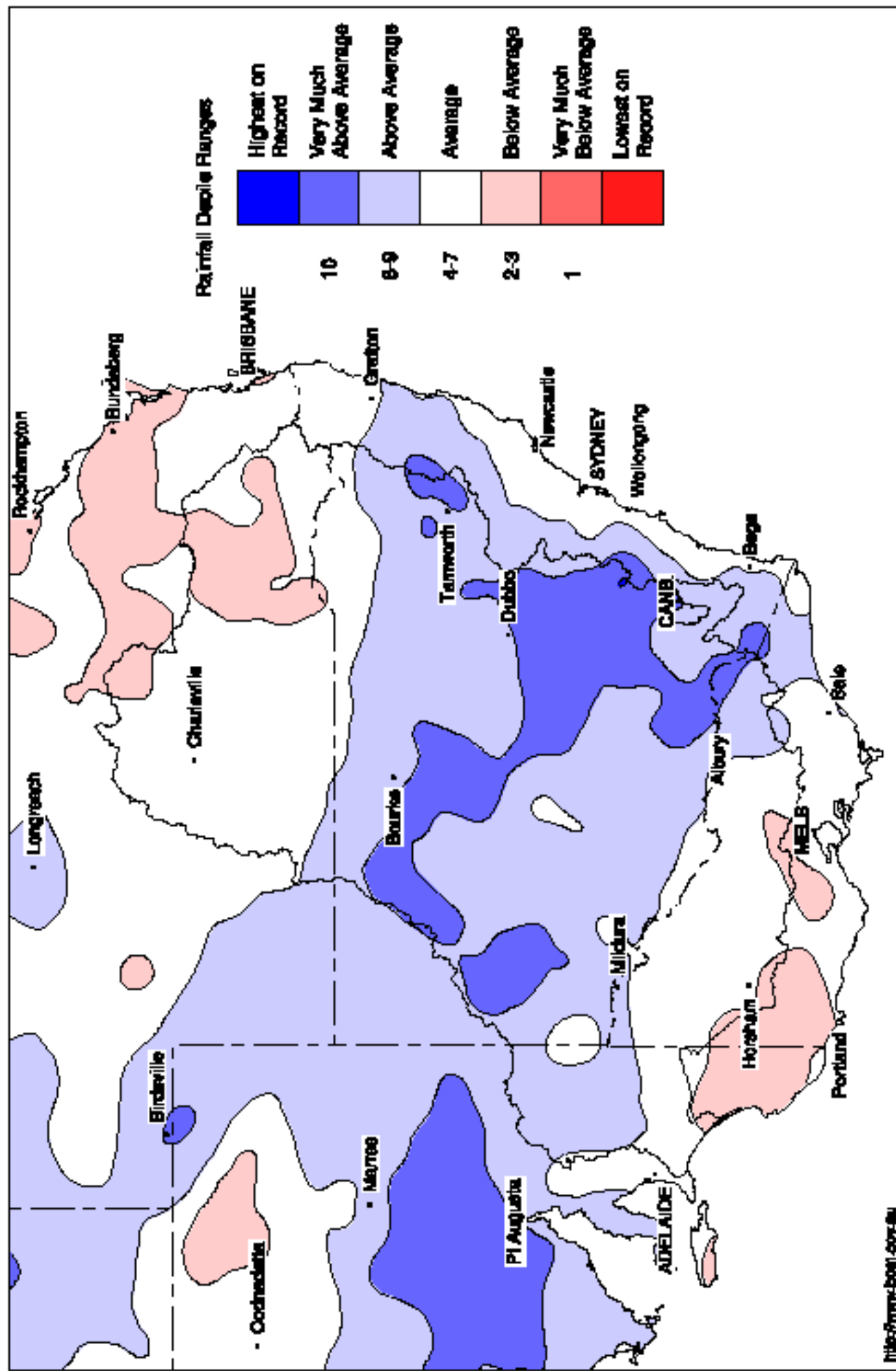
However, despite the good rainfall and inflows, the four years to September 2005 remain the lowest on record (for total inflows to the River Murray System) and above average inflows are still required before the total MDBC storage volume returns to more average levels.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

River Murray Water
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

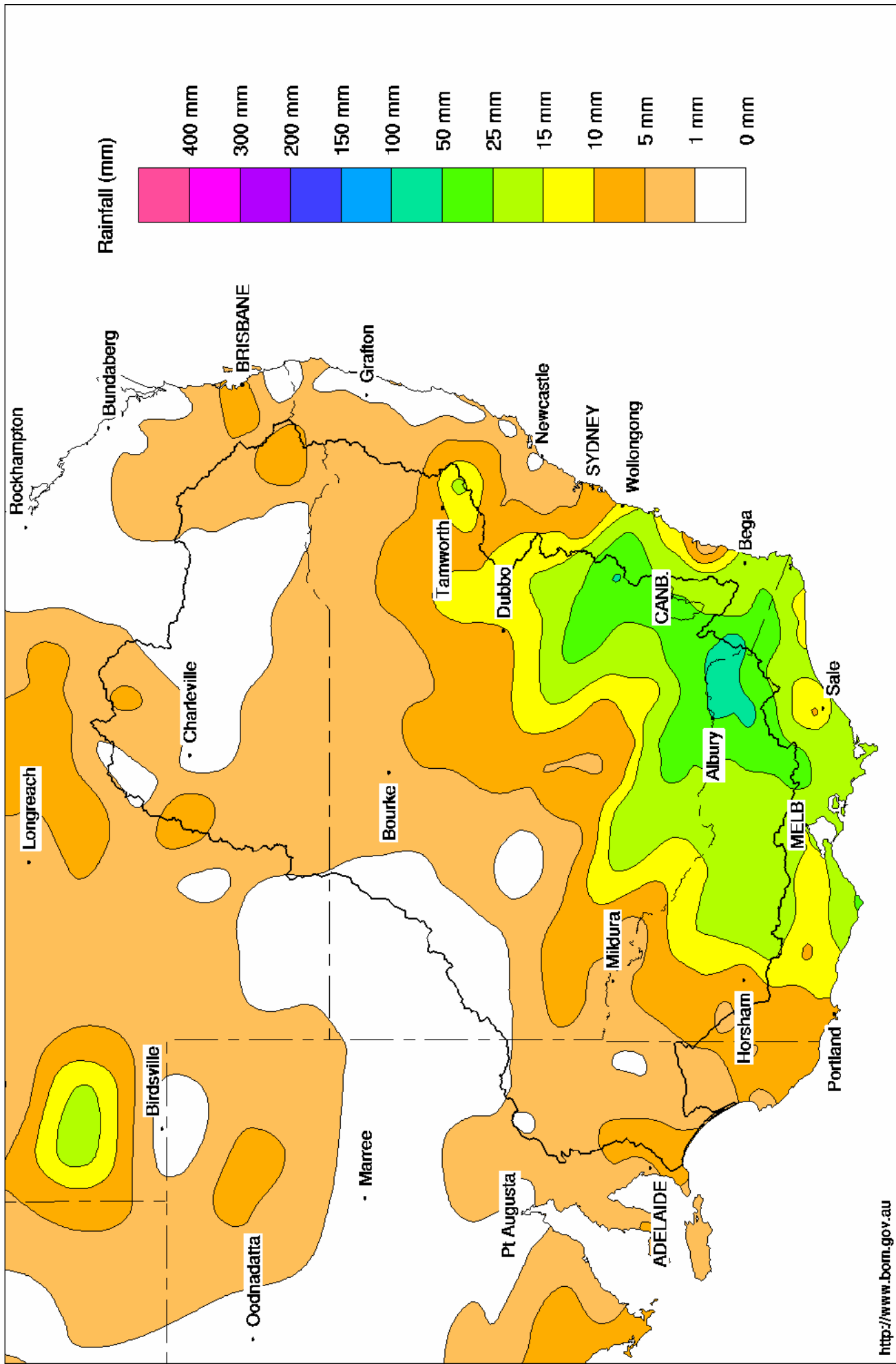
Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles September 2005

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climatic Centre

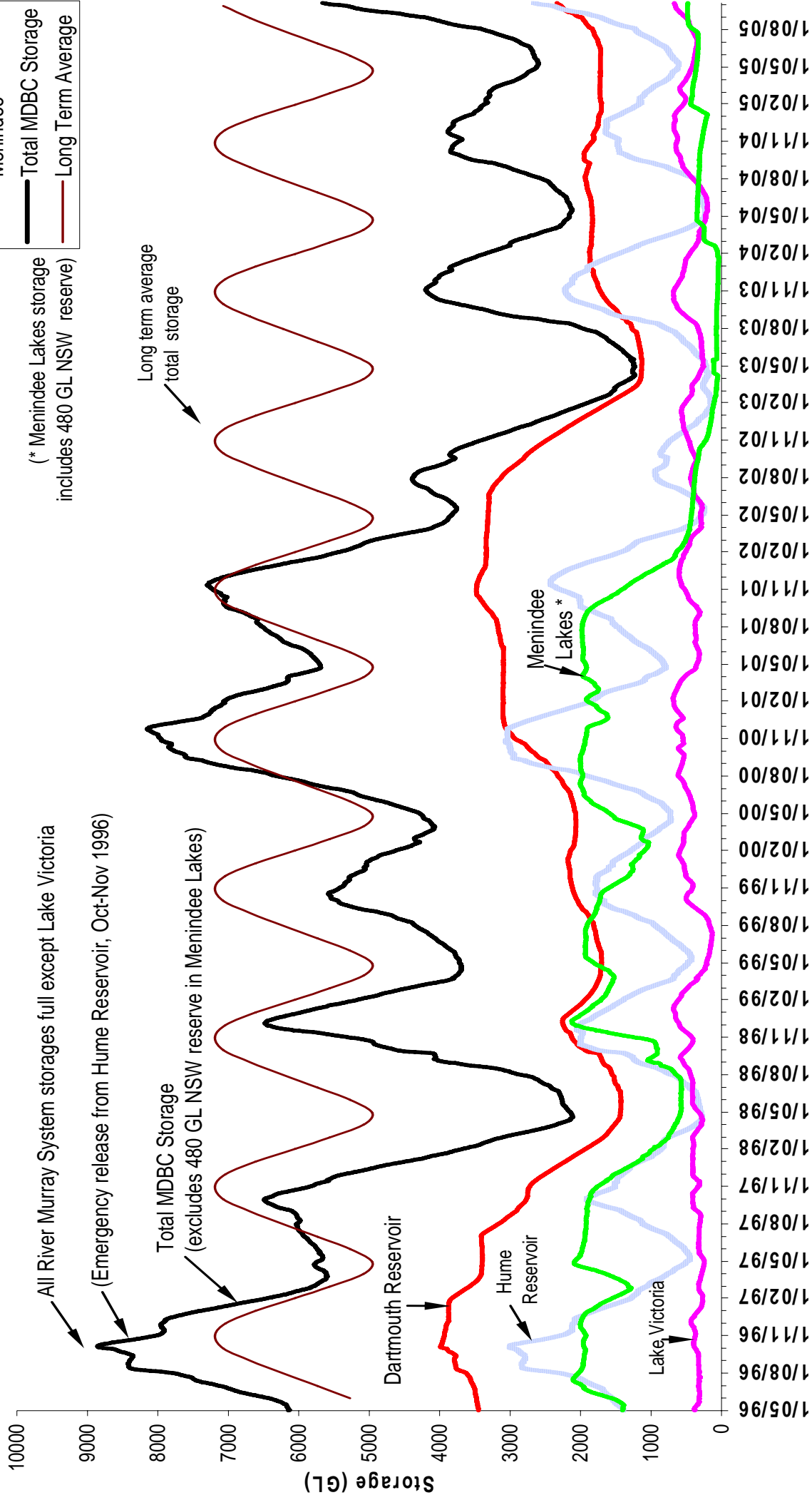


Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 5th October 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



River Murray System Storages : 1-5-1996 to 5-10-2005 (Prepared by River Murray Water)



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	458.45	2 335	60%	80	2 255	+62
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	190.07	2 663	88%	30	2 633	+278
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.92	667	99%	100	567	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		476	28%	(- -) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		6 141	66%	--	5 455	+347

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **64%**

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		650	63%	3	647	+60
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		933	57%	24	909	+23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 549	46%	100	1 449	+40

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-Oct-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 219	+66	Snowy-Murray	+8	334
Snowy-Murray Component	951	-50	Tooma-Tumut	+14	169
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	-5.8	165
			Murray 1 Release	+31	545

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	20.1	130.2
Wakool System loss	0.0	9.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	1.7
Licensed Pumps	6.4	44.0
Lower Darling	3.1	13.1
TOTAL	30.0	198.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.7	15
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.6	123
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.4	8
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	2
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.1	40
TOTAL	21.4	188

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170	
Flow this week	68.5	(9 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	49	
Flow last month	239	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	80	80	110
Euston	120	120	140
Red Cliffs	120	130	150
Merbein	100	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	530	530	530
Lock 9	140	140	150
Lake Victoria	180	190	190
Berri	220	210	270
Waikerie	-	340	430
Morgan	300	300	420
Mannum	430	440	470
Murray Bridge	450	460	460
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 360	1 380	1 390
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	840	830	1 010
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 930	2 080	2 070
Goolwa Barrages	1 630	1 560	2 040



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	-	-	-	7 780	F	9 520	5 730
Jingellic	4.0	3.09	209.61	19 090	F	25 910	12 720
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.08	218.97	3 100	F	3 390	2 520
Heywoods	5.5	1.26	154.89	600	S	600	1 630
Doctors Point	5.5	2.08	150.55	4 570	F	6 450	4 520
Albury	4.3	1.11	148.55	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.65	127.67	5 930	F	7 060	4 560
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.40	117.44	15 300	F	14 790	9 310
Tocumwal	6.4	3.14	106.98	17 570	R	14 010	10 820
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.41	80.96	7 250	F	8 470	9 250
Swan Hill	4.5	1.62	64.54	8 570	F	9 170	9 320
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.98	53.10	12 990	S	13 120	13 430
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.37	44.21	12 960	F	13 700	12 850
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.32	11 420	F	11 240	11 580
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.34	28.10	10 830	F	10 800	10 830
Rufus Junction	-	3.95	20.88	9 440	R	9 130	9 610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	6 950	F	9 040	8 440
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.52	155.75	5 700	F	8 860	3 280
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.82	147.50	6 421	F	9 770	7 240
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.80	93.22	1 420	S	950	880
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 580	F	2 310	3 370
Edward at Liewah	-	3.04	58.42	2 720	R	2 510	2 520
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.84	55.33	1 580	S	1 500	1 320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.60	56.56	264	F	670	990
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	120	F	170	80
Darling at Bourke	-	4.11	-	410	F	450	240
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	61	S	70	90

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	48 300	21 880
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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	+0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.18	+1.62
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.14	+0.72
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.14	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.50	+0.57
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.52	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.20	+1.30
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.70	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.31
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.63	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.51	+0.54	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.10

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.88	1.1	70.45	991
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.16	0.2	61.5	314

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.83

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.73	3
Mundoo	26 openings	0.78	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	1
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.80	4



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