

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 February 2006

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17 February, 2006



Rainfall and Inflow

Cooler and mainly dry conditions prevailed across the southern part of the Basin this week, however in southern Queensland and north-eastern NSW a trough of low pressure triggered a series of severe thunderstorms with heavy local rainfall (*see attached map*). For the week ending 16 February, over 100 mm of rain fell at Gravesend (Gwidir Catchment) and at Narrabri (Namoi Catchment). This has generated some minor stream rises however further rainfall will be required to create significant inflow to the Darling River.

System Operations

The variable release pattern from Dartmouth Dam, aimed at improving water quality along the Mitta Mitta River, will continue for at least another two weeks if conditions remain dry. As in past weeks, the flow will be varied on weekly cycle with the higher flow of 400 ML/day occurring on weekends and a lower flow of 200 ML/day occurring mid week.

The cooler conditions of the past few weeks have led to a small reduction in irrigation diversions and lower evaporative losses along the river system. Accordingly, the release from Hume Reservoir has been gradually reduced to about 20 000 ML/day at Doctors Point, down from 22 000 ML/day.

An inspection of river levels through the Barmah-Millewa Forest after the last of the forest regulators had been closed, indicated that the release from Yarrowonga Weir would need to be reduced to prevent unseasonal flooding in parts of the forest. Accordingly, the release from Yarrowonga Weir was slightly reduced from 10 200 ML/day to 10 000 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria fell by a further 33 GL to 373 GL (55% capacity), which is very low for this time of year when there is no MDBC resource available in Menindee Lakes to call on. In response, RMW will increase its call on water from the Goulburn River inter-valley trade account to target a flow at McCoys Bridge on the Goulburn River of up to 2 500 ML/day. RMW is also continuing to utilise Murray Irrigation Limited and Goulburn-Murray Water irrigation channel systems to pass as much water as possible from Hume Reservoir around the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

The latest sampling long the Lower Darling River indicates that blue green algae numbers have now reached 'high alert level' for Ellerslie and Pooncarie. A 'medium algae alert level' warning remains current for the River Murray between Euston and Lock 8 and further information can be found at <http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr>.

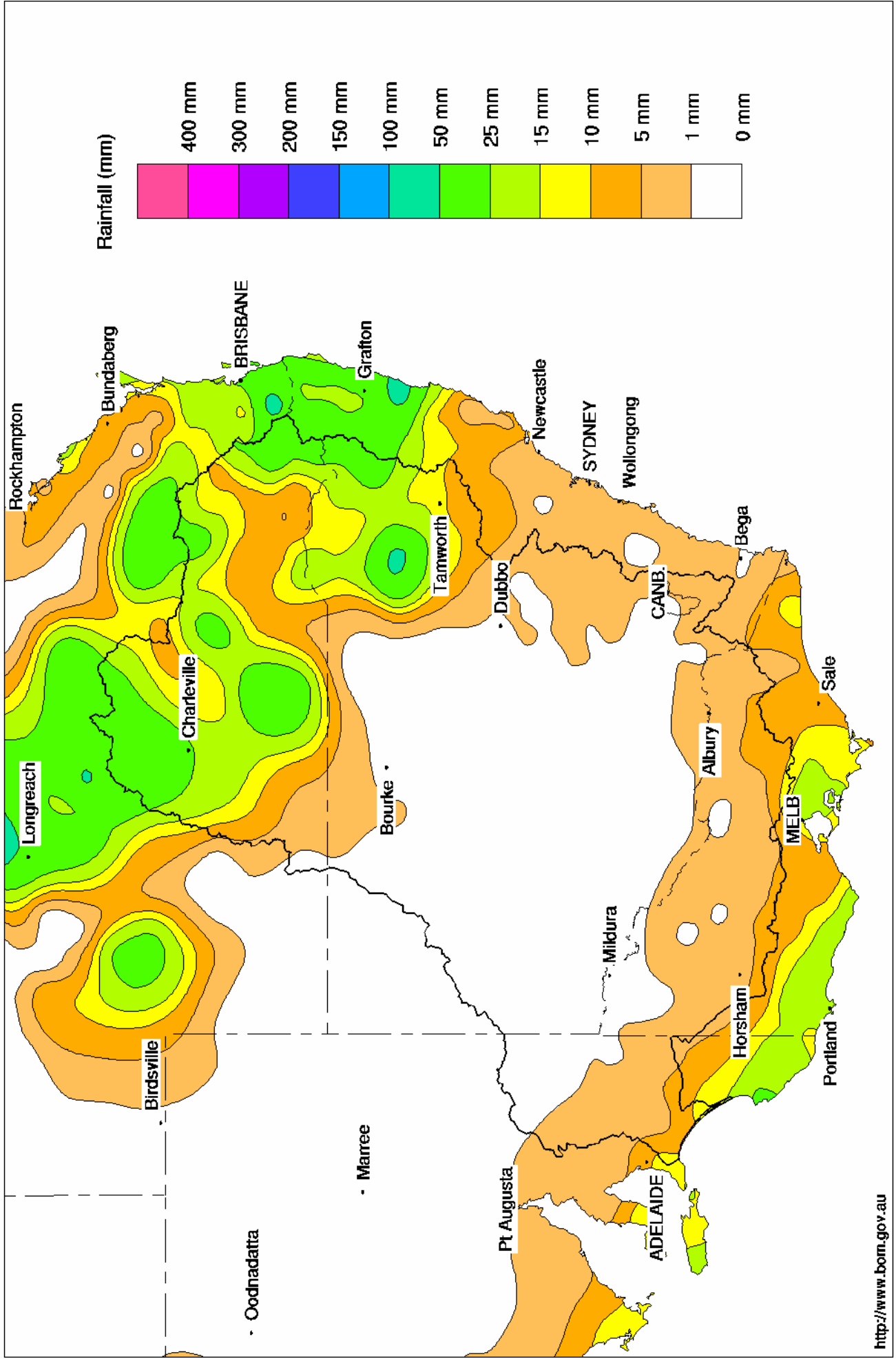
The flow to South Australia is currently steady at about 7 100 ML/day. The additional 100 ML/day above the February entitlement flow (7 000 ML/day) reflects an adjustment for irrigation water traded into South Australia and the delivery of environmental water that will be used to water drought stressed River Red Gums and other floodplain vegetation along the Lower Murray. Over the past week, the flow at Lock 1 has increased from 4 400 ML/day to about 4 900 ML/day.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th February 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 15 Feb 2006

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	462.46	2 535	65%	80	2 455	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	183.85	1 653	54%	30	1 623	-122
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.28	373	55%	100	273	-33
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		320	18%	(- -) #	0	-11
Total		9 352		4 880	52%	--	4 350	-168

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **51%**

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	385	38%	3	382	-21
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	826	51%	24	802	-50
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 179	35%	100	1 079	-68

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Feb-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 875	-48	Snowy-Murray	+23	712
Snowy-Murray Component	930	-28	Tooma-Tumut	+0	247
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	22.9	465
			Murray 1 Release	+26	1 017

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	33.6	826.4
Wakool System loss	2.3	18.6
Western Murray Irrig.	1.1	21.2
Licensed Pumps	12.3	217.0
Lower Darling	2.1	51.6
TOTAL	51.4	1 134.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	15.8	257
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.9	458
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.7	109
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.6	31
Licensed pumps - SRW	8.6	178
TOTAL	54.8	1 033

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.8	
Flow so far this month	106	
Flow last month	220	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	120	110	110
Euston	110	110	120
Red Cliffs	140	140	140
Merbein	140	140	130
Burtundy (Darling)	540	560	560
Lock 9	180	180	140
Lake Victoria	210	200	190
Berri	230	230	220
Waikerie	-	-	340
Morgan	330	330	320
Mannum	320	310	360
Murray Bridge	310	320	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 130	1 150	1 280
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 120	1 090	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 200	2 190	2 110
Goolwa Barrages	1 860	1 870	1 810



River Levels and Flows

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	6 470	R	4 200	4 540
Jingellic	4.0	1.79	208.31	5 390	S	3 740	5 800
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	530	F	560	600
Heywoods	5.5	3.36	156.99	18 440	F	19 820	19 910
Doctors Point	5.5	3.45	151.92	19 900	F	21 300	21 340
Albury	4.3	2.50	149.94	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.67	129.69	21 500	F	22 040	21 790
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 060	10 200
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 630	F	10 810	10 920
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.09	80.64	6 110	F	6 170	6 020
Swan Hill	4.5	1.11	64.03	5 070	R	5 090	5 150
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.77	51.89	7 050	R	6 930	6 500
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.36	43.20	6 510	R	6 310	6 410
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.85	4 680	F	4 660	4 050
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.91	27.67	3 950	F	4 430	3 410
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	6 690	R	6 660	6 610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 870	F	4 510	4 560
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.67	153.90	200	F	250	370
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.71	145.39	297	S	320	350
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.74	93.16	1 305	S	1 320	1 530
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 910	F	2 840	2 830
Edward at Liewah	-	2.90	58.28	2 440	R	2 320	1 890
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.45	54.94	434	R	380	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.62	56.58	275	F	350	960
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.31	-	230	F	200	390
Darling at Bourke	-	4.16	-	635	R	430	130
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	43	F	40	70

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	220	1 410
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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	+0.09	+1.23
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.19
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.72
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.27	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.20
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	+0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.53	0.54	69.89	243
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.32	0.2	61.5	314

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.73

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.76	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.75	All closed



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