

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 March 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, jm
Trim Ref : 06/6868

17 March, 2006



System Outlook

Hot and dry conditions experienced since Christmas have resulted in high diversions and river losses and a low storage volume in Lake Victoria at this time of year. Releases from storages have been running at channel capacity throughout this period, however there is potential that this may not be sufficient to meet the requirements of all three States to the end of the season.

Over recent weeks a package of measures have been implemented, as reported in previous Weekly Reports and Media Releases, to address this matter. These measures include raising of weir pools to store additional water in the river for subsequent use, calling on inter valley trade accounts from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee and within month adjustment of the flow to South Australia.

Notwithstanding these measures, and allowing for planned small weir pool draw downs below Full Supply Level at Weirs 15, 11, 10, 9 and 8, our operational forecasts indicate that there is potential for water supply shortfalls in April. Effects of the recent rainfall are still being assessed but may not be sufficient to provide adequate relief. There is a possibility that restrictions may be necessary as a last resort in order to manage any shortfall. This situation is being closely monitored and continually reviewed and further advice will be provided as necessary.

Rainfall

A jetstream cloud band across the south of the continent has brought the first rainfall to the Upper Murray catchment this month. Over Tuesday and Wednesday, falls of 30 to 40 mm were recorded across the catchments of the Mitta Mitta, Upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, with light showers along the length of the River Murray. Given the dry nature of the catchment, only small temporary increases in inflow are expected. However, even if only short-lived, the rainfall and accompanying cooler temperatures is expected to bring some much needed relief following the extended period of hot and dry weather recently experienced.

River Operations

The release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been varied in a weekly cycle between 200 ML/day and 400 ML/day since early February in order to maintain the water quality along the Mitta Mitta River. Despite the recent rain, it is planned to continue this variable release until a more permanent change in the weather conditions is experienced and water quality in the river improves.

The recent rainfall has been sufficient to bring about a significant decrease in demand from the Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel, and the release from Hume Reservoir is currently being reduced at maximum rates to try and prevent any water being spilt from the Yarrawonga Weir pool. The release from Hume Reservoir has been reduced to 20 500 ML/day at Doctors Point (on Thursday 16 March), and may be further reduced over the next few days depending on requirements.

As previously announced, the flow to South Australia will be reduced this week from 6 600 ML/day to 5 400 ML/day. This will deliver the full South Australian entitlement flow for March of 186 GL, albeit at different rates to the normal average of 6 000 ML/day over the whole month.

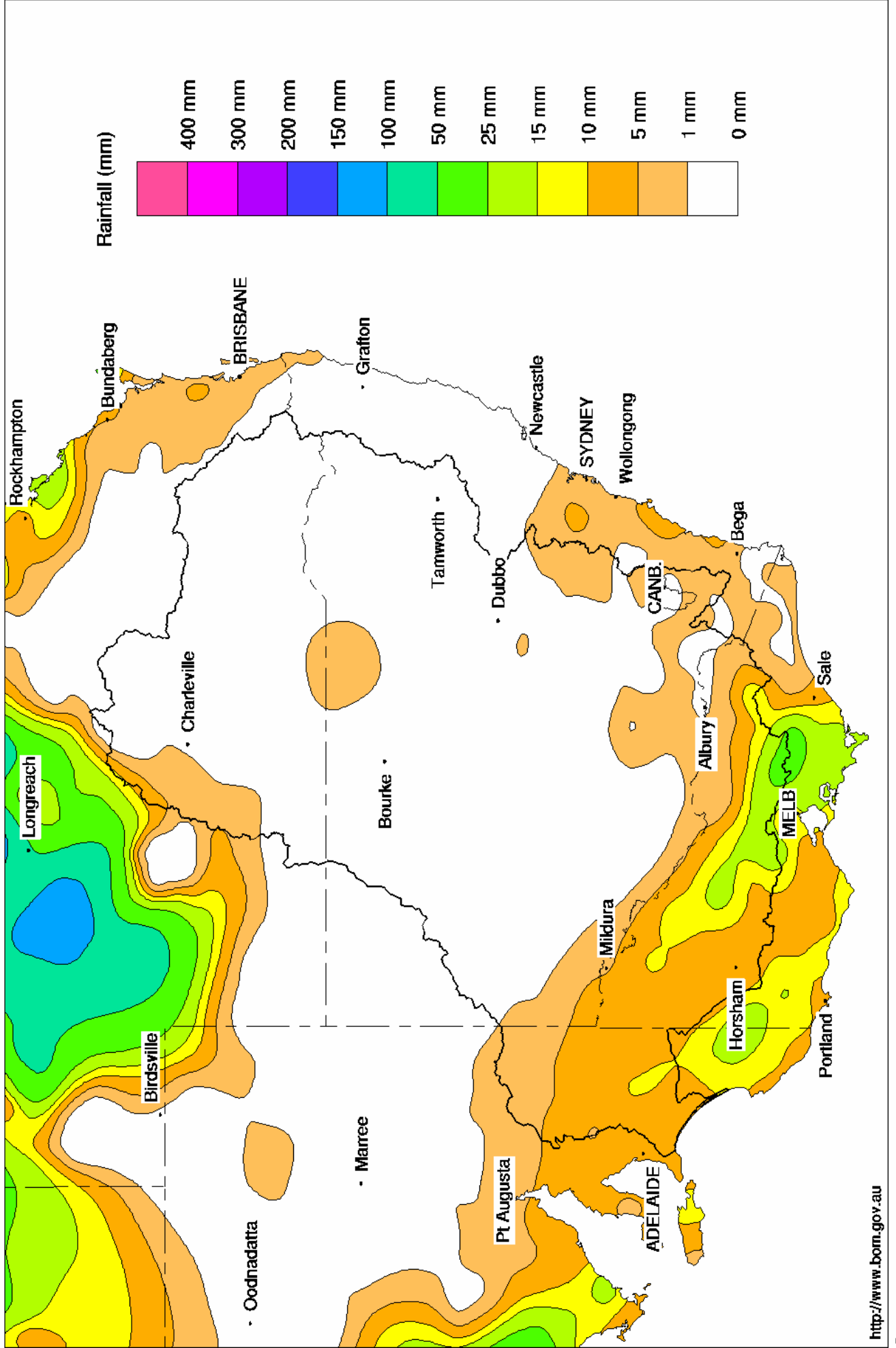
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th March 2006

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	462.21	2 522	65%	80	2 442	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	180.10	1 169	38%	30	1 139	-144
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.10	256	38%	100	156	-20
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		297	17%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		4 243	45%	--	3 736	-168

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **44%**

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	350	34%	3	347	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	740	45%	24	716	-39
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	932	27%	100	832	-55

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Mar-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 656	-49	Snowy-Murray	+22	820
Snowy-Murray Component	818	-21	Tooma-Tumut	+1	254
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	21.6	566
			Murray 1 Release	+24	1 126

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	49.8	980.7
Wakool System loss	1.2	21.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	25.4
Licensed Pumps	20.7	279.5
Lower Darling	0.3	57.0
TOTAL	72.9	1 364.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	17.4	319
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	28.6	556
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.9	128
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.8	42
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.9	201
TOTAL	56.6	1 247

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	(6 700 ML/day)
Flow this week	46.9	
Flow so far this month	99	
Flow last month	199	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	90	80	100
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	130	130	140
Merbein	120	120	130
Burtundy (Darling)	670	670	570
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	210	220	190
Berri	240	240	220
Waikerie	-	-	330
Morgan	320	320	320
Mannum	360	360	360
Murray Bridge	350	340	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 170	1 170	1 260
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 090	1 080	970
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 300	2 330	2 130
Goolwa Barrages	1 920	1 920	1 820

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	-	-	-	1 140	F	3 810	3 340
Jingellic	4.0	1.52	208.04	3 340	F	4 410	3 210
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.32	218.21	510	F	500	510
Heywoods	5.5	3.69	157.32	22 270	F	23 020	22 080
Doctors Point	5.5	3.79	152.26	24 100	S	24 800	23 670
Albury	4.3	2.87	150.31	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.08	130.10	25 700	F	25 700	22 300
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 000	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.30	106.14	10 710	S	10 710	10 810
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.77	80.32	4 950	R	4 730	5 600
Swan Hill	4.5	0.91	63.83	3 750	F	4 270	5 240
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.63	51.75	6 430	F	6 910	7 610
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.41	43.25	6 810	R	6 920	6 940
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.96	5 840	F	5 490	5 220
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.08	27.84	5 500	R	5 050	4 790
Rufus Junction	-	3.46	20.39	6 220	R	5 980	5 890
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 120	S	3 820	4 730
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	-	-	170	F	170	-
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.85	145.53	533	R	450	240
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.11	93.53	2 007	R	1 770	1 780
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 310	F	2 400	2 810
Edward at Liewah	-	2.90	58.28	2 440	F	2 500	2 620
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.56	55.05	680	S	640	570
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.26	57.22	744	F	760	490
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.52	-	800	F	1 030	1 300
Darling at Bourke	-	4.18	-	738	R	790	340
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	43	S	40	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	- 700	- 30
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.24	+1.15
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.17
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.16	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.44	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.29
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.22	+0.29	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.30	+0.28	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.42	0.93	70.28	702
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.76	0.74	62.04	903

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.70

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.71	All closed

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