

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 January 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs
Trim Ref : 06/1380

20 January, 2006



Rainfall and Temperature

An unstable air mass triggered severe storm activity through central and eastern NSW resulting in heavy but patchy rainfall (*see attached map*). Over 100 mm fell in parts of the Macquarie River catchment. Upstream of Hume Reservoir the rainfall was also very patchy (15 - 50 mm) and did not result in significantly higher inflow to Upper Murray storages. Weather conditions along the central and lower parts of the River Murray remained hot and dry, apart from several isolated thunderstorms.

River Murray Operation

The release from Dartmouth Reservoir has remained steady this week at 200 ML/day, however in response to a reduction in irrigation diversions from Lake Mulwala, the release from Hume Reservoir was reduced by 2 000 ML/day to provide a flow of about 22 000 ML/day at Doctors Point. Storage in Hume Reservoir has fallen to 2 102 GL (69% capacity).

The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been steady at 10 200 ML/day and several regulators within the Barmah-Millewa Forest remain open to provide sufficient water levels in wetlands to assist waterbird breeding, which is proceeding well and expected to finish in early March. This additional water use is being supplied from the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Account.

The flow rate along the River Murray between Torrumbarry and Wentworth Weirs has increased over the past few days as a result of RMW calling on additional water from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee River inter-valley trade accounts and a temporary reduction of diversions into the National Channel at Torrumbarry Weir. These actions were undertaken to assist in meeting downstream flow requirements following the extremely high losses and diversions experienced during the hot conditions over the Christmas and New Year period.

These higher flows are being utilised to refill Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weir pools after they were partially drawn down to assist in maintaining sufficient flow downstream of Wentworth Weir (*see attached media release*). During the week the flow downstream of Wentworth Weir reduced to 800 ML/day but has now increased to 1 300 ML/day.

The weir pools of Locks 7, 8 and 9, which are surcharged above their Full Supply Level, will now be gradually lowered to maintain sufficient flow in the Lindsay River and in the River Murray downstream of Lock 7, which is currently 300 ML/day. A return to very hot weather conditions in the coming weeks may require further weir pool manipulations between Torrumbarry Weir and Lock 7 to meet downstream water and flow requirements.

In response to the low flows downstream of Wentworth, the release from Lake Victoria has been increased to 5 800 ML/day to assist in maintaining the entitlement flow to South Australia (currently 7 000 ML/day). As a result, the storage in Lake Victoria has reduced relatively quickly to 537 GL (79% capacity). The level of the Lower Lakes has also fallen quickly and is now 0.81m AHD (0.06 m above FSL). In response, the release from the Barrage gates has been reduced slightly but the fishways remain open.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 20 January 2006

River Murray Weir Pool levels returning to normal



TRIM Ref: 06/1369

The water levels of Weir Pools along the River Murray are gradually being returned to their Full Supply Level (FSL) it was announced today, but further drawdowns may be necessary if severe weather conditions are again experienced this season.

“Flow rates along the River Murray between Torrumbarry and Wentworth Weirs have increased over the past few days in response to the coordinated actions of water agencies early in January,” River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager David Dreverman said.

“We called on additional flows from water trade accounts in the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee systems to supplement flows in the Murray which remain at channel capacity through the Barmah Choke. In addition, Goulburn-Murray Water has been very cooperative in its operation of the Torrumbarry System which has helped sustain flows to the mid Murray,” Mr Dreverman said.

“The higher flows are being used to refill Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weir pools after they were partially drawn down to help maintain flow downstream of Wentworth Weir, which fell as low as 800 ML/day, but which is now rising,” he said.

“The pool levels of Kulnine (Lock 9), Wangumma (Lock 8) and Rufus River (Lock 7), which are currently surcharged above FSL, will now be lowered as necessary to maintain sufficient flow in Mullaroo Creek, Lindsay River and to maintain a minimum flow passing Lock 7”.

“Although there appears to be sufficient river flow over the coming week or two, a return to very hot weather conditions may require further weir pool manipulations between Torrumbarry Weir and Lock 7. Restricting diversions would only be implemented as a last resort”.

Mr Dreverman explained that the recent period of high demand and high losses in the mid Murray did not affect RMW’s ability to meet the flow requirement for South Australia. This requirement is being met largely by release from Lake Victoria.

Mr Dreverman said: “river pumpers, boat operators and other river users are advised to continue to take changing water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities”.

For further information contact:

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Corporate Media Relations

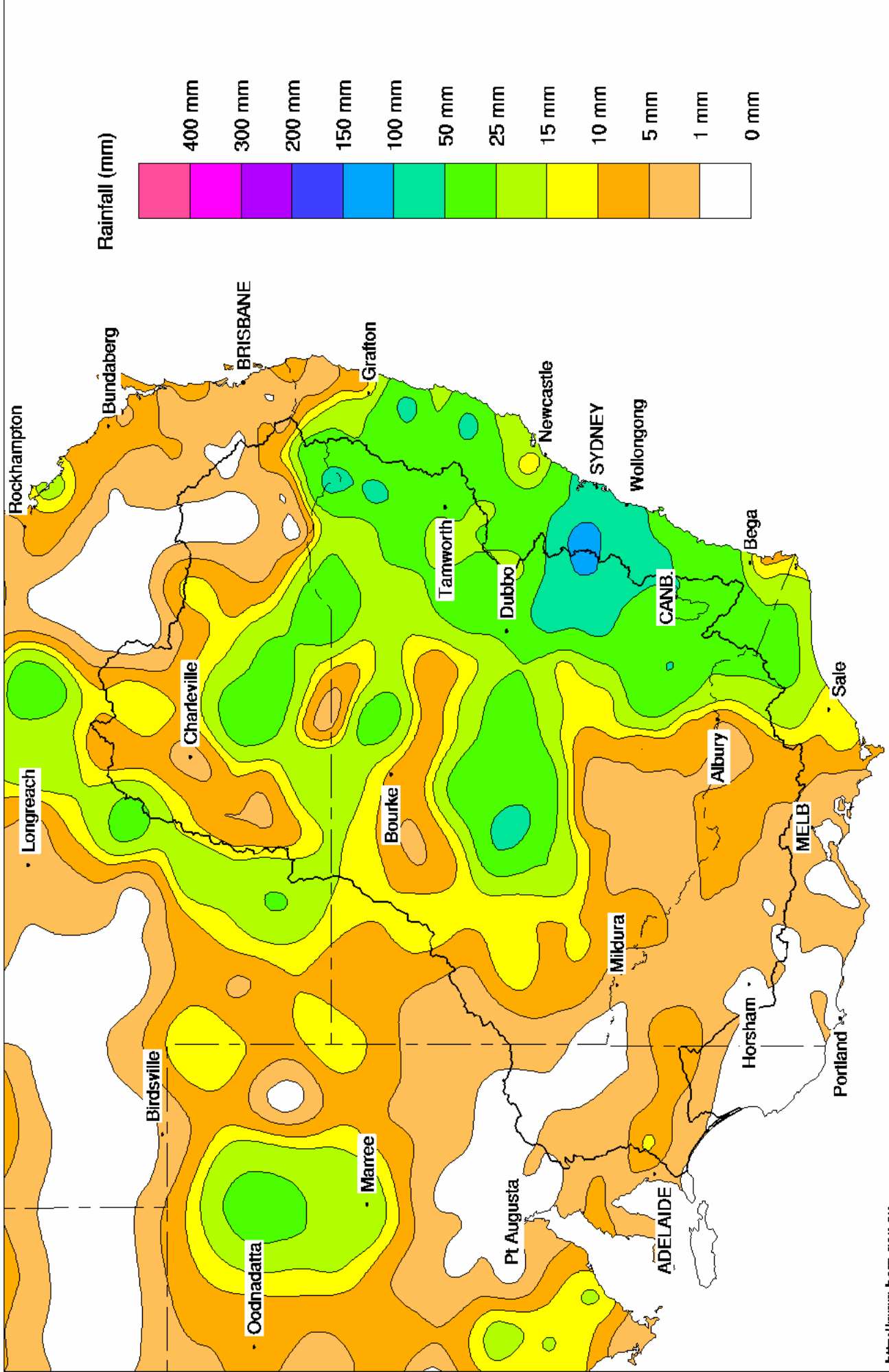
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(Allison Hicks is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th January 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	462.57	2 540	65%	80	2 460	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	186.84	2 102	69%	30	2 072	-109
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.81	537	79%	100	437	-48
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		351	20%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		5 530	59%	--	4 969	-156

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **58%**

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		496	48%	3	493	-52
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		895	55%	24	871	-45
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 412	42%	100	1 312	-68

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Jan-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 092	-36	Snowy-Murray	+25	603
Snowy-Murray Component	1 043	-18	Tooma-Tumut	+1	243
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	24.1	360
			Murray 1 Release	+25	904

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	54.3	668.8
Wakool System loss	1.7	10.3
Western Murray Irrig.	1.5	15.6
Licensed Pumps	13.1	166.7
Lower Darling	2.8	39.8
TOTAL	73.5	901.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	16.8	190
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.5	362
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.8	82
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.6	21
Licensed pumps - SRW	8.8	143
TOTAL	60.5	799

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	48.2	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	126	
Flow last month	278	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	100	100	110
Euston	110	120	130
Red Cliffs	170	170	140
Merbein	170	170	120
Burtundy (Darling)	610	610	550
Lock 9	150	140	140
Lake Victoria	190	200	190
Berri	220	220	220
Waikerie	270	270	350
Morgan	290	280	320
Mannum	290	290	370
Murray Bridge	360	330	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 160	1 150	1 300
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 130	1 130	930
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 100	2 080	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 890	1 900	1 790



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	-	-	-	3 010	F	4 390	2 400
Jingellic	4.0	1.81	208.33	5 550	R	5 470	3 010
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	720	R	680	950
Heywoods	5.5	3.41	157.04	19 650	S	20 440	22 890
Doctors Point	5.5	3.54	152.01	21 100	R	21 760	24 570
Albury	4.3	2.61	150.05	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.70	129.72	21 800	F	23 890	25 530
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 200	S	10 200	10 060
Tocumwal	6.4	2.35	106.19	11 100	R	10 980	10 770
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.91	80.46	5 420	F	5 420	4 760
Swan Hill	4.5	1.04	63.96	4 630	F	4 640	3 860
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.43	51.55	5 580	R	4 950	4 620
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.99	42.83	4 450	R	3 930	4 570
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.78	2 310	F	2 100	3 240
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.83	27.59	970	R	1 390	2 350
Rufus Junction	-	3.50	20.43	6 450	R	6 430	6 600
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 520	F	3 650	4 470
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.80	154.03	340	F	590	560
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.87	145.55	570	F	650	750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.25	93.67	2 249	R	2 310	1 270
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 770	F	1 740	1 730
Edward at Liewah	-	1.98	57.36	1 320	R	1 080	800
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.31	54.80	215	S	200	310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.96	56.92	497	R	350	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.34	-	300	R	160	110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.09	-	329	S	380	650
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	18	F	20	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 900	2 280
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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	-0.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+1.19
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.16
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.11	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.36
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	-0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.20	+0.66
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.19	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.30	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.33	+0.10	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	+0.16

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.27	0.79	70.14	507
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.27	0.78	62.08	951

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.81

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.90	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.82	All closed

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