

REPORT FOR THE TWO WEEKS ENDING

Wednesday, 4 January 2006

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs, ng
Trim Ref : 06/63

6 January, 2006



Extreme Conditions Herald the New Year

Weather conditions warmed in the week prior to Christmas and became extremely hot and windy in the week coinciding with the New Year. Temperatures exceeded 40°C for several days all the way from Hume Dam to the Murray Mouth with temperatures in excess of 45°C in Sunraysia (*see temperature map attached*). Coupled with the extreme temperatures were wind speeds in the range of 50 to 100 km/hr resulting in dramatic rises in diversions and river losses.

River Murray System Operation

Release from Hume Dam has been steadily increased from Christmas Day in line with the forecast weather conditions and has remained at the maximum permissible rate of 25 000 ML/day at Albury since the afternoon of Wednesday 4 January. The extreme increase in diversions and losses at Stevens and Yarrawonga Weir pools over the last week has seen the level of Lake Mulwala fall and remain steady at about 124.69 m AHD or 0.21 m below FSL. Lake Mulwala is forecast to rise over the coming weekend.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been maintained at channel capacity of 10 000 ML/day to transfer much needed water to Sunraysia and to sustain large bird breeding events in the Barmah-Millewa Forest. River Murray Water is making full use of spare capacity in Murray Irrigation Limited channels to transfer additional water to the lower Murray, however, due to the extreme demands within the MIL system this has amounted to only an extra 100-200 ML/day.

Water available to RMW in a callable trade account in Eildon Reservoir was ordered on 30 December and is expected to arrive into the Murray this coming weekend. Additional water has since been ordered to target a total inflow to the River Murray from the Goulburn of about 2400 ML/day.

Mid Murray Outlook

Due to the extreme diversion rates and losses, which have not abated in the cooler conditions since the New Year, it is forecast that flows passing Wentworth could drop to low levels, below 1000 ML/day in mid January if severe conditions remain. Whilst hotter weather is forecast for early next week a potential reduction in temperatures on Wednesday 11 January might improve flow outlooks for Sunraysia. If necessary, Murray Weirpools may need to be drawn down to assist in maintaining flows and River Murray Water has issued a Media Release advising of this possibility (*see attached*). Whilst River Murray Water is taking all available steps to ensure that supplies are sufficient to meet demand it is important that irrigators also use their best endeavours to take only what is needed. Weather conditions over the next two weeks will play an important part and RMW will advise of any significant changes to the outlook.

In preparation for potentially low flows at Wentworth, Locks 9, 8 and 7 are either being raised or kept steady to provide water to draw upon if needed to help boost passing flows at Lock 7. RMW will provide regular updates over coming weeks on river conditions.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

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MEDIA RELEASE



Friday, 6 January 2006

Temporary Drawdown of Murray Weir Pools

TRIM Ref: 06/153

The water levels of Torrumbarry, Euston, Mildura, Wentworth, Kulnine (Lock 9) and Wangumma (Lock 8) Weir Pools may need to be temporarily lowered to assist in meeting flow requirements along the River Murray, it was announced today.

River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, Mr David Dreverman, said extreme temperatures and strong winds over the Christmas-New Year period, coupled with forecast hotter conditions next week have resulted in very high river losses, consumption in excess of volumes ordered, and continuing high irrigation demands.

“Despite the drop in temperatures after New Year, diversions and losses continue at very high rates and if these continue over the next week the flow passing Wentworth will fall to very low levels,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Restricting diversions would be the last resort. Prior to doing that we will utilise the limited storage capacity available within the weir pools at Torrumbarry, Euston, Mildura and Wentworth”, he said.

Release from Hume Dam is at maximum rates and additional water has been called from the inter-valley trade account in the Goulburn River to help meet demands.

Details of the maximum expected lowering of weir pools relative to full supply level (FSL) are as follows:

Weir	Current Level relative to FSL	Estimated Maximum Drawdown	Expected Start Date of Drawdown	Approximate Date of Max Drawdown
Torrumbarry	At FSL	- 20 cm	6 January	10 January
Euston	At FSL	- 40 cm	10 January	20 January
Mildura	+ 3 cm	- 20 cm	13 January	20 January
Wentworth	+2 cm	- 10 cm	13 January	20 January

Locks 9 and 8 may also need to be drawn down later if high demands and losses persist and River Murray Water will advise if this is necessary at a future date.

The extent of the drawdowns may be less than this if demands and losses reduce as a result of a change to cooler weather conditions.

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

“In particular boat masters are reminded that regardless of the variations to weir pool level, they need to follow the NSW Maritime Authority's *Boating Handbook* (<http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/boathandling.html#inland>) and “continually assess the safety of the vessel’s speed” and to “familiarise yourself with the area each time before attempting any high-speed activities such as water skiing or aquaplaning”” he said.

Mr Dreverman also emphasised that The *Boating Handbook* states that “inland waterways are often murky and constantly changing, so boat masters need to be aware of possible dangers and obstructions that may be hidden just below the surface” and that “it is not feasible or practical to remove all these hazards, nor to mark them all with navigation markers”.

For further information contact:

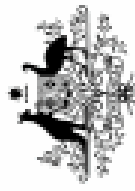
Allison Hicks

Corporate Media Relations

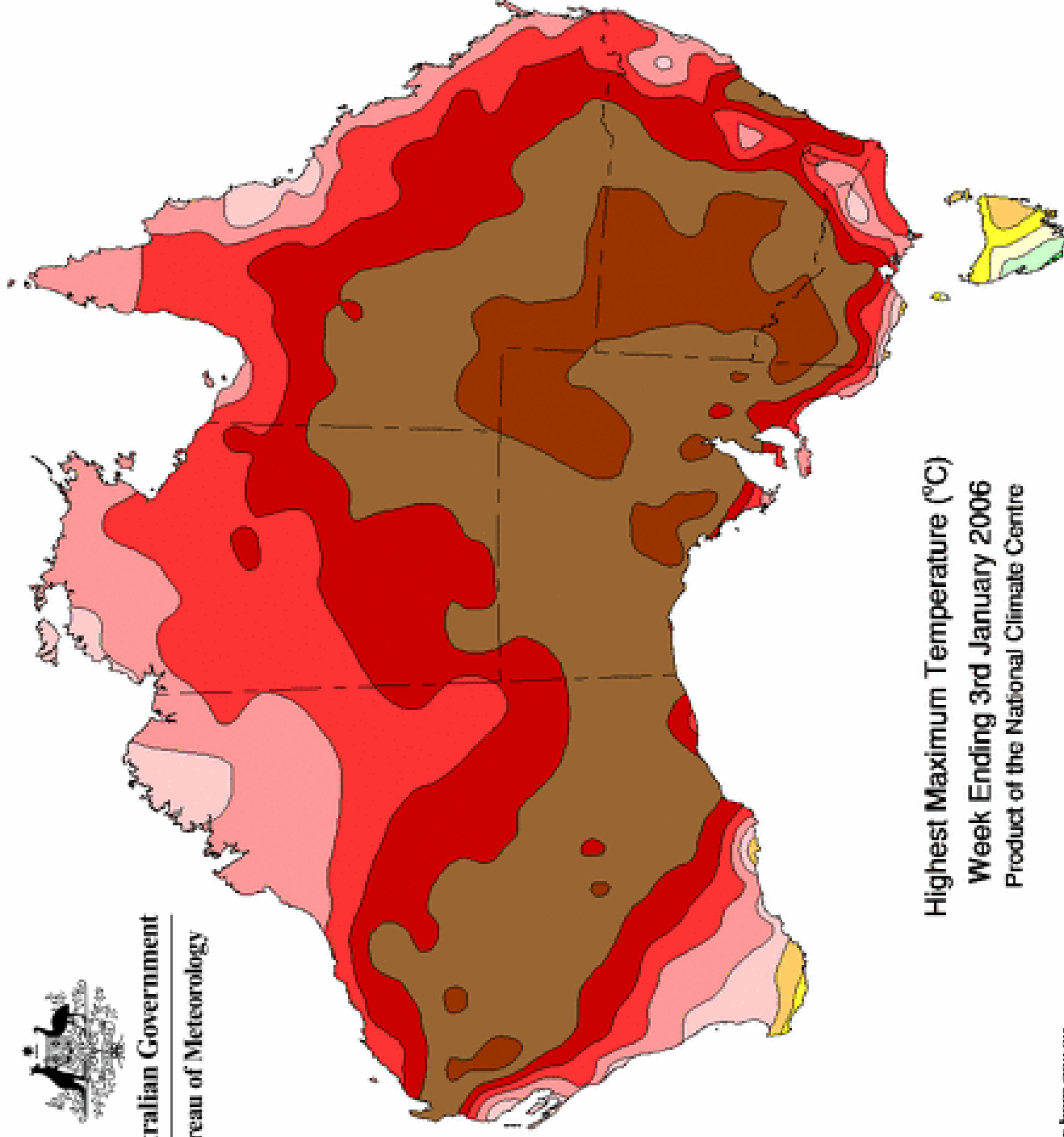
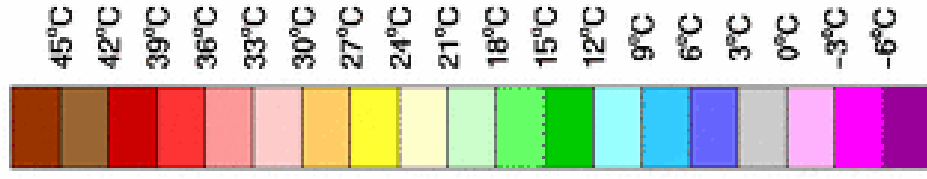
Phone: 02 6279 0100

E-mail: allison.hicks@mdbc.gov.au

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



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

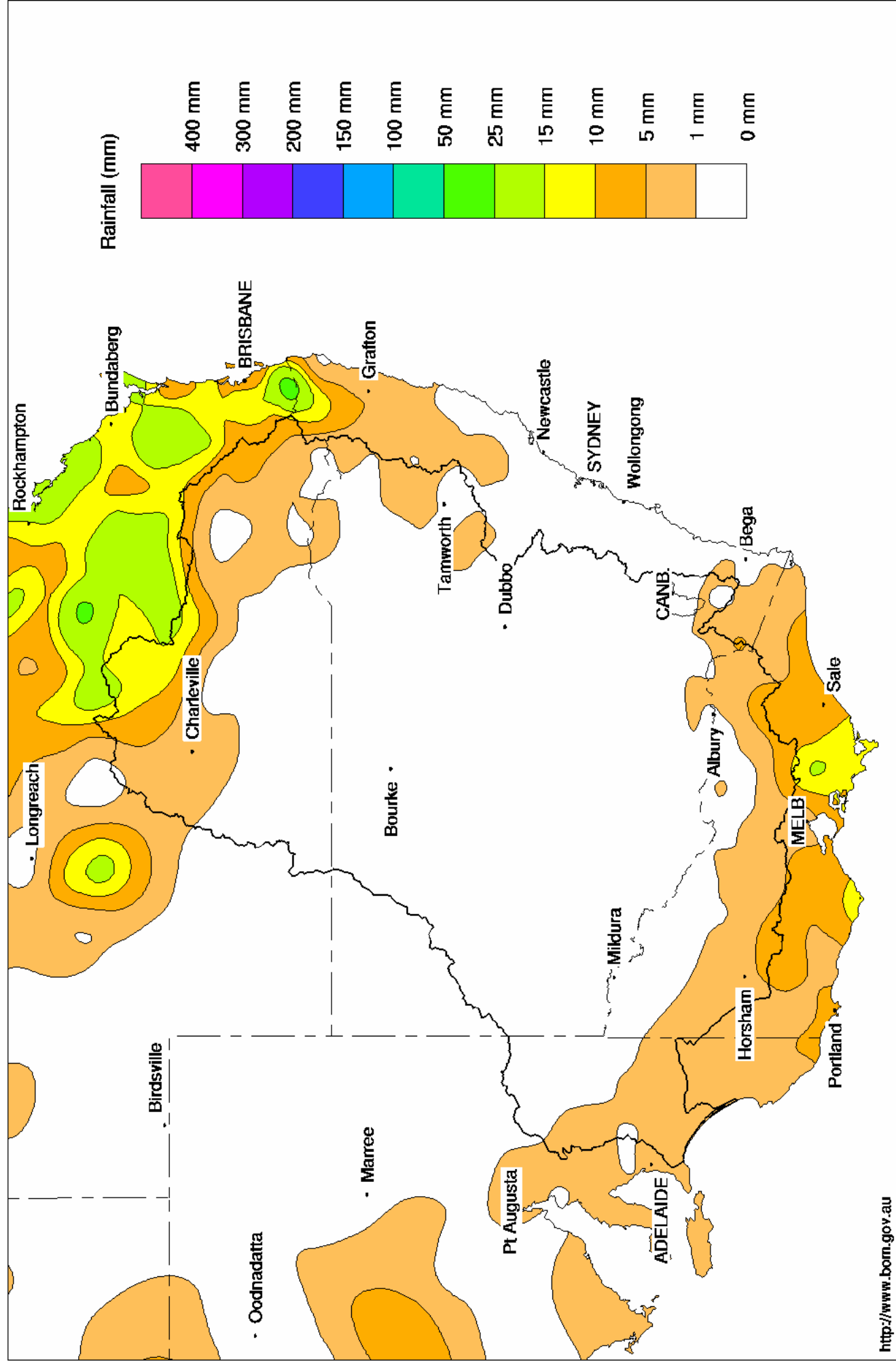


Highest Maximum Temperature (°C)
Week Ending 3rd January 2006
Product of the National Climate Centre

<http://www.bom.gov.au>

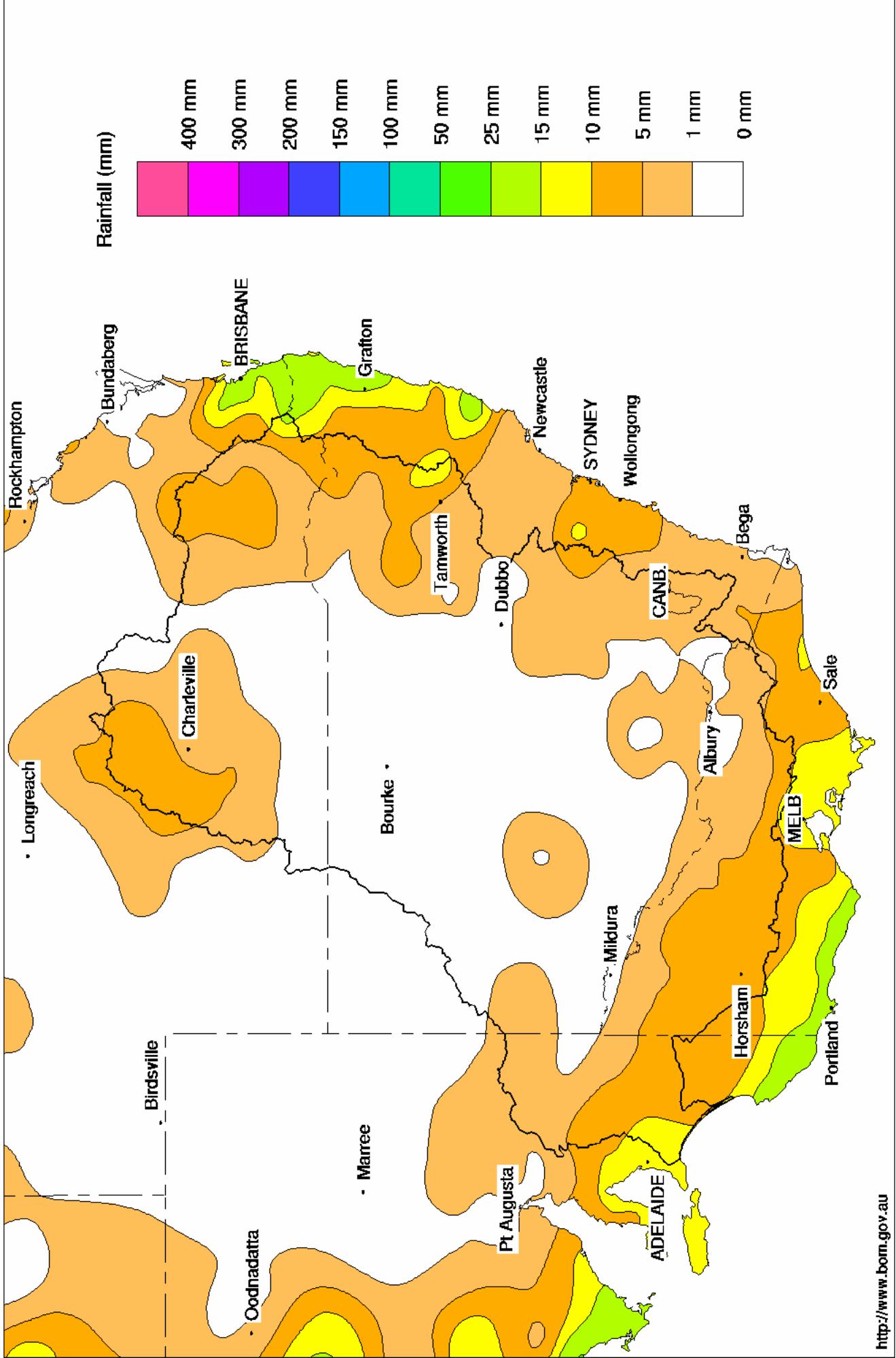
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th December 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th 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	462.46	2 535	65%	80	2 455	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	188.96	2 460	81%	30	2 430	-89
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.90	664	98%	100	564	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		382	22%	(- -) #	0	-12
Total		9 352		6 041	65%	--	5 449	-100

* 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		662	65%	3	659	-55
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		966	59%	24	942	-51
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 588	47%	100	1 488	-26

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Dec-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	n/a	n/a	Snowy-Murray	n/a	n/a
Snowy-Murray Component	n/a	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	n/a	n/a
Target Storage	n/a	n/a	Nett Diversion	n/a	n/a
			Murray 1 Release	n/a	n/a

Note:- Data not available due to Christmas period close down by Snowy Hydro

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	51.6	499.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	7.2
Western Murray Irrig.	1.6	10.6
Licensed Pumps	10.6	129.0
Lower Darling	2.6	30.6
TOTAL	66.3	677.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	17.2	136
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.0	293
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.8	58
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	16
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.8	121
TOTAL	57.6	623

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	49.0	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	256	
Flow last month	339	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	80	90	110
Euston	110	120	130
Red Cliffs	140	140	140
Merbein	130	130	120
Burtundy (Darling)	590	570	550
Lock 9	130	130	140
Lake Victoria	190	200	190
Berri	190	180	220
Waikerie	-	-	370
Morgan	270	260	330
Mannum	280	270	380
Murray Bridge	310	310	400
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 120	1 110	1 320
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 020	1 040	910
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 160	2 150	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 840	1 820	1 780



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	-	-	-	-	F	-	3 840
Jingellic	4.0	1.59	208.11	3 850	R	5 150	5 840
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	770	S	780	900
Heywoods	5.5	3.37	157.00	21 670	R	17 220	16 080
Doctors Point	5.5	3.51	151.98	20 700	R	18 190	17 300
Albury	4.3	2.56	150.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.46	129.48	19 400	R	18 410	17 800
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 030	11 300
Tocumwal	6.4	2.32	106.16	10 870	S	11 070	12 590
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.85	80.40	5 200	F	5 430	7 020
Swan Hill	4.5	1.10	64.02	4 940	F	5 340	7 150
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.92	52.04	7 670	F	8 680	11 390
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.47	43.31	7 180	F	8 630	11 000
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.00	6 530	F	8 020	9 890
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.03	27.79	6 460	F	7 060	8 350
Rufus Junction	-	3.53	20.46	6 630	F	6 570	6 820
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 700	F	3 760	6 670
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.04	154.27	640	F	970	1 100
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.19	145.87	1 271	F	1 460	2 010
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	463	F	490	590
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	690	F	1 230	2 570
Edward at Liewah	-	2.35	57.73	1 760	F	1 960	2 280
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.66	55.15	963	F	1 190	1 640
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.71	56.67	328	R	240	610
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.54	-	870	F	740	850
Darling at Bourke	-	4.16	-	635	R	700	350
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	43	F	60	80

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	n/a	n/a
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Note:- Data not available due to Christmas period close down by Snowy Hydro

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	+0.11	+1.24
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.33
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.18	+0.45
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.20	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.28	+0.73
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.39	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.33
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.53	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.13	+0.26
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.50	+0.25	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.15	+0.27

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.75	0.68	70.03	377
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.07	0.2	61.5	314

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	0.82	1
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	2

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



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	462.45	2 534	65%	80	2 454	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	188.37	2 357	78%	30	2 327	-104
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.65	634	94%	100	534	-30
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		368	21%	(- -) #	0	-15
Total		9 352		5 893	63%	--	5 315	-149

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **63%**

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		610	59%	3	607	-52
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		988	61%	24	964	+22
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 543	46%	100	1 443	-45

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Jan-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 157	-49	Snowy-Murray	+39	564
Snowy-Murray Component	1 073	-31	Tooma-Tumut	+5	241
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	34.4	324
			Murray 1 Release	+39	861

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	57.8	557.4
Wakool System loss	0.2	7.3
Western Murray Irrig.	1.7	12.3
Licensed Pumps	12.0	141.0
Lower Darling	2.7	33.5
TOTAL	74.3	751.6

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	18.9	155
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	23.7	315
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	8.6	66
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.2	18
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.8	128
TOTAL	60.2	682

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	50.5	(7 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	29	
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	110	130
Red Cliffs	160	150	140
Merbein	160	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	600	600	550
Lock 9	140	130	140
Lake Victoria	210	200	190
Berri	210	200	220
Waikerie	250	240	360
Morgan	270	270	330
Mannum	300	290	380
Murray Bridge	320	310	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 140	1 110	1 310
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 130	1 100	920
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 120	2 140	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 880	1 880	1 780



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	-	-	-	2 610	F	5 910	4 110
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	4 850	F	7 410	5 150
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	700	F	700	780
Heywoods	5.5	3.62	157.25	22 500	R	21 090	16 900
Doctors Point	5.5	3.78	152.25	23 900	F	22 890	18 190
Albury	4.3	2.88	150.32	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.90	129.92	23 900	R	22 440	18 410
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 010	10 030
Tocumwal	6.4	2.31	106.15	10 790	S	10 840	11 070
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.53	80.08	4 090	F	4 540	5 430
Swan Hill	4.5	0.96	63.88	4 120	F	4 570	5 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.50	51.62	5 870	F	6 580	8 680
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.18	43.02	5 440	S	6 190	8 630
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.83	4 170	F	4 870	8 020
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.83	27.59	3 440	F	4 060	7 060
Rufus Junction	-	3.58	20.51	6 940	F	6 930	6 570
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 760	F	5 060	3 760
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.99	154.22	570	F	1 020	970
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.04	145.72	959	R	1 010	1 460
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	450	R	430	490
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 380	F	1 130	1 230
Edward at Liewah	-	1.78	57.16	1 120	F	1 430	1 960
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.45	54.94	434	F	660	1 190
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	209	F	240	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	120	F	270	740
Darling at Bourke	-	4.23	-	1 048	S	1 160	700
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	43	R	40	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 810	3 320
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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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.27
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.28
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.11	+0.46
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.28	+0.75
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.19	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.35	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.23
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.36	+0.06	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	+0.18

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.32	0.6	69.95	296
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.12	0.2	61.5	314

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.85

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.90	1
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.87	2

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