

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 6 September 2006



Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, sc
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8 September, 2006

Rainfall and Inflows

Up to 25 mm of rain was received across the eastern and southern parts of the Basin this week (*see attached map*) which provided some welcome relief to very dry catchments. However, this rain produced only minor rises in unregulated inflow to the River Murray from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, and has been insufficient to increase storage levels in Hume and Dartmouth Dams. Early indications are that follow up rainfall forecast for the coming week may temporarily reduce irrigation demands and generate larger system inflows.

River Murray Operations

Water transfers from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoirs continue at high flow rates. The river level at Tallandoon has remained at about 3.27 m gauge height. Storage in Dartmouth decreased by 1 percent this week to 58% and Hume storage remained relatively steady at about 17%.

The flow at Doctors Point averaged about 15 000 ML/d this week. Widespread rainfall on Wednesday 6 September was sufficient to allow a reduction in release from Hume due to a reduction in irrigation demands downstream. The flow at Doctors Point was recently reduced to about 14 000 ML/d and may reduce further over coming days if there is sufficient follow up rainfall to meet requirements.

The Torrumbarry Weir upper pool level will be varied over a 20 cm range below the full supply level (FSL) of 86.05 m AHD throughout Spring 2006 as part of a long-term program to limit further river bank erosion upstream of the weir (*see attached media release*). Upstream of Torrumbarry (such as at Barmah and Echuca), river levels have remained relatively steady this week due to the continuation of Hume to Lake Victoria transfers. However, downstream of Torrumbarry Weir river levels are gradually reducing due in part to increasing diversions at the National Channel off take (currently about 3 700 ML/d). The river level at Swan Hill is currently about 0.95 m gauge height and may reduce further over coming weeks.

The upper pool levels of both Euston Weir and Lock 8 (Wangumma) remain below their full supply level. Lock 8 Weir pool level (currently about 24.50 m AHD, or 10 cm below FSL) is being gradually increased and should reach full supply level by about the end of September. Euston Weir pool level is currently about 47.40 m AHD (20 cm below FSL) and will be closely reviewed over coming weeks, particularly if river flows upstream continue to reduce.

Storage in Lake Victoria has increased by about 12 GL this week (to 530 GL, or 78% capacity). The Lower Lakes remain close to their fully surcharged level of 0.85 m AHD and may soon begin to gradually reduce if conditions remain dry. Barrage releases have been reduced to conserve water resources with only the fishways at Goolwa and Tauwichee Barrage remaining open, as well as a small outflow from Boundary Creek Barrage.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE



Thursday, 7 September 2006

Torrumbarry Weir pool level variation during Spring

The pool level upstream of Torrumbarry Weir will be varied over a 20 cm range below the full supply level of 86.05 m AHD during Spring 2006 as part of a long-term program to limit further river bank erosion upstream of the weir, River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager David Dreverman announced today.

“This is a practical way of ‘putting into action’ some of the key environmental objectives of the Living Murray with minimal impact on river users”, Mr Dreverman said.

Last year (July – August 2005), the upper pool level was temporarily lowered by 40 cm below full supply level to enable an inspection of the river banks for erosion. A high degree of ‘notching’ was present, due in part to extended periods of stable water levels. A recommendation of that study was that re-introducing some degree of variability in water levels would assist in reducing bank erosion in the longer-term.

It is expected that the pool level will be varied over about a three weekly cycle, commencing on about 8 September. Changes will be made gradually (1-2 cm per day) measured immediately upstream of the weir, however larger variations may be observed at other locations due to flow rates and wind.

“The river level at Echuca has increased in recent weeks and is currently about 86.80 m AHD due to the increased transfer of water from Hume Dam to Lake Victoria. These higher flows provide an opportunity to vary the weir pool level with minimal impact on river users”, Mr Dreverman said.

During September, the pool level immediately upstream of Torrumbarry Weir will be varied over a range between full supply level and not more than 20 cm below full supply level (i.e. 85.85 m AHD). During October to December the pool level will be varied over a narrower range of not more than 15 cm below full supply level (i.e. 85.90 m AHD), to ensure that sufficient water can be delivered at the National Channel offtake during times of peak demand.

The planned variation of Torrumbarry Weir pool will be continually reviewed to take into account changing conditions along the River Murray system. River Murray Water will provide updates throughout the season when significant changes to this plan are required.

Mr Dreverman said: “river pumpers, boat operators and other river users upstream of Torrumbarry Weir 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 changes to the weir pool level, they need to follow the NSW Maritime Authority's *Boating Handbook* (<http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/boathandling.html#inland>) which states: “continually assess the safety of the vessel’s speed” and “familiarise yourself with the area each time before attempting any high-speed activities such as water skiing or aquaplaning.”

Mr Dreverman emphasised that The *Boating Handbook* states: “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”.

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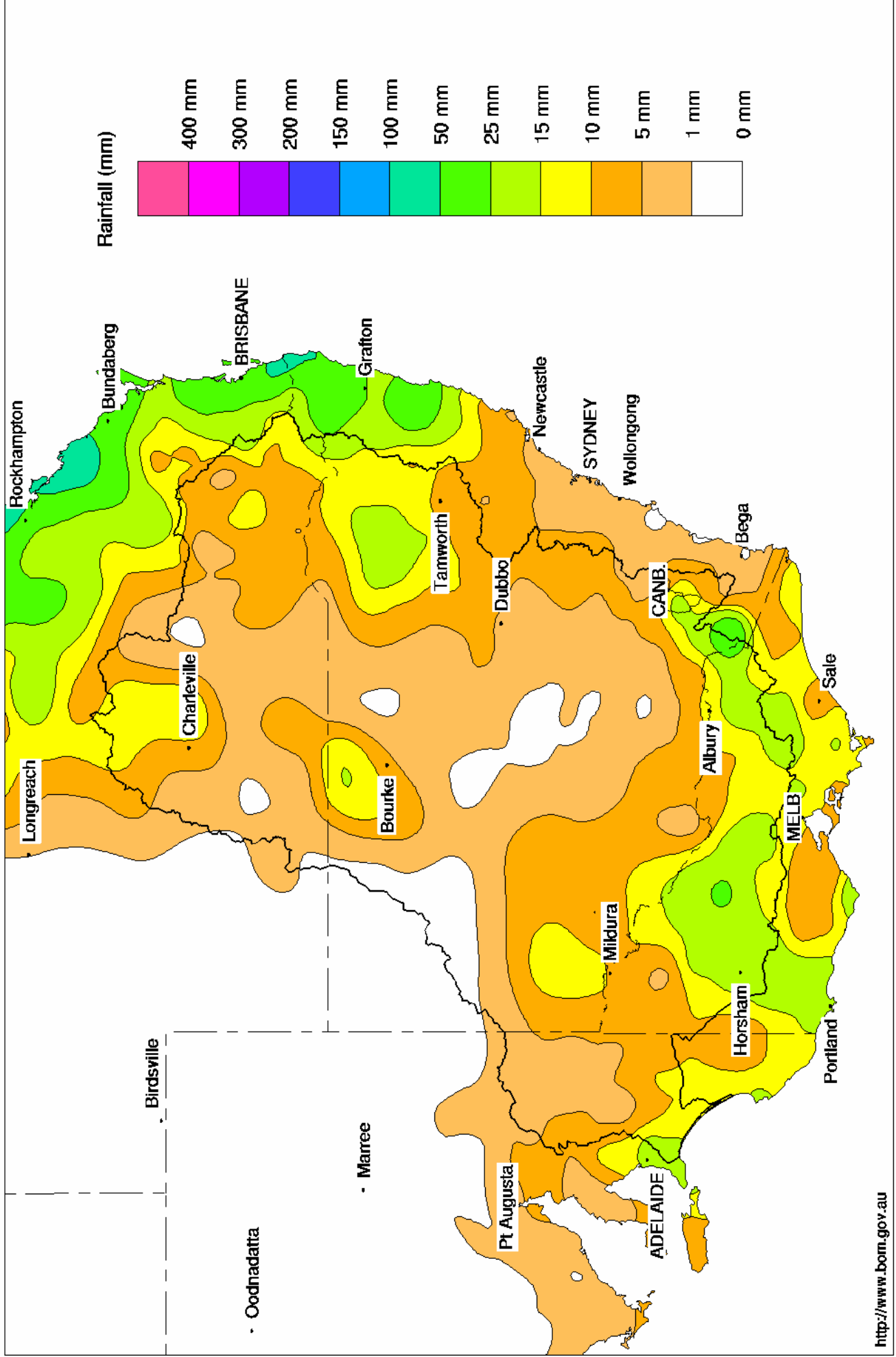
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(*Sheridan Lockerbie is not to be quoted as a spokesperson*)

TRIM : 06/19261

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th September 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	457.22	2 276	58%	80	2 196	-55
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.37	507	17%	30	477	-7
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.75	530	78%	100	430	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		255	15%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		3 567	38%	--	3 102	-53

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **36%**

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		314	31%	3	311	-20
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		924	57%	24	900	-32
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		755	22%	100	655	-13

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Sep-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	758	+30	Snowy-Murray	+8	492
Snowy-Murray Component	493	+27	Tooma-Tumut	+9	32
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-0.5	461
			Murray 1 Release	+25	555

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	17.6	108.7
Wakool System loss	0.8	6.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	1.5
Licensed Pumps	6.4	25.5
Lower Darling	1.8	4.1
TOTAL	27.0	146.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	8.8	41
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.9	99
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.7	7
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	3
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	38.6	151

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	28.1	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	24	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	100	80	80
Euston	160	110	100
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	90	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	620	630	620
Lock 9	110	120	140
Lake Victoria	160	160	160
Berri	240	240	240
Waikerie	360	360	370
Morgan	390	390	400
Mannum	420	430	450
Murray Bridge	390	390	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 150	1 130	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	760	820	730
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 230	2 220	2 240
Goolwa Barrages	1 550	1 530	1 510



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	-	-	-	4 430	F	4 800	3 230
Jingellic	4.0	1.88	208.40	6 130	F	5 480	4 140
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.27	220.16	9 880	S	9 860	9 650
Heywoods	5.5	2.96	156.59	14 590	F	14 250	15 650
Doctors Point	5.5	3.14	151.61	15 700	R	14 910	15 910
Albury	4.3	2.11	149.55	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.07	129.09	15 800	R	15 370	18 090
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	9 790	S	9 790	9 790
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 480	S	10 480	10 500
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.61	80.16	4 410	R	4 570	5 190
Swan Hill	4.5	0.96	63.88	4 120	R	4 180	4 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.67	51.79	6 600	R	6 860	7 670
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.41	43.25	6 810	F	7 170	8 100
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 010	F	6 430	7 910
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.99	27.75	6 790	S	7 170	8 900
Rufus Junction	-	3.01	19.94	3 850	R	3 480	3 350
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.96	-	2 820	F	3 380	3 790
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.25	154.48	950	R	600	530
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.87	145.55	570	F	480	510
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	399	S	390	430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.56	-	2 930	F	2 920	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	2.96	58.34	2 520	S	2 560	2 610
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.35	54.84	273	R	310	390
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	229	R	220	260
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.03	-	-	F	- 10	- 10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	34	S	40	80
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.62	-	5	S	0	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 040	3 380
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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	+0.20	+0.72
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.03	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.17	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.18	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+0.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.35	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	-0.10	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.12	+0.24	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	+0.21

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.43	0.54	69.89	243
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.43	0.16	61.46	278



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.60	All closed	Open	Open

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