

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 8 August 2007

*Our Ref : M2006/01015/AS, PRS  
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10 August, 2007



## Rainfall and inflows

During the past week there were light falls of rain (up to 15 mm) across the middle and southern regions of the Murray-Darling Basin. The highest falls (15 - 60 mm) were recorded in the upper reaches of the Ovens and Goulburn River catchments. Rather than boosting inflows, this rain was sufficient only to maintain inflows at rates similar to last week - but total inflows remain relatively low for this time of year. For instance, during the past week Dartmouth Reservoir received only 12 GL of inflow compared with a long term weekly average in August of 30 GL.

Storage volume in Dartmouth Reservoir is currently at 15 % capacity which is well below the volume for this time last year of 64 %. Hume Reservoir is at 22 % capacity, compared with 19 % in mid August last year. Most other water storages across the Murray-Darling Basin also remain at low levels, with a total Basin-wide storage of about 20% capacity.

## River Operations

During the past week, the release from Yarrowonga Weir has been steady at about 5 000 ML/day and is expected to gradually decline to about 4 000 ML/day over the coming week. Lake Mulwala water level is currently being held steady at about 124.40 m (AHD) which is 50 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL). If the dry weather continues, the water level will not be lowered any further to ensure that it can be refilled later in the season. The partial lowering of Torrumbarry and Euston Weirs has also commenced. Torrumbarry Weir should reach 10 cm below FSL by the beginning of next week. Euston Weir is currently 9 cm below FSL and is expected to reach the target of 30 cm below FSL by the end of the month.

Fish movement along the Edward River and into the River Murray has been assisted by the temporary raising of gates at Stevens Weir and also at the Edward offtake regulator adjacent to the River Murray. Further downstream, the peak flow that has been travelling down the River Murray since early July, has reached Lock 9 near the South Australian border, and is being diverted into Lake Victoria. As a consequence, Lake Victoria storage has increased by 87 GL during the past two weeks, and is now at 429 GL (63 % capacity).

NSW State Water Corporation has announced the release of water from Lake Pamamaroo into the Darling River downstream of Weir 32 (see attached media release). There was concern that if the water was left in Lake Pamamaroo it would evaporate and the opportunity for using the water would be lost.

The target flow to South Australia is currently about 1 150 ML/day, which is well below the normal entitlement flow for August of 4 000 ML/day. The weir pools in South Australia remain above their Full Supply Level (FSL) except for Lock 6 which is 1 cm below FSL. Salinity levels along the river in South Australia continue to gradually increase. For instance, during the past four weeks salinity at Morgan has risen from 536 to 637 EC. The water level in the Lower Lakes has been steady for the last two weeks at 0.23 m (AHD).

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## **WATER RELEASES RESTART INTO THE DARLING RIVER FROM LAKE PAMAMAROO**

1 August 2007

State Water Corporation will today start releasing water from Lake Pamamaroo into the Darling River downstream of Weir 32, after three months of no releases and no river flows.

State Water South Customer Service Manager, Lawrence Lingam, said that the Lake Pamamaroo gates will be reopened and landholders downstream along the lower sections of the Darling River should monitor stock and equipment as river levels will change with the restarting of releases.

"After releases were stopped earlier this year by the Department of Water and Energy to conserve water, there is now concern that if the water is left in Lake Pamamaroo until spring and summer, it will evaporate and the opportunity for using the water will be lost.

"State Water has therefore been asked to restart releases into the river where it can benefit the environment, fill up pools and be used by downstream water users.

"After consultation with customers, landholders and the department, State Water will release the water in a special pattern to minimise losses and avoid damage to the riverbanks as the flow levels rise again.

"During the first week of August, State Water will release about 300ML per day and then reduce the rate of release to about 150ML per day, depending on the flow conditions downstream of Weir 32.

"The Department of Water and Energy has announced that high and general security licence holders who have carryover from 2006/07 will be able to extract water from these flows.

"All water extracted must be ordered and water users are also encouraged to advise State Water of meter readings before and after pumping.

"Water users downstream of Weir 32 wishing to use water for non-permanent plantings must also wait for confirmation advice from State Water before pumping starts.

"State Water will closely monitor extractions and manage river flows to ensure that the temporary control banks near Old Burtundy and Balcatherine are not overtopped with water and that flow downstream of these control banks is minimised.

"State Water customers are encouraged to contact their Customer Service Officer if they have any questions about the flow and how much water they can extract," Mr Lingam concluded.

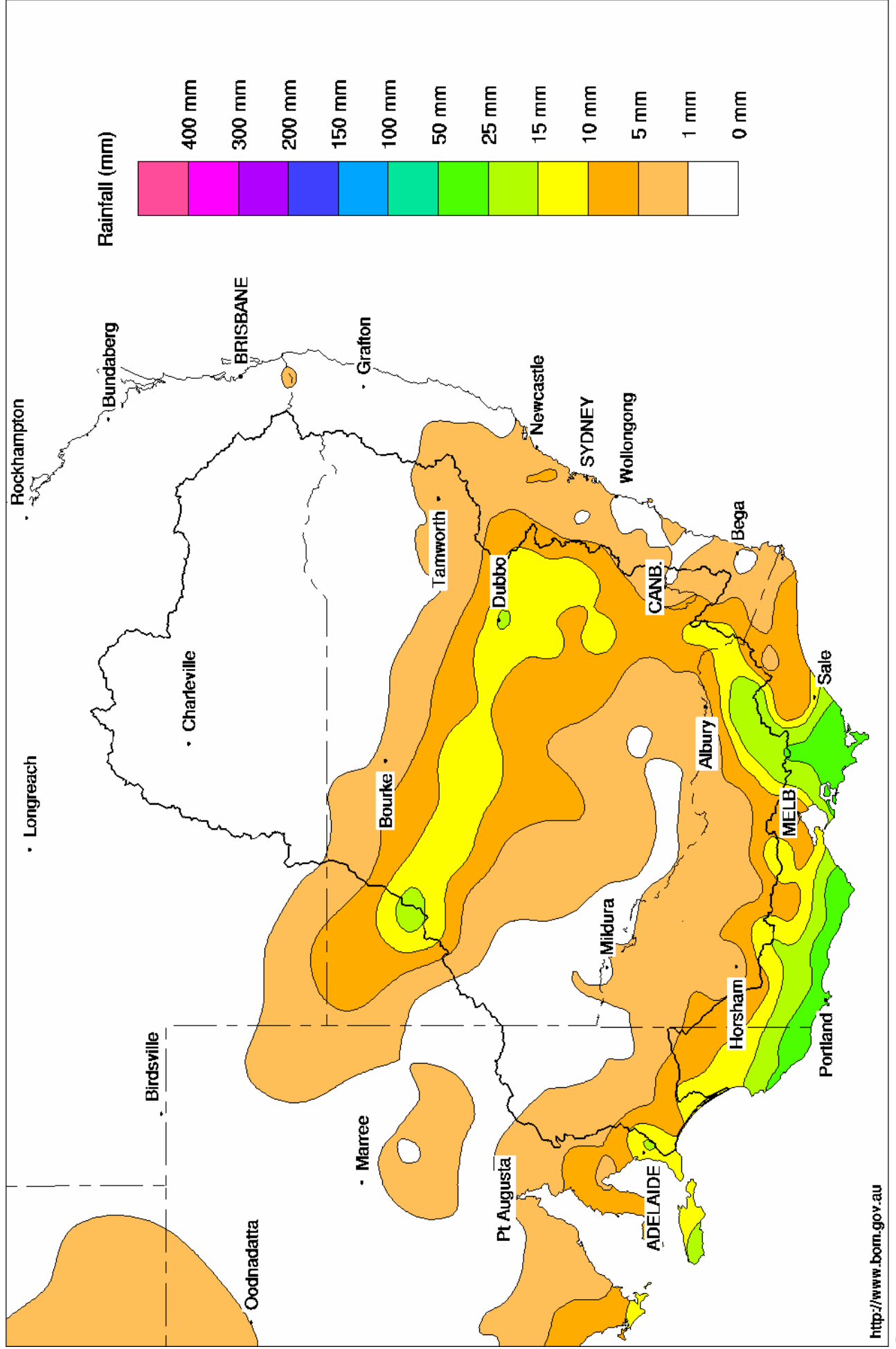
Further information about the availability and access to water is included in a "Critical Water Planning" information sheet released last week by the Department of Water and Energy, available on their website: [www.dwe.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au) ("Whats New" ).

**-ENDS-**

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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 8th August 2007

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	406.68	590	15%	80	510	+12
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.15	658	22%	30	628	+36
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.82	429	63%	100	329	+42
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		83	5%	(- -) #	0	-5
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 760</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 466</b>	<b>+85</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 17%

# 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		402	39%	3	399	-19
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		476	29%	24	452	+23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		638	19%	100	538	+41

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 07-Aug-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	145	+39	Snowy-Murray	+5	235
Snowy-Murray Component	132	+4	Tooma-Tumut	+9	51
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-4.9	184
			Murray 1 Release	+9	299

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	1.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.2
Licensed Pumps	0.5	2.7
Lower Darling	0.0	.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>4.1</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>6</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

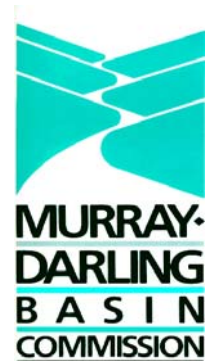
Entitlement this month	124 *	
Flow this week	11.1	(1 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	13	
Flow last month	37	

\* Reduced to approx. 35 GL during August drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	90	90	100
Euston	110	90	90
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	100	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	1 070	1 070	1 070
Lock 9	140	140	150
Lake Victoria	190	190	190
Berri	430	440	440
Waikerie	650	650	650
Morgan	640	630	630
Mannum	450	440	440
Murray Bridge	520	520	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 070	2 050	2 060
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 840	1 660	1 680
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 600	2 450	2 450
Goolwa Barrages	16 630	16 370	16 310



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 200	F	2 100	1 540
Jingellic	4.0	1.62	208.14	4 080	F	4 270	3 700
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.41	218.30	630	F	650	640
Heywoods	5.5	1.06	154.69	460	S	460	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.57	150.04	1 560	F	1 570	1 510
Albury	4.3	0.73	148.17	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.56	126.58	1 470	S	1 490	1 310
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.09	116.13	5 520	R	5 510	4 700
Tocumwal	6.4	1.58	105.42	5 820	S	5 720	5 060
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.76	80.31	4 920	F	4 640	5 200
Swan Hill	4.5	0.98	63.90	4 390	R	4 370	6 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.52	51.64	6 220	F	6 800	8 640
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.41	43.25	7 060	F	7 700	9 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	7 690	F	8 180	9 150
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.20	27.96	7 150	F	7 670	8 170
Rufus Junction	-	2.45	19.38	750	S	850	680
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.21	-	1 180	S	1 080	850
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.44	154.67	1 252	F	1 300	1 300
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.11	146.79	4 106	F	3 910	3 130
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	489	R	480	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.30	81.07	1 070	F	990	1 360
Edward at Liewah	-	2.12	57.50	1 460	F	1 630	1 680
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.26	54.75	160	S	160	150
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.71	56.67	328	S	290	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.29	-	192	F	240	360
Darling at Bourke	-	4.16	-	635	S	700	380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.61	-	0	F	0	0

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7 430	7 150
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.52	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.05	+0.13
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.03	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.09	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.26	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.15
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.56	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.22	+0.25	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.28	-0.04	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	-0.54

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.12	0.81	70.16	533
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.14	0.3	61.6	415



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.23

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.21	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.22	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.23	All closed	Closed	Closed

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