

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 9 May 2007



Our Ref : M2006/01015/dwg, pcb
Trim Ref : 07/6794

11 May, 2007

Rainfall and Inflows

Light rain fell across northern Victoria this week, with most areas receiving 2 to 10 mm. The highest falls were in the Victorian Alps (Mt Hotham 49 mm). In South Australia the highest falls were recorded in the Adelaide Hills (Mt Barker 25 mm), while the Lower Murray received little or no rain (Murray Bridge 0.2 mm). Stream responses in the upper Murray catchment were negligible, and flows continue to be well below the long term averages for this time of year.

River Murray Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir is being maintained at 200 ML/day and storage increased slightly from 463 GL to 466 GL (11.9% capacity). Inflow to Hume Reservoir averaged about 3 200 ML/day, most of which originated from Snowy Mountains Scheme releases. As a result, the storage increased by 25 GL to 169 GL (5.6% capacity). The flow at Doctors Point, downstream of the Hume Reservoir and Kiewa River junction, has been steady at about 1200 ML/day, which is the normal minimum winter flow rate. Commencing Monday 14 May the release from Hume Reservoir will be reduced to a target flow of 1 000 ML/day at Doctors Point. If there is no substantial change to inflows, a further reduction may be implemented will occur on Monday May 21 (*see media release*).

The water level in Lake Mulwala has dropped slightly over the past week, and is currently 124.81 m AHD, which is within the lake's normal operating range (124.60 to 125.15 m AHD). If inflows from the Ovens River remain low over the coming winter, then water in the lake will be gradually released to supplement downstream requirements. The timing and extent that the lake level will be lowered will depend on rainfall and inflows over the coming months. Over the past week, release downstream of Yarrowonga was reduced from 2 300 to 1 800 ML/day, and a further reduction may occur in the next fortnight, depending on conditions.

The effects of the rain in late April have now receded with release from Torrumbarry Weir gradually being reduced to 2 200 ML/day. Without further rain release will continue to fall as the reductions at Yarrowonga Weir travel downstream. Flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 400 ML/day and, if there is no rain, is expected to gradually reduce to 200 ML/day.

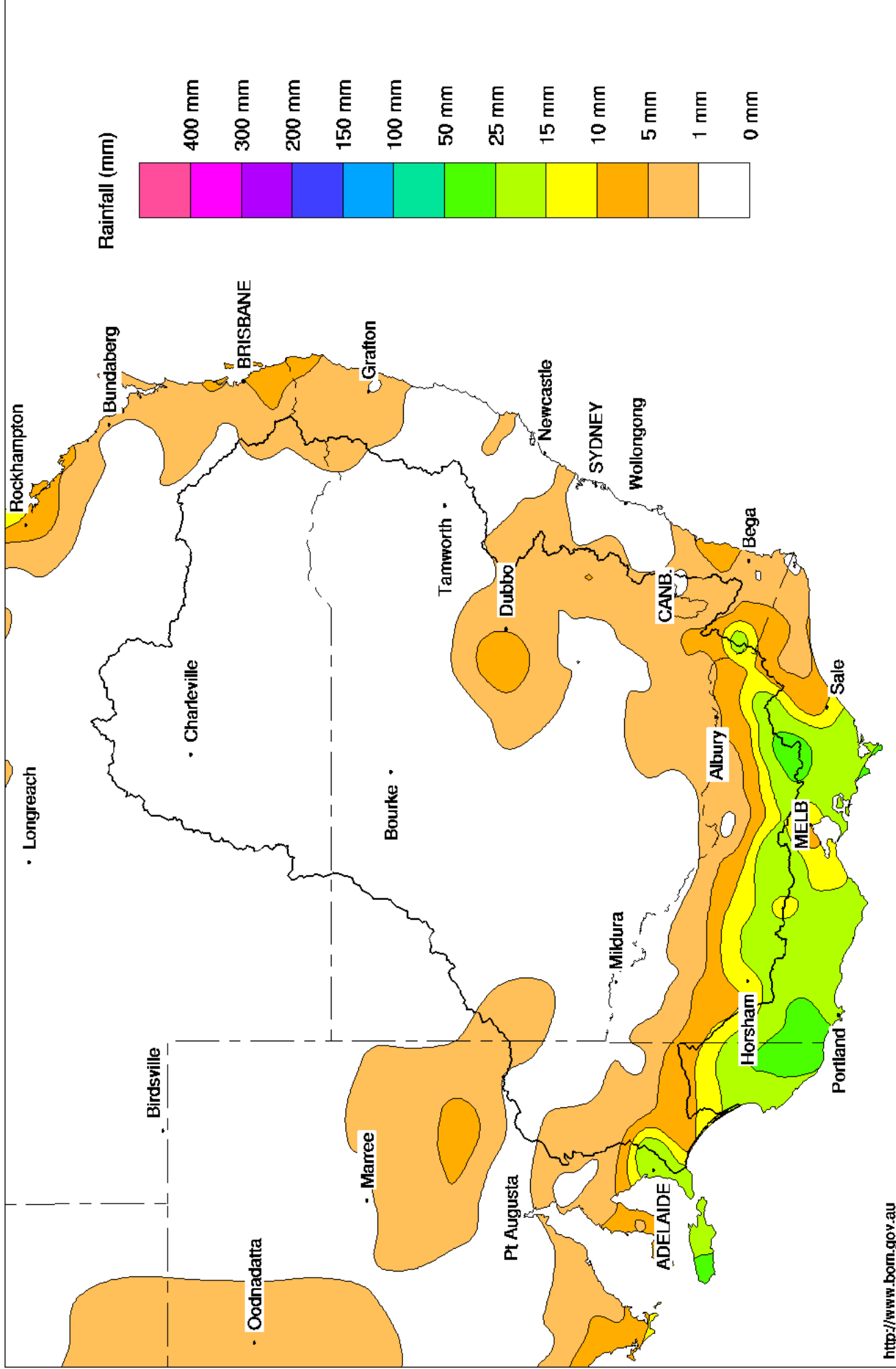
The rain in late April enabled the levels of Weirs 1 to 6 to be surcharged a little above their full supply levels. This water will help to reduce the potential for weir pools falling below full supply levels over the winter months.

The level of the Lower Lakes near the Murray Mouth has reduced slightly over the past week from 0.13 to 0.12 m AHD. Without further rain, the level is expected to continue falling very gradually.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 9th May 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



River Levels and Flows

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	910	F	2 440	5 030
Jingellic	4.0	1.23	207.75	1 430	F	3 250	5 460
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.26	218.15	380	R	430	710
Heywoods	5.5	1.32	154.95	1 030	R	940	1 670
Doctors Point	5.5	1.51	149.98	1 310	R	1 250	1 810
Albury	4.3	0.67	148.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.51	126.53	1 350	F	1 420	2 710
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.34	115.38	1 800	S	2 020	2 360
Tocumwal	6.4	0.82	104.66	-	F	1 840	2 230
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.02	79.57	2 240	F	2 610	2 850
Swan Hill	4.5	0.70	63.62	2 430	F	2 750	2 680
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.80	50.92	3 490	F	3 560	3 440
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.78	42.62	3 530	S	3 520	3 350
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 460	F	3 550	2 830
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.87	27.63	3 190	F	3 350	2 710
Rufus Junction	-	2.58	19.51	1 160	F	1 120	850
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.07	-	1 230	R	820	640
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.73	153.96	257	S	320	190
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.57	145.25	117	F	160	70
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.13	92.55	338	F	410	490
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.69	80.46	440	F	430	400
Edward at Liewah	-	0.90	56.28	426	R	390	340
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.35	54.84	273	S	280	240
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.56	56.52	244	F	240	230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.11	-	-	F	0	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.93	-	5	S	10	40
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	63	R	60	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 020	1 440
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.17	+0.25
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.09	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.10	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.12	+0.23
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.23	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.13	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.17	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.14	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.19	+0.18	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.16	-0.68

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-4.49	0.66	70.01	355
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.10	0.18	61.48	296



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	0.11

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.13	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.12	All closed	Closed	Closed

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

MEDIA RELEASE



Friday, 11 May 2007

MURRAY FLOWS AT ALBURY TO FALL BELOW NORMAL MINIMUM

River Murray Water (RMW) today announced that the flow in the River Murray between Albury and Lake Mulwala will be reduced to below the normal minimum winter flow rate to conserve water for the 2007-08 water year.

River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, David Dreverman said today that the lower flows would allow more water to be stored in Hume Reservoir where evaporation rates are lower.

The flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) is currently at the normal minimum flow rate of 1 200 ML/day (1.48 m gauge height), comprising 950 ML/day release from Hume Reservoir and about 250 ML/day inflow from the Kiewa River. The flow will be reduced in two steps. Commencing Monday 14 May, the release from Hume Reservoir will be reduced to target a flow at Doctors Point (Albury) of about 1 000 ML/day, which is about 6 cm lower than the normal minimum flow.

If there is no substantial change to inflows, then on Monday 21 May the release from Hume Reservoir will be further reduced to 600 ML/day. This release, plus a small inflow from the Kiewa River is expected to result in a flow at Doctors Point of about 800-900 ML/day".

If inflows from the Kiewa River improve as a result of any future rainfall then the implementation of these very low flow rates may be delayed.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

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(Sam Leone is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)