

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 14 November 2007



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16 November, 2007

Rainfall and inflows

After some good falls of rain in late October and early November, the weather in the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin has reverted to hot and dry conditions (see attached map from the Bureau of Meteorology). In contrast, some regions in the northern half of the Basin continued to receive good falls of rain. For instance, Charleville, in south-western Queensland, received 94 mm of rain during the past week. After a small but welcome boost to inflows in early November, stream flows in the upper catchments of the River Murray system are now steadily receding. As an example, the Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie reached a peak flow of 3 100 ML/day on the 5th November, and has now receded to 740 ML/day.

River Operations

During the week, Dartmouth storage increased by 5 GL to a total of 716 GL (18.3% capacity). This weekend, the release from Dartmouth Dam will be progressively increased from 700 ML/day to 5 000 ML/day (further details are provided in the attached Flow Advice). Unless there is significant rain in the upper catchment, the storage in Dartmouth Reservoir will start decreasing. During the past week storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 15 GL to a total of 806 GL (26.5% capacity). The Hume release has been steadily increased to offset the decreasing flow in the Kiewa River to maintain a flow of 6 000 ML/day at Doctors Point (near Albury). Total storage of the River Murray System has declined by 19 GL, and is now at 1993 GL (21% capacity).

The release from Yarrawonga Weir has remained steady at 6 000 ML/day, and is planned to gradually increase over the coming weeks to meet the increasing irrigation demands and evaporative losses downstream. Lake Victoria is currently being used to provide the bulk of South Australia's water requirements, and during the week declined by 7 GL to a total storage of 432 GL (63 % capacity). Storage in Lake Victoria is expected to continue declining over the summer months.

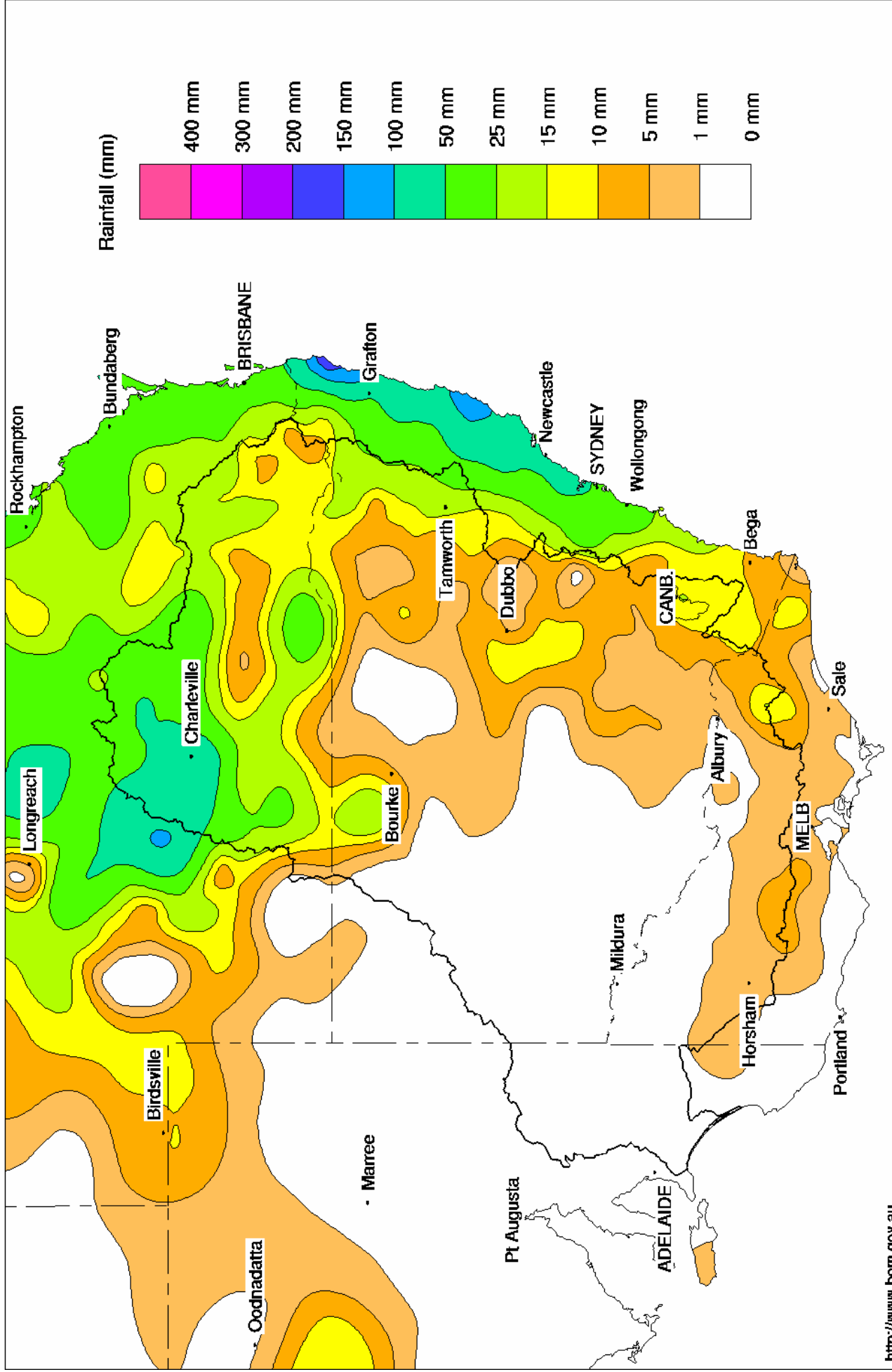
The New South Wales Government has announced that a pulse of water will be sent down the Wakool River and Merran Creek systems (see www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au for further information). This will provide landholders with access to stock and domestic water for the first time in months, help improve water quality and provide significant environmental benefits to stressed populations of native fish and other aquatic species.

All three States have recently announced increased allocations to irrigators along the River Murray. South Australia has announced that allocations will increase from 16 % to at least 22 % from 1st December, while Victorian allocations for the Murray have increased from 20 to 23% of high reliability water shares. NSW has extended the critical water program for permanent plantings to the end of March 2008, and also provided a 25% increase to stock and domestic users, meaning they can now access up to 75% of their licence entitlement. More detailed information is available at the following websites; www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au for NSW, www.g-mwater.com.au for Victoria and www.ministers.sa.gov.au/news.php for South Australia.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th November 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



Flow Advice for Mitta Mitta River



Wednesday 14 November 2007

Mitta Mitta River flow to be further increased

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission wishes to advise Mitta Mitta Valley landholders that the second stage of the planned rises in river level will commence on Saturday 17th November. The planned increases in river level are outlined below:

Date	Time	Gauge height at Colemans (m)	Flow at Colemans (ML/day)	Gauge height at Tallandoon (m) (~ 12 hours later)
Beforehand		1.28	700	~ 1.5 m
Sat 17 th November	8.00 am	1.55	1500	~ 1.8 m
Sun 18 th November	8.00 am	1.95	3500	~ 2.3 m
Mon 19 th November	8.00 am	2.21	5000	~ 2.5 m

During the coming weeks, the release of water from Dartmouth Reservoir is expected to average about 4 500 ML/day – that is about half the rate of last season’s flow. When possible, the release from Dartmouth Dam will be varied rather than held at a constant flow. Typically, over a 4 week cycle, the flow will be pulsed within the range of 4 000 to 5 000 ML/day. The variable release pattern will aim to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users.

The pattern and volume of release will depend on continual reassessment of the overall water requirements along the River Murray System. It will also take into account the outcomes of ecological assessments being undertaken over the coming months. Researchers from Charles Sturt University will be monitoring, analysing and reporting on environmental conditions, through a study funded by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the higher and variable flow rates along the Mitta Mitta River and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

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	412.50	716	18%	80	636	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.73	806	27%	30	776	-15
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.85	432	64%	100	332	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		38	2%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 352		1 993	21%	--	1 744	-19

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 21%

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	386	38%	3	383	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	520	32%	24	496	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	830	24%	100	730	+28

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-Nov-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	482	+13	Snowy-Murray	+0	255
Snowy-Murray Component	404	+13	Tooma-Tumut	+0	113
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	0.0	142
			Murray 1 Release	+2	411

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.1	26.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	3.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	4.0
Licensed Pumps	1.5	19.2
Lower Darling	0.3	2.7
TOTAL	4.6	55.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.9	27
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.2	43
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	19 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	4
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.1	25
TOTAL	11.8	118 *

* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180 *	
Flow this week	23.1	(3 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	48	
Flow last month	80	

* Reduced to approx. 100 GL during November drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	70	110
Euston	110	110	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	190	220	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 330	1 290	1 180
Lock 9	170	170	130
Lake Victoria	180	170	170
Berri	290	300	440
Waikerie	-	600	660
Morgan	700	720	720
Mannum	580	560	470
Murray Bridge	520	520	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 770	2 660	2 310
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 820	2 730	2 330
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 620	2 580	2 560
Goolwa Barrages	14 860	14 970	14 220



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	-	-	-	1 070	F	760	610
Jingellic	4.0	1.34	207.86	2 030	R	1 510	1 520
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.55	218.44	940	F	840	760
Heywoods	5.5	1.91	155.54	4 940	R	4 160	4 310
Doctors Point	5.5	2.24	150.71	6 220	R	5 360	5 620
Albury	4.3	1.23	148.67	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.43	127.45	4 760	R	4 550	5 070
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.17	116.21	6 030	S	6 010	5 580
Tocumwal	6.4	1.64	105.48	6 190	S	6 170	5 730
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.90	80.45	5 420	R	5 150	4 750
Swan Hill	4.5	1.06	63.98	4 940	R	4 780	4 230
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.11	51.23	4 540	S	4 490	3 870
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.84	42.68	3 850	R	3 730	3 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 560	F	2 710	2 370
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.74	27.50	2 170	S	2 270	2 070
Rufus Junction	-	2.89	19.82	2 830	S	2 660	2 890
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.23	-	1 810	F	2 460	1 870
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.40	154.63	1 171	R	1 160	1 210
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.18	145.86	1 333	F	1 750	1 610
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	415	F	420	440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.45	80.22	200	F	200	200
Edward at Liewah	-	0.49	55.87	204	S	200	190
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.00	54.49	7	S	10	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.43	56.39	166	S	170	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.51	-	739	F	380	120
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	49	F	70	30
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.37	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 970	6 020
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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	-0.60	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.06	+0.58
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.13	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.48	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.31
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.10	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.06	-0.36	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.35	-0.02	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.52

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.97	0.5	69.85	211
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.30	0.111	61.411	236



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.12

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.10	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.12	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.07	All closed	Closed	Closed

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