

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 12 September 2007

*Our Ref : M2006/01015/AS, PRS  
Trim Ref : 07/11835*

14 September, 2007



## Rainfall and inflows

During the past week light rain fell across the north, east and south of the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). The Victorian Alpine region received higher falls, with Mt Buller receiving 74 mm and Mt Buffalo 51 mm. This is the best rainfall recorded in the upper catchments since early August. The rain, however, generated only a small but welcome response in river flows. For example, at Rocky Point on the Ovens River the river flow increased from 700 ML/day to 1700 ML/day but is already receding. The weekly inflow of 53 GL for the River Murray system remains well below the average for this time of year of about 380 GL. Storage volumes in Dartmouth Reservoir (currently at 650 GL and 17 % capacity) and Hume Reservoir (810 GL and 27 % capacity) continue to slowly rise.

## River Operations

For the past few months, critical water requirements along the River Murray have largely been supplied by the Kiewa River and Ovens River, which has allowed the water stored in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs to be conserved for use later in the season. The release from Hume Dam has been maintained at about 400 ML/day which is below the normal minimum for winter. However, as the demand for water increases, and the flows in the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers recede, release from Hume Dam will have to be increased. Without further rain, this is expected to occur in the next one or two weeks.

During early September Lake Mulwala has been steadily lowered to supplement flows downstream, and is currently at 124.0 m AHD (90 cm below Full Supply Level). If the weather remains dry, the drawdown is likely to continue and the level might fall as low as 123.6 m AHD.

Flow along the mid reaches of the River Murray is expected to remain low for the next few weeks unless there is significant rain. River pumpers and boat operators, are advised to check water levels, seek advice from the appropriate State authority and make any necessary adjustments to their activities. The water level at Torrumbarry Weir remains close to Full Supply Level but might be lowered by up to 40 cm if downstream water requirements increase over the next few weeks.

To reduce evaporation losses, Euston Weir is currently 23 cm below Full Supply Level, and further lowering is expected in early October. Mildura and Wentworth Weirs are expected to remain within their normal operating range over the next few weeks. Other water saving measures might include the future drawdown of Weirs 8 and 9, and if this occurs, further details would be issued beforehand.

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently at 555 GL (82% capacity) and is being used to supply water to South Australia. The water stored in Lake Victoria originated from tributary inflows during winter, particularly from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. This will provide a significant portion of South Australia's water over the coming months and will reduce the demand on Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs. The flow to South Australia has increased to 2000 ML/day and will remain at this level for the rest of the month.

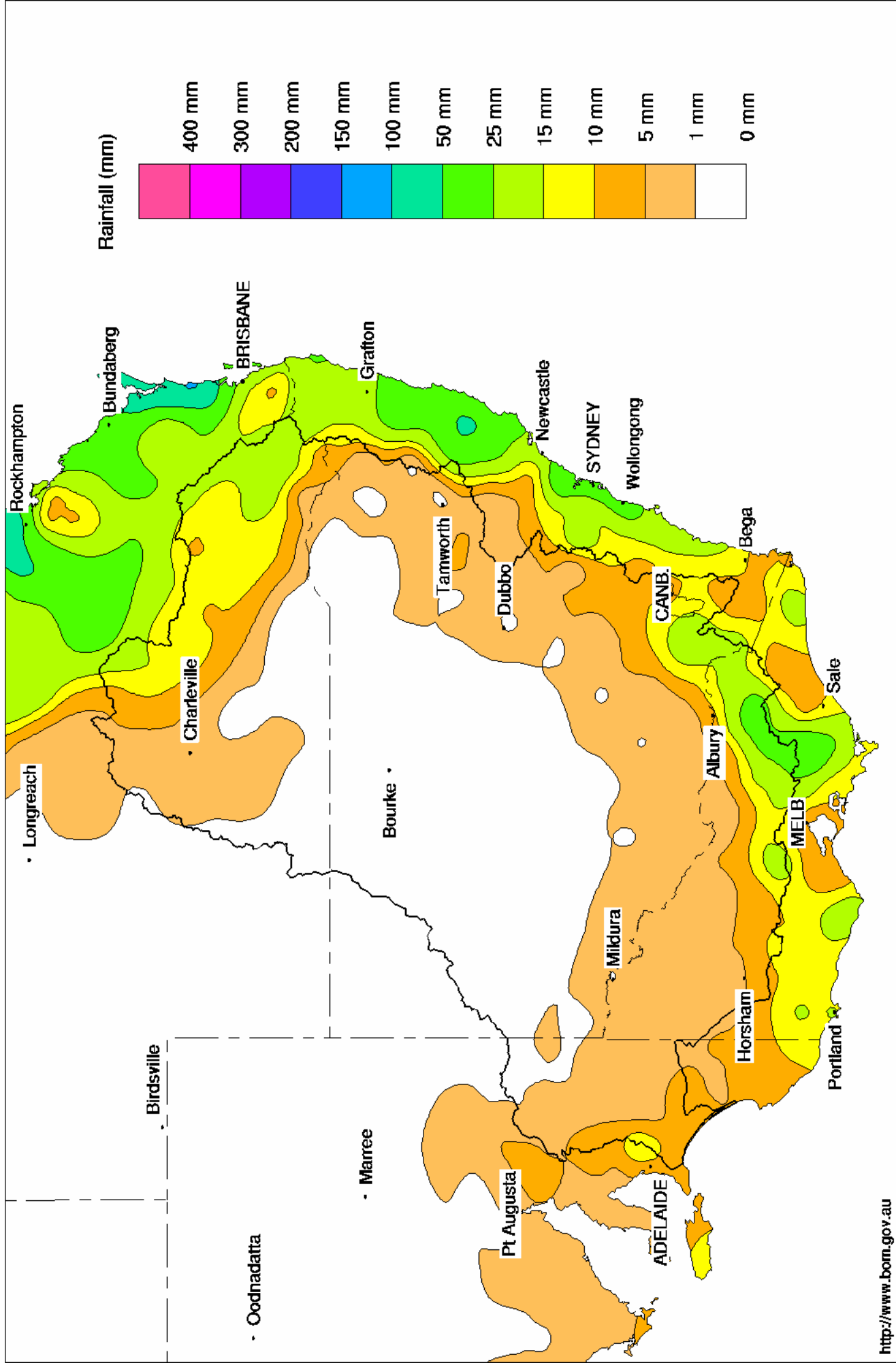
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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th September 2007

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	409.54	650	17%	80	570	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.81	813	27%	30	783	+30
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.98	556	82%	100	456	+10
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		67	4%	(- -) #	0	+1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 086</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 809</b>	<b>+49</b>

\* 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		423	41%	3	420	-6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		482	30%	24	458	+28
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		746	22%	100	646	+4

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-Sep-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	335	+20	Snowy-Murray	+2	240
Snowy-Murray Component	221	+14	Tooma-Tumut	+6	82
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-4.0	157
			Murray 1 Release	+11	354

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	8.5	13.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	1.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.8
Licensed Pumps	1.1	6.8
Lower Darling	0.2	.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.9</b>	<b>23.9</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.2	9
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.1	16
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	3 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>37 *</b>

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

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	135 *	
Flow this week	9.0	(1 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	15	
Flow last month	39	

\* 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	200	150	110
Euston	110	110	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	130	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	1 130	1 090	1 080
Lock 9	120	120	130
Lake Victoria	150	140	170
Berri	510	500	480
Waikerie	680	670	650
Morgan	730	730	680
Mannum	390	410	420
Murray Bridge	590	570	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 310	2 260	2 110
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 930	2 170	2 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 490	2 530	2 520
Goolwa Barrages	14 330	13 360	14 590



**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	-	-	-	3 490	S	2 880	2 460
Jingellic	4.0	1.70	208.22	4 700	R	3 960	3 450
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.44	218.33	690	R	500	510
Heywoods	5.5	1.06	154.69	460	S	480	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.43	149.90	1 020	F	1 230	1 400
Albury	4.3	0.61	148.05	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.44	126.46	1 190	F	1 340	1 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.47	115.51	2 400	S	2 550	2 680
Tocumwal	6.4	0.97	104.81	2 660	F	2 700	2 890
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.98	79.53	2 140	R	1 950	2 470
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	2 110	S	2 260	2 830
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.63	50.75	2 920	F	3 220	4 000
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.73	42.57	3 270	F	3 430	4 680
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 940	F	3 270	4 890
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	2 270	R	3 020	4 560
Rufus Junction	-	2.46	19.39	770	S	710	680
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.07	-	310	S	370	330
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.19	154.42	861	S	1 020	1 190
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.19	145.87	1 362	R	1 220	1 800
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.07	92.49	244	F	280	330
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.38	80.15	150	S	170	430
Edward at Liewah	-	1.04	56.42	515	F	690	830
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.15	54.64	64	S	60	70
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	209	S	210	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.49	-	708	F	1 010	700
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	67	R	70	150
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	63	S	50	0

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 610	6 200
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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	-0.91	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.04	+0.13
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.06	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	-0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.23	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.00
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.07	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.08
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	-0.04	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.68

<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	-1.13	0.54	69.89	243
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.64	0.15	61.45	269



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.19

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.23	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.20	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.21	All closed	Closed	Closed

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