

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 16 May 2007



Our Ref : M2006/01015/dwg, pcb  
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18 May, 2007

## Rainfall and Inflows

Moderate rain fell across the Basin this week, concentrated mainly in the west over Wimmera-Mallee in Victoria and in the upper western area of NSW. The highest falls occurred in Victoria at Mount William (61mm) and in NSW at Tibooburra Airport (83mm). Up until 9am Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> very little rain had fallen in the upper Murray catchment, with rainfalls varying between 0 – 10 mm.

Since 9am Friday the 18<sup>th</sup>, heavy rains have fallen over the upper Murray, with particularly high flows experienced over the Ovens catchment.

Whilst the rain assisted with wetting catchments there was very little response in stream flows. Much more rain is required over coming months to generate significant rises in streams.

## River Murray Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir is being maintained at the normal minimum rate of 200 ML/day and storage has remained steady at 467 GL (12% capacity). The storage level at Hume Dam has increased from 170 to 183 GL (6% capacity), due primarily to a further reduction in the release from Hume. The flow at Doctors Point, downstream of the Hume Reservoir and Kiewa River junction is now steady at around 1 000 ML/day, which is just below the normal minimum of 1200 ML/day (*see attached media release*).

The water level in Lake Mulwala has dropped slightly over the past week, and is currently 124.76 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 rather than by making additional releases from Hume Reservoir. The timing and extent that the lake level will be lowered will depend on rainfall and inflows over the coming months. Release downstream of Yarrawonga has remained steady at 1 800 ML/day. A further reduction to 1 500 ML/day may be implemented in the coming week if there is little further rain and little improvement in inflow to the river.

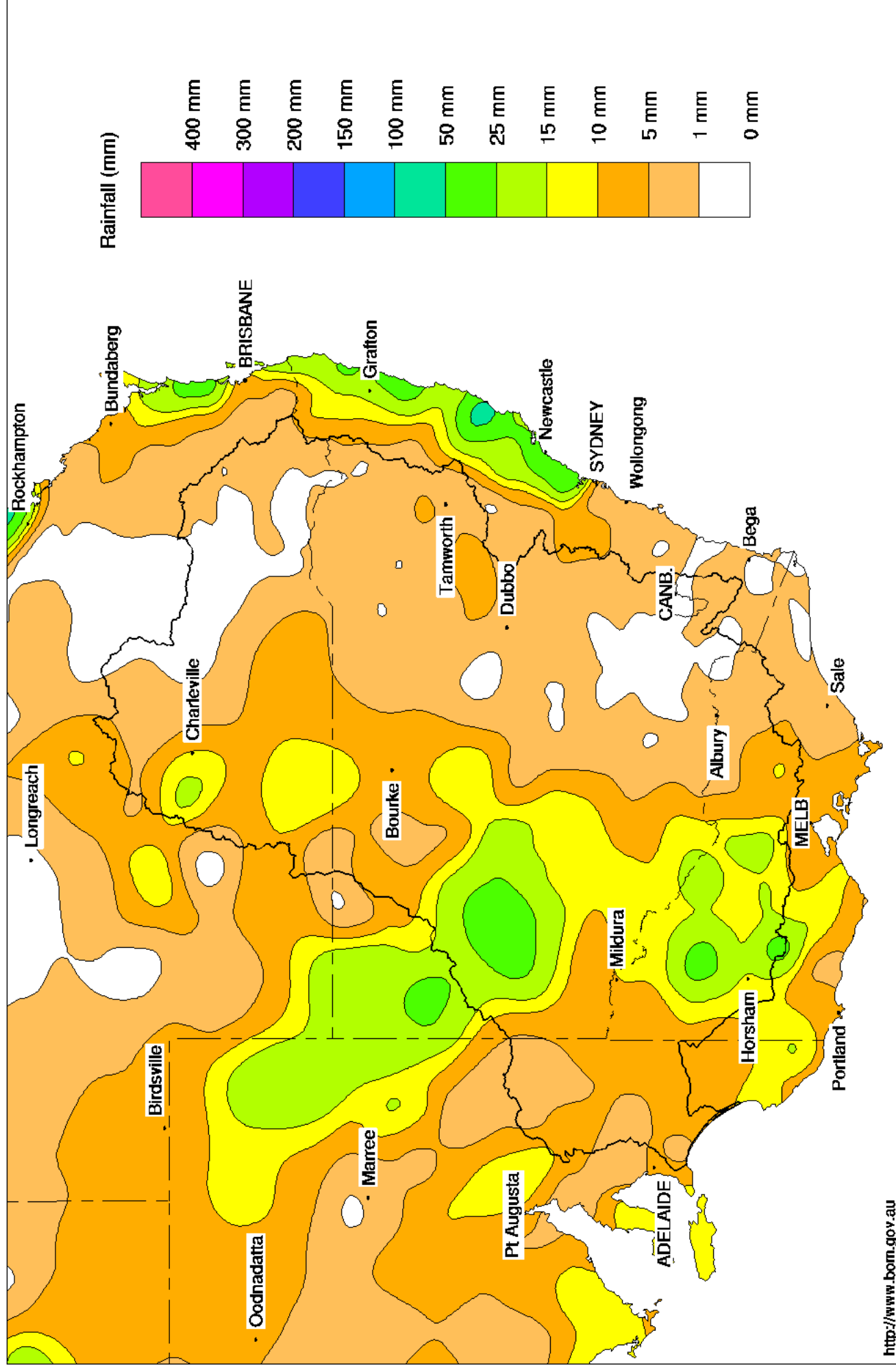
The reduction in release from Lake Mulwala, implemented on the 8 May, has necessitated a further reduction in the release from Torrumbarry Weir to maintain Torrumbarry Weir pool near its full supply level of 86.05m AHD. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir is now 1 800 ML/day and is expected to be reduced further in the coming weeks if flows downstream of Yarrawonga are further reduced. Release from Stevens Weir has been gradually reduced over the week to its normal minimum of 150 ML/day.

Flow to South Australia has averaged 1 800 ML/day over the past week. Weir pool levels in South Australia have remained relatively steady and the flow passing Lock 1 has increased to around 1 700 ML/day. This increase in flow at Lock 1 is a result of the heavy rain that fell across the Riverland region in two weeks ago.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 16th May 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



## Week ending Wednesday 16 May 2007

### 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	400.29	468	12%	80	388	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.17	185	6%	30	155	+15
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.88	236	35%	100	136	+8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		95	5%	(- -) #	0	-1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>983</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>+24</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **8%**

# 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	244	24%	3	241	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	227	14%	24	203	+15
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	186	5%	100	86	+4

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-May-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	166	-18	Snowy-Murray	+11	29
Snowy-Murray Component	218	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+0	
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	10.8	29
			Murray 1 Release	+15	36

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	351.4
Wakool System loss	1.0	70.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	23.1
Licensed Pumps	1.1	170.5
Lower Darling	0.0	18.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>633.9</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	385
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.7	608
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	135
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	159
Licensed pumps - LMW	1.8	220
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1 508</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	12.6	
Flow so far this month	29	
Flow last month	54	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	90	80	70
Euston	110	110	100
Red Cliffs	170	170	110
Merbein	140	140	110
Burtundy (Darling)	1 070	1 040	880
Lock 9	160	160	120
Lake Victoria	170	180	160
Berri	410	390	250
Waikerie	-	-	330
Morgan	440	430	360
Mannum	410	430	430
Murray Bridge	530	510	440
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 560	1 550	1 320
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 460	1 520	1 190
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 110	2 200	2 360
Goolwa Barrages	11 900	14 960	3 610



**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	-	-	-	830	F	2 170	2 350
Jingellic	4.0	1.29	207.81	1 790	F	2 400	3 250
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.25	218.14	360	S	360	430
Heywoods	5.5	1.21	154.84	720	R	820	940
Doctors Point	5.5	1.42	149.89	990	R	1 160	1 250
Albury	4.3	0.62	148.06	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.49	126.51	1 310	F	1 420	1 420
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.33	115.37	1 740	F	1 790	2 020
Tocumwal	6.4	0.80	104.64	1 915	F	-	1 840
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.80	79.35	1 560	F	1 950	2 610
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	1 880	S	2 010	2 750
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.65	50.77	2 980	R	3 090	3 560
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.67	42.51	2 970	R	3 320	3 520
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.83	3 450	F	3 320	3 550
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.87	27.63	3 190	S	3 160	3 350
Rufus Junction	-	2.60	19.53	1 240	F	1 250	1 120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.08	-	1 810	R	1 320	820
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.83	154.06	372	F	410	320
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.53	145.21	81	S	90	160
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.11	92.53	324	R	320	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.49	80.26	240	S	280	430
Edward at Liewah	-	1.09	56.47	548	R	500	390
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	54.87	316	R	290	280
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	209	S	220	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.94	-	-	F	-	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	R	10	10
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	S	50	60

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 390	3 020
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+0.27
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	+0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.12	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.12	+0.29
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.23	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.16	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	+0.23	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.13	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.25	+0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.12	-0.67

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-4.50	0.59	69.94	287
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.10	0.14	61.44	261



**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	0.16	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.14	All closed	Closed	Closed

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

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Wednesday, 16 May 2007

## RIVER LEVELS ALONG MID-MURRAY TO FALL BELOW NORMAL MINIMUMS

River Murray Water today announced that flows along the River Murray between Torrumbarry and Euston Weirs are expected to gradually fall below normal minimum rates over the coming weeks.

David Dreverman, General Manager of River Murray Water, said that; “this is part of a plan to gradually reduce flows along the entire length of the River Murray, with the aim of conserving water in Hume Reservoir for the 2007-08 water year.”

“Over the past few days the release from Torrumbarry Weir has been reduced from 2 000 to 1 500 ML/day (0.78 m gauge height) and there is the possibility of further reductions over the coming week if there is no significant rainfall”, he said.

The level of the River Murray at Barham is currently 1.17 m and is expected to gradually fall to about 1.10 m over the coming week.

At Swan Hill, the river flow is currently 1 900 ML/day (0.61 m gauge height) and is likely to drop below the normal minimum level of 0.60 m this week. If there is no significant rain the river level may fall below 0.50 m by late May. Although the river at Swan Hill was as low as 0.53 m for several days in 2002, it has not been below 0.5 m since March 1979.

Further downstream at Euston Weir, the flow is currently 2 900 ML/day and if there is no significant rain, it may fall below 2 000 ML/day by late May.

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)*