

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 July 2007

Our Ref : M2006/01015/AS, PRS
Trim Ref : 07/9361

20 July, 2007



Rainfall and inflows

The southern half of the Basin received further light rain this week with 10-25 mm falling in the alpine region (*see map*), some of which fell as snow. Inflow to the River Murray System had been gradually receding following the rain two weeks ago and this latest rain has only slowed the rate of recession rather than provide renewed stream rises. Total inflow to the River Murray System for the week was about 90 GL which was nearly half that of the previous week (175 GL).

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has increased by 8 GL to 553 GL (14.2% capacity) and storage in Hume Reservoir has increased by 48 GL to 545 GL (16.7% capacity) of which about half was inflow from unregulated streams and the other half being released from the Snowy Mountains Scheme.

River Operations

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 10 300 to 7 000 ML/day as the inflow from the Ovens River gradually declined. Over the coming months the level of Lake Mulwala will be varied over a greater range, and may go as low as 1m below the minimum operating level of 124.6 m (AHD). This operation will improve water availability to the three States by assisting in regulating future higher inflow events from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers (*see attached media release*).

The recent higher release from Yarrawonga Weir and an increased inflow from the Goulburn River (up to 2 000 ML/day) combined to form a peak flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir of 9 000 ML/day on 16 July. A similar flow peak is expected to reach Euston Weir on about 26 July. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir (Edward River) has increased from 1 000 to 1 800 ML/day and is expected to remain at about this rate for most of the coming week and then gradually decline.

Most of the higher flow currently passing along the mid reaches of the River Murray will be diverted into Lake Victoria storage, which increased this week by 15 GL to 316 GL (47% capacity) and is expected to be 450 GL (67% capacity) by mid August.

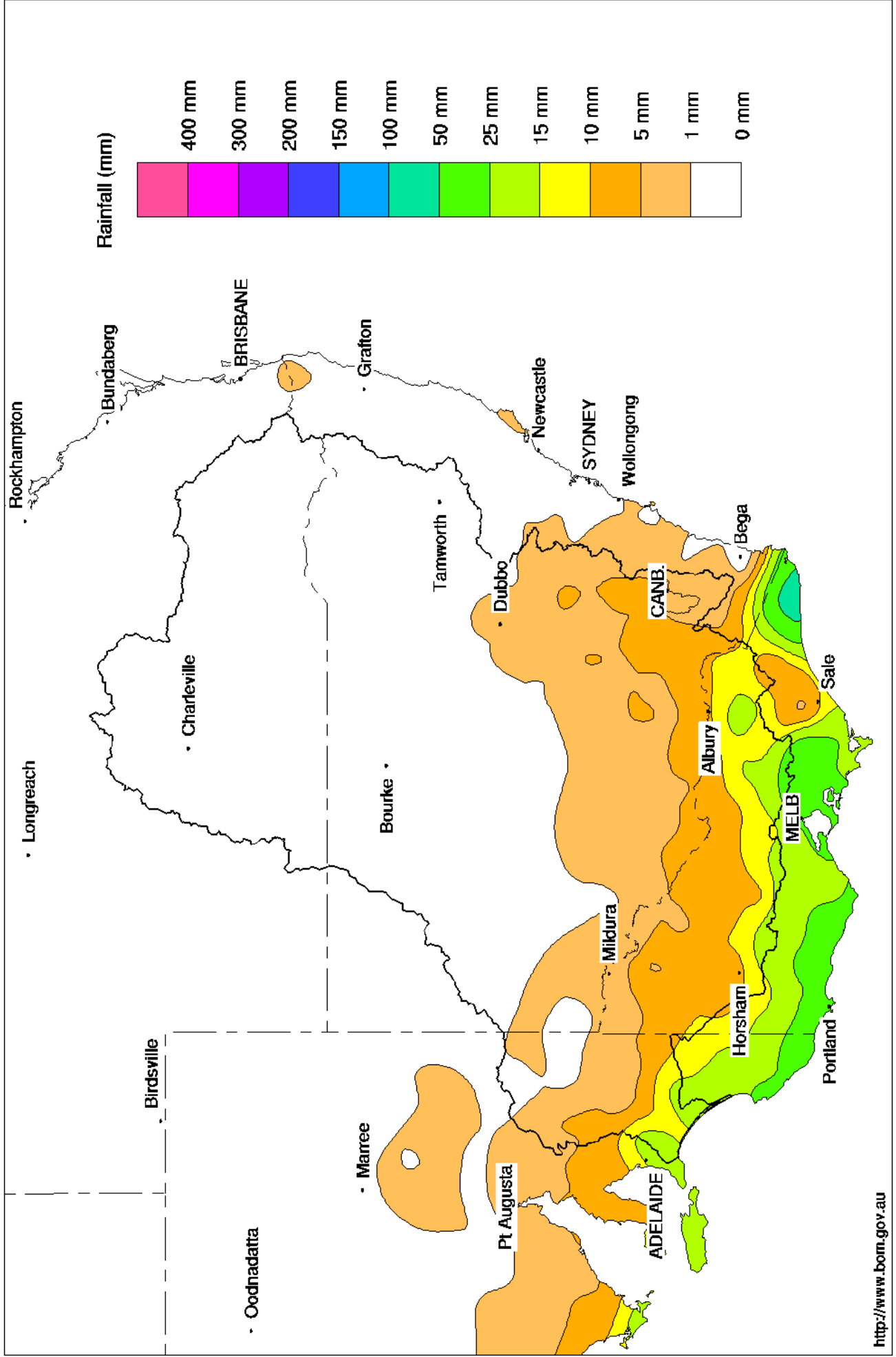
Flow to South Australia is being maintained at 1 100 ML/day and the upper weir pools in South Australia remain at or above their Full Supply Level (FSL), except for Lock 6 which has been about 7 cm below FSL since early June. With the current low flow to South Australia it is difficult to maintain Lock 6 at FSL due to the need to maintain some flow around the Lock and then back into the River Murray via several creeks flowing through the Chowilla floodplain.

The release from Lock 1 has been reduced to 600 ML/day after being at more than 1 000 ML/day over the past week. The recent higher release at Lock 1 in conjunction with local rainfall (5-15 mm) has been sufficient to offset evaporation and consumption use downstream of Lock 1 and has resulted in the level of the Lower Lakes remaining steady at about 0.22 m (AHD).

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th July 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre





MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 19 July, 2007

Lake Mulwala levels to be varied in Murray water saving measures

Despite recent rainfall and slightly higher inflows, water saving measures still need to be implemented along the River Murray System to save water for urban and irrigation water users.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said the next operation, to be carried out over the next few months, would be at Lake Mulwala in New South Wales.

“The level of the Lake will be gradually lowered below the normal minimum operating level of 124.6 m (AHD), by up to 1 metre. This lowering will take place over the coming weeks.

“The lower Lake level will enable future high inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers to be re-regulated within the lake, so that releases from the Lake can be maintained as far as possible at rates within the river’s channel capacity downstream.

“This operation will minimise water losses downstream by avoiding as far as possible overbank flows. It will increase the volume of water that can be later captured in Lake Victoria further downstream”.

“During the next few months, the lake level can be expected to fluctuate within the range of 123.6 to 125.15 m (AHD) while water availability remains low.

“When the situation improves, lake levels will be returned to the normal operating range of 124.6 to 125.15 m,” Dr Craik said.

General Manager of the MDBC’s River Murray Water division Mr David Dreverman, said that river diverters, boat skippers and other river users should take into account the lower Lake levels and the wider range of level fluctuations.

Further advice will be issued if there are significant changes to these plans.

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Trim ref: 07/9367

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	404.87	553	14%	80	473	+8
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.83	545	18%	30	515	+48
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.72	316	47%	100	216	+15
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		91	5%	(- -) #	0	-1
Total		9 352		1 505	16%	--	1 204	+70

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **14%**

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		407	40%	3	404	+14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		419	26%	24	395	+13
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		537	16%	100	437	+39

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Jul-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	80	+4	Snowy-Murray	+19	210
Snowy-Murray Component	123	-10	Tooma-Tumut	+5	31
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	13.2	179
			Murray 1 Release	+23	261

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	0.2	.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.0
Licensed Pumps	0.5	1.2
Lower Darling	0.0	.1
TOTAL	0.7	1.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	1
TOTAL	0.6	4

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	109 *	
Flow this week	7.8	(1 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	21	
Flow last month	29	

* Reduced to approx. 36 GL during June drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	80	80	80
Euston	110	100	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	120
Merbein	140	150	120
Burtundy (Darling)	1 090	1 090	920
Lock 9	180	180	130
Lake Victoria	190	190	170
Berri	450	450	280
Waikerie	-	600	360
Morgan	560	550	380
Mannum	460	450	440
Murray Bridge	510	520	450
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 690	1 690	1 380
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 150	2 040	1 270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 470	2 550	2 370
Goolwa Barrages	19 250	18 390	6 080



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	-	-	-	6 070	R	3 810	4 320
Jingellic	4.0	1.92	208.44	6 470	R	5 650	8 580
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	690	R	620	1 060
Heywoods	5.5	1.05	154.68	430	S	430	410
Doctors Point	5.5	1.67	150.14	2 020	R	1 890	2 930
Albury	4.3	0.79	148.23	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.64	126.66	1 670	F	2 070	2 940
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.44	116.48	8 010	F	9 750	8 870
Tocumwal	6.4	2.15	105.99	9 360	F	9 850	7 580
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	81.41	8 900	S	8 380	4 560
Swan Hill	4.5	1.56	64.48	7 950	R	6 040	2 860
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.79	51.91	7 250	R	5 620	3 060
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.25	43.09	6 100	R	5 030	3 160
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 830	F	3 520	2 800
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	4 450	R	3 310	2 790
Rufus Junction	-	2.42	19.35	680	S	660	660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.20	-	710	F	980	590
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.80	155.03	1 899	R	1 800	3 040
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.83	146.51	3 217	F	4 290	10 220
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.32	92.74	625	F	1 190	670
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.87	81.64	1 820	F	1 680	670
Edward at Liewah	-	1.17	56.55	605	R	590	330
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.20	54.69	101	S	110	150
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.52	56.48	224	S	230	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.50	-	739	F	1 040	310
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	105	S	170	150
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.62	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 840	12 560
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.08	+0.10
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.13	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.13
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.24	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.13	-0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	-0.55

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.66	0.8	70.15	520
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.10	0.18	61.48	296



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.21

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.21	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	0.20	All closed	Closed	Closed

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