

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 26 September 2007

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28 September, 2007



Rainfall and Inflows

Very little rain fell over the Basin this past week, with the highest falls being in South Australia (*see map*). Along the Lower Murray there was 17 mm at Tailem Bend and 9 mm at Waikerie. Due to dry conditions in the catchment area, inflows to the River Murray System continue to gradually decline.

River Operations

Release from Dartmouth remains steady at 200 ML/day and the storage volume has increased from 656 to 664 ML/day (17% of capacity). Hume storage also continues to slowly rise – primarily due to release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme via Murray 1 power station - and has increased from 844 to 857 GL (28.2% of capacity).

Release from Hume reservoir has been increased to 2500 ML/day to target a flow of 4000 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga. This rise will meet increasing downstream needs and will allow a further small rise in the level of Lake Mulwala. Lake Mulwala has been raised from 123.7 to 123.8 m AHD over the past week and will reach about 124 m AHD by early October. It is expected that levels will remain at about this level over coming weeks but will be subject to changes in weather and demand conditions.

Release from Lake Mulwala has been increased from 2600 to 3000 ML/day in order to boost declining river flows further downstream. Torrumbarry Weir pool is being used as a 'mid river' storage and is currently being drawn upon to increase flows downstream until the higher flows from Lake Mulwala arrive next week. This has resulted in a temporary lowering of the weir pool from 86.05 to 85.9 m AHD.

Release from Euston Weir averaged 1840 ML/day this week but is expected to increase to around 2000 ML/day within the next few days as the higher flows from Torrumbarry Weir arrive. Beginning 1 October, the Euston Weir pool will be further lowered by around 3 - 5 cm/week in order to reduce evaporative losses along the river (*see media release attached*).

The inlet to Lake Victoria is now closed ensuring that adequate flow and weir pool levels are maintained in the River Murray at Locks 9, 8 and 7. Release from Lake Victoria has been increased from 1400 to 1600 ML/day and storage has fallen from 552 GL to 542 GL (80% of capacity).

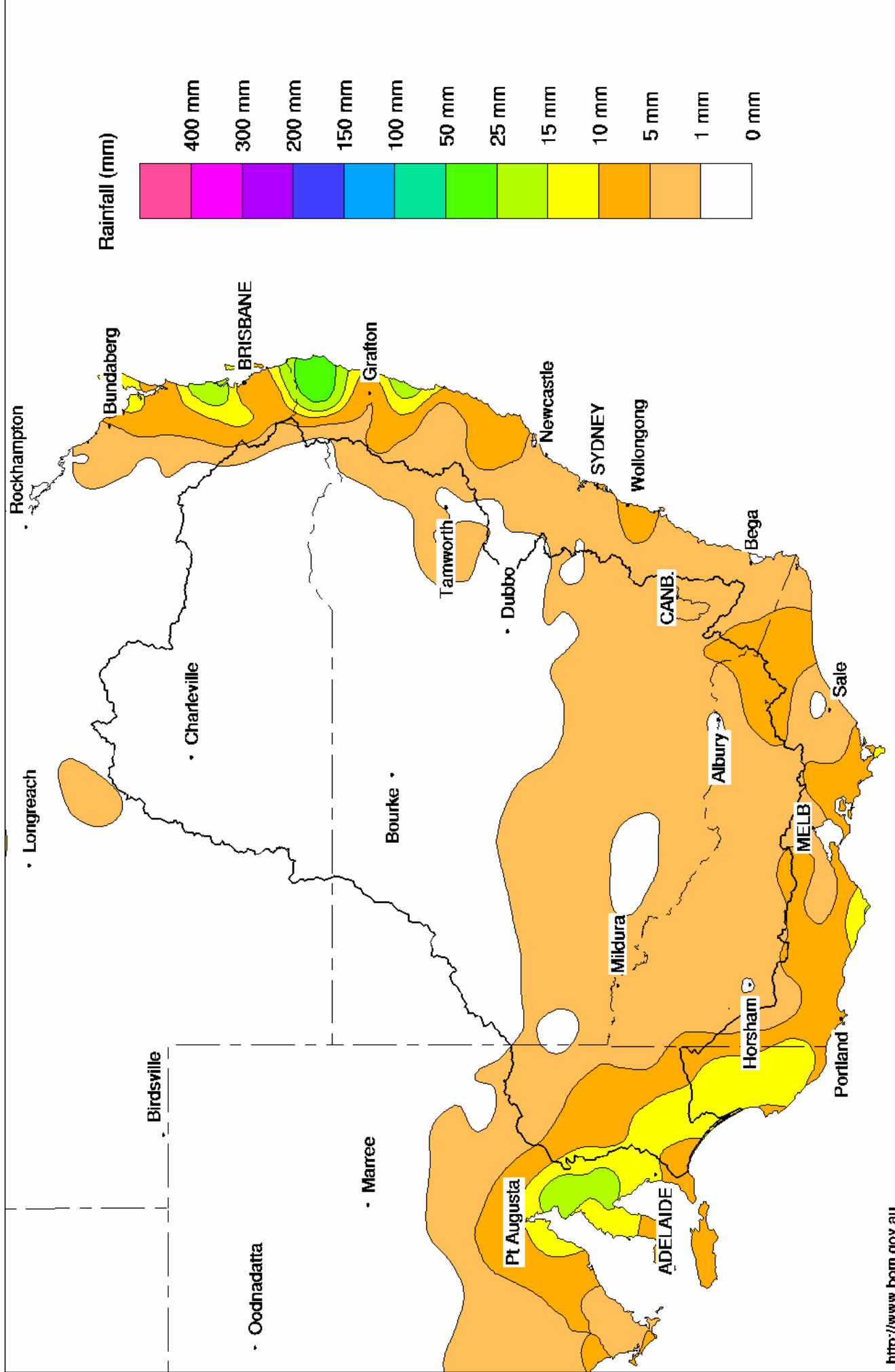
Flow to South Australia averaged around 1900 ML/day and although the flow at Lock 1 temporarily increased to 1 500 ML/day it has since fallen back to 800 ML/day. Salinity levels at Morgan and Lock 1 have increased by about 50 EC this week and are currently 780 and 690 EC respectively. The level of the Lower Lakes has fallen from 0.25 to 0.18 m AHD since mid August with Milang Jetty showing an increase in salinity of around 350 EC to the current level of about 2350 EC. Very high salinities of around 13 000 EC continue to be recorded in the Goolwa channel upstream of the Goolwa Barrage.

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th September 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre





MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 28 September, 2007

Failed rains force Euston Weir pool lowering

The failure of winter and spring rainfall has forced the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) to further lower the Euston Weir Pool and its associated Lakes.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said today that the hoped for improvement in inflows to the River Murray had failed to eventuate.

“As a result it is critical that we continue to reduce evaporative losses across the system to increase water availability to users during this extremely difficult period. An estimated 25 GL evaporative losses can be saved by reducing the surface area of the Euston Lakes.

“The Euston Weir pool level was gradually lowered to 25cm below full supply level in August as the first stage in a series of water savings measures,” Dr Craik said. “At that time, we warned that the level of the weir pool might need to be lowered further unless inflows improved substantially.”

Under normal circumstances, Euston’s associated Lake Benanee and Dry Lake are maintained at full supply level (47.60m) and evaporative losses are replaced each day by flows from the river. However, by gradually lowering the weir pool level to match the evaporation rate, no net flow into the lakes will occur.

“This water can then be saved and redirected to users throughout the Murray Valley,” Dr Craik said. Euston Weir pool is currently 47.34m AHD, which is 26 cm below full supply level.

“We plan to begin gradually lowering Euston Weir pool on Monday 1 October, initially at a rate of about 3-5 cm per week. We expect the pool level to fall to about 0.5 m below full supply level by early November.

“We will then review conditions and make another public announcement,” Dr Craik said. “Under extreme conditions more evaporative savings will be needed over summer and autumn.

“How these savings will be made will be kept under review. There is a difficult trade-off between avoiding unnecessary impact on the weir pool users and the other options to reduce evaporation. The Euston Lakes Users’ Group will continue to be consulted in developing all options.”

The rate of lowering will be reduced if there is significant rain or higher river flows. On the other hand, hot weather may lead to the weir pool level being temporarily drawn down at a slightly faster rate. In this event, extra water will be released from upstream storages to return the pool level to the original schedule.

“We appreciate that lowering the weir pool will impact some river users, but we are operating the river system on a knife’s edge to maximise overall water availability. Dry Lake and Lake Benanee will be refilled when conditions improve and when we are able to supply the water.

“In the meantime, we advise river diverters, boat skippers and other river users to take the lower weir pool levels into account in their activities,” Dr Craik said.

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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	410.21	665	17%	80	585	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.25	858	28%	30	828	+16
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.87	543	80%	100	443	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		62	4%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		2 127	23%	--	1 855	+13

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **22%**

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		414	40%	3	411	-5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		485	30%	24	461	-1
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		767	23%	100	667	+10

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Sep-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	367	+12	Snowy-Murray	+8	250
Snowy-Murray Component	246	+11	Tooma-Tumut	+6	95
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	1.7	155
			Murray 1 Release	+20	385

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.4	23.4
Wakool System loss	0.0	2.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	1.2
Licensed Pumps	1.6	9.8
Lower Darling	0.2	1.2
TOTAL	6.5	38.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.6	13
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	1.5	20
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.4	6 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	6
TOTAL	6.1	48 *

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

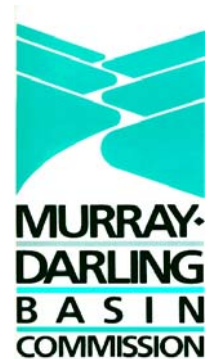
Entitlement this month	135 *	
Flow this week	13.5	(1 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	42	
Flow last month	39	

* Reduced to approx. 54 GL during September drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	90	80	110
Euston	120	130	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	150	150	120
Burtundy (Darling)	1 190	1 190	1 100
Lock 9	120	120	130
Lake Victoria	160	160	170
Berri	480	500	490
Waikerie	-	680	650
Morgan	770	740	700
Mannum	460	430	430
Murray Bridge	570	580	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 340	2 340	2 190
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 980	2 040	2 080
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 520	2 540	2 510
Goolwa Barrages	12 910	14 250	14 440



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	-	-	-	3 350	F	3 130	2 100
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	4 850	S	4 130	3 600
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.29	218.18	420	F	440	510
Heywoods	5.5	1.62	155.25	2 460	R	1 970	540
Doctors Point	5.5	2.00	150.47	4 110	R	3 590	1 500
Albury	4.3	1.02	148.46	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.03	127.05	2 970	F	2 490	1 310
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.51	115.55	2 570	S	2 540	2 400
Tocumwal	6.4	0.95	104.79	2 570	S	2 480	2 440
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.89	79.44	1 810	F	1 860	1 950
Swan Hill	4.5	0.60	63.52	2 050	F	2 000	1 940
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.39	50.51	2 180	R	2 110	2 440
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.44	42.28	1 870	R	1 840	2 710
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 670	F	1 790	2 680
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.81	27.57	1 200	F	1 640	2 530
Rufus Junction	-	2.67	19.60	1 510	R	1 360	1 390
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.22	-	1 000	F	1 510	390
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.47	154.70	1 301	R	1 430	1 200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.16	145.84	1 276	R	1 320	1 430
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.13	92.55	338	R	280	260
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.46	80.23	210	F	200	200
Edward at Liewah	-	0.38	55.76	154	S	180	340
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.12	54.61	46	S	50	50
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	209	R	210	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.26	-	136	R	180	450
Darling at Bourke	-	4.24	-	1 122	R	880	440
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	25	S	30	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 670	6 740
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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	-1.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.10	+0.34
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.12	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.23	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.03
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.20
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.17	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	-0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.03	-0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.53

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.13	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.10	0.11	61.41	236



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	0.41	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.30	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.30	All closed	Closed	Closed

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