

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 10 November 2004

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12 November, 2004



Rainfall and Inflows

There was widespread rainfall across the Basin this week, with the highest falls being recorded in northern Victoria, the Namoi and Macquarie catchments in NSW and the Border Rivers in Queensland (see attached rainfall map). It is also raining at the time of writing this report and the effect of this will be detailed next week.

The rainfall resulted in a significant boost to inflows to the River Murray System. Inflow to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs peaked at 8 000 ML/day and 21 300 ML/day respectively. In addition the Kiewa River at Bandiana peaked at 3 800 ML/day, the Ovens River at Wangaratta reached 7 400 ML/day and the Goulburn River at Shepparton peaked at 3 100 ML/day. The heavy rain in north central Victoria was sufficient to provide an immediate increase in the River Murray flow at Swan Hill and Euston. It also triggered the first significant inflow to the River Murray from Barr Creek since October 2002. Fortunately, the existing high river flow will dilute the saline water entering from Barr Creek and only a minor increase in River Murray salinity is expected. During this week there was also an increase of the inflow from the Murrumbidgee River, with the flow at Balranald reaching 1 400 ML/day.

The Darling River at Wilcannia has increased to 97 ML/day as result of the early October rainfall event in the northern part of the Basin. The rain over the past week may further increase the flow along the Darling River and its tributaries, however it is too early to predict if there will be significant inflow to Menindee Lakes.

Storage levels and system operations

Total MDBC storage increased this week by 45 GL and is currently at 46% of capacity. This was primarily the result of a 55 GL increase in the storage volume of Hume Reservoir, which has reached 50% of capacity. Despite a higher inflow this week, the storage level in Dartmouth Reservoir fell by 5 GL to 1 730 GL or 46% of capacity. The decline in Dartmouth storage level is due to the continued transfer of water to Hume Reservoir.

To accommodate the increased inflow from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers, the release from Hume Reservoir was progressively reduced this week and the flow downstream of Lake Mulwala was increased to 13 000 ML/day. This flow is above the channel capacity of the River Murray in the Barmah-Millewa Forest (10 300 ML/day), and as such several regulators on the Victorian side of the forest have been opened to by-pass the 'Barmah Choke'. This will also provide water to wetlands within the forest. The river flow at Yarrawonga is expected to remain at or near this level for the next few days but this could be extended if the current rain is sufficient.

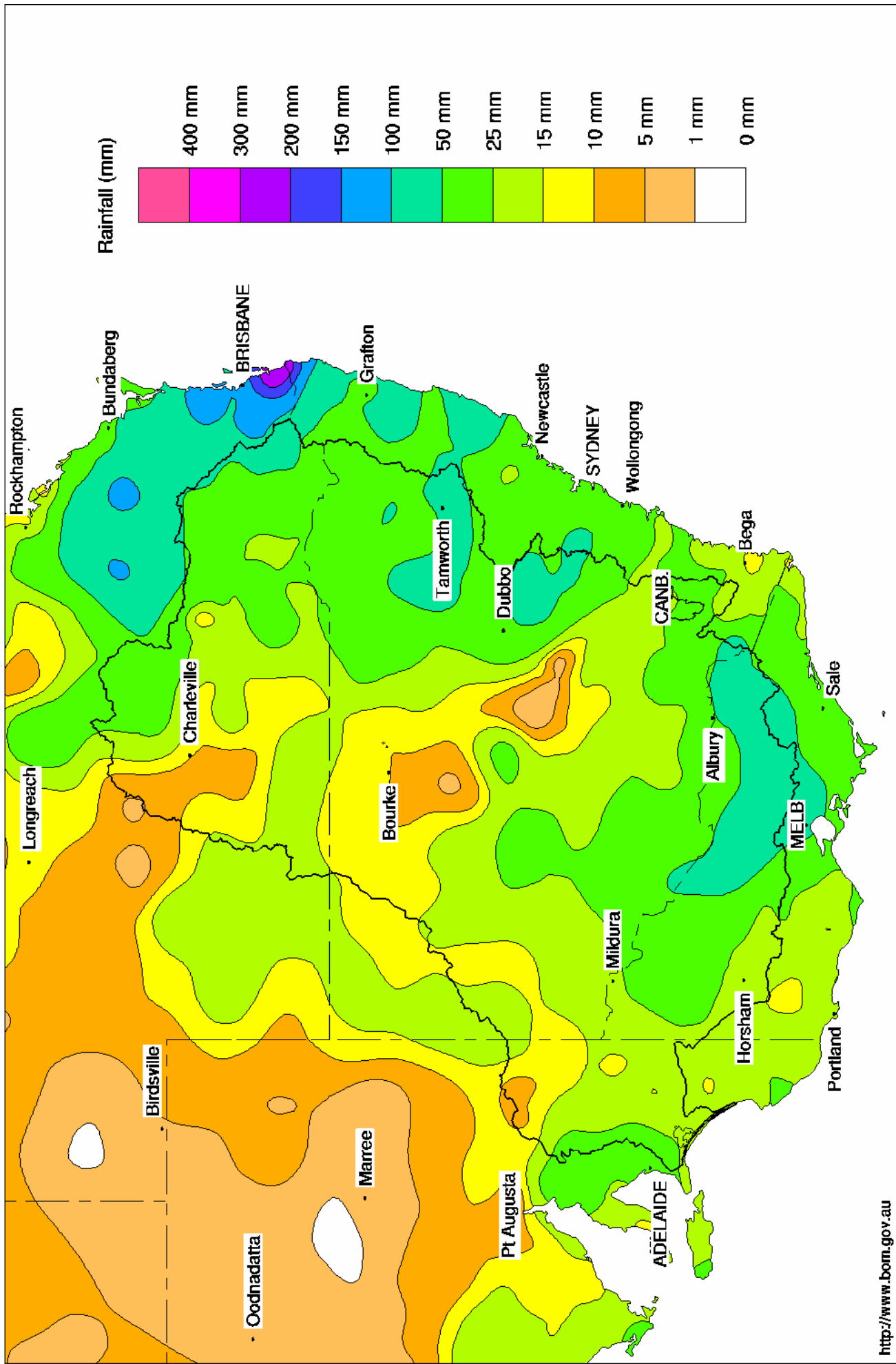
The higher River Murray flow, in conjunction with inflow from the tributaries, is expected to increase to the water level of Lake Victoria over the coming weeks. Lake Victoria is currently at 92% of capacity and the likelihood of it filling is being reviewed on a daily basis. The average level of Lake Alexandrina is 0.82m AHD, which is similar to last week and all Barrage gates remain closed.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 10th November 2004

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)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	446.78	1 810	46%	80	1 730	-5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	182.83	1 513	50%	30	1 483	+55
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.56	624	92%	100	524	-2
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		270	17%	640 #	0	-5
Total		9 224		4 217	46%	850	3 736	+42

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **45%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	173	17%	3	170	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	503	31%	24	479	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 396	41%	100	1 296	+24

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-Nov-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 423	+54	Snowy-Murray	+4	307
Snowy-Murray Component	1 111	+38	Tooma-Tumut	+9	184
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	-5.4	124
			Murray 1 Release	+20	557

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	12.1	260.0
Wakool System loss	-0.7	3.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	7.2
Licensed Pumps	7.7	81.8
Lower Darling	0.4	6.5
TOTAL	19.8	358.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.9	96
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.2	215
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.5	36
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	7
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.7	96
TOTAL	28.8	450

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180	(6 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	42.6	
Flow so far this month	61	
Flow last month	171	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	110	100	100
Euston	90	90	120
Red Cliffs	90	100	100
Merbein	110	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	480	480	430
Lock 9	180	160	140
Lake Victoria	190	180	180
Berri	240	240	260
Waikerie	360	360	430
Morgan	370	370	440
Mannum	500	520	530
Murray Bridge	600	610	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 300	1 310	1 230
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	1 030
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 090	2 090	2 090
Goolwa Barrages	1 680	1 670	1 850

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	-	-	-	3 030	F	5 320	3 600
Jingellic	4.0	2.30	208.82	10 150	F	10 430	6 810
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.82	219.71	7 610	F	7 520	7 780
Heywoods	5.5	2.06	155.69	6 030	F	9 640	15 190
Doctors Point	5.5	2.54	151.01	8 910	F	11 960	15 930
Albury	4.3	1.55	148.99	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.45	128.47	11 000	F	14 190	17 170
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.12	117.16	13 000	F	11 390	10 300
Tocumwal	6.4	2.61	106.45	12 900	R	11 180	10 570
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.93	81.48	9 180	R	7 790	5 230
Swan Hill	4.5	1.64	64.56	8 490	R	6 330	4 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.45	52.57	10 150	R	8 630	7 330
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.80	43.64	8 820	R	7 800	6 790
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.02	-	F	6 570	5 210
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.02	27.78	7 720	R	6 370	4 990
Rufus Junction	-	3.32	20.25	5 680	R	5 630	5 300
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 680	S	4 090	3 210
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.29	155.52	3 140	F	2 640	1 200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.49	147.17	5 198	F	4 360	1 710
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.30	93.72	2 340	R	960	440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 940	F	2 930	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	2.95	58.33	2 640	R	2 630	2 540
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.82	55.31	1 370	R	990	520
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.50	57.46	1 210	F	800	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	90	R	50	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	111	S	140	200
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	26	F	40	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	16 150	5 560
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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	+0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.01
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	+0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.66
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.38	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.20	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	+0.04

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.00	0.57	69.92	269
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.25	61.55	363

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.92	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.90	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.90	All closed

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

