

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 September 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066M/dg
Trim Ref : 05/16049

23 September, 2005



Rainfall and inflows

Light rain was recorded across central and northern NSW this week with 30 mm at Dubbo and 15 mm at Menindee. In the southern part of the Basin, the higher rainfall totals were restricted to alpine areas and as a result the inflow to the River Murray System declined. The inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir is now about 5 000 ML/day and inflow to Hume Reservoir is currently 20 000 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir has increased to 2 274 GL (75% capacity). The inflow from the Kiewa River at Bandiana is now less than 4 000 ML/day and the Ovens River at Wangaratta is about 9 500 ML/day.

River Murray Operations

The release from Yarrowonga Weir has been gradually reduced over the past week as the inflow from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers declined and irrigations diversions to the Mulwala Canal and Yarrowonga Main Channel increased. On 22 September the release from Yarrowonga Weir was 10 000 ML/day and is likely to be further reduced over the coming week unless there is further significant rainfall.

Diversions from the River Murray into the National Channel at Torrumbarry Weir have also significantly increased over the past week to supply water for irrigation as well as to divert surplus water into the Gunbower Forest for environmental purposes. The flow downstream of Euston Weir peaked at about 17 000 ML/day on 16 September. A further, slightly lower flow peak, is expected in early October arising from higher inflows from the Murrumbidgee River.

As a result of the increased river flow over the past month, the storage volume in Lake Victoria is now 640 GL (95% capacity) and is expected to fill over the coming weeks. In accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy, the amount of water being diverted into Lake Victoria is now being restricted to allow the lake to fill as late as possible and minimise the length of time the lake is full. Consequently, a greater proportion of this higher flow remains in the River Murray and is flowing downstream of Lock 9.

To maximise the environmental benefits of this higher flow, the Lock 8 weir pool level will be raised over the coming weeks to 'boost' the river levels as much as possible to water drought stressed River Red Gums and other floodplain vegetation (*see attached media release*).

The flow to South Australia is currently about 11 000 ML/day (\approx 6 000 ML/day above September's entitlement flow) and the weir pool of Locks 1, 4, 5 and 6 are also in the process of being raised by between 10 and 50 cm to assist in using part of this surplus flow to water River Red Gums and wetlands. The level of the Lower Lakes has been relatively steady over the past week (0.82 m AHD) and although some barrage gates were closed on 20 September, several gates remain open at Goolwa, Boundary Creek, Tauwichee and Ewe Island Barrages. Since the opening of the Goolwa Barrage on 13 September the salinity of the Goolwa Channel has reduced from 2 330 EC to 1 700 EC.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

River Murray Water
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 21 September 2005

River Red Gums to benefit from raising Lock 8 Weir Pool level



Drought stressed River Red Gums and floodplain vegetation at Lock 8 near Wentworth and Mildura will receive a vital watering when the upstream weir pool level is increased soon, it was announced today.

“Rainfall in the upper catchment in late August has increased the flow along the lower sections of the River Murray, allowing NSW and Victorian agencies and River Murray Water (RMW) to maximise environmental benefits by raising weir the level at Lock 8 to ‘boost’ the river levels as much as possible,” according to Acting RMW General Manager, Tony Morse.

“This is an example of using the Locks and weirs to provide water for the environment without reducing water availability to existing users,” Mr Morse said.

The river level upstream of Lock 8 will be increased gradually so that by 23 September it will be about 20 cm above the full supply level (24.60m AHD). The Lock 8 weir pool level may then be raised to 50cm above full supply level by about 1 October, depending upon the results of monitoring from the initial pool level raising, he explained.

Mr Morse said further increases in the level of the Lock 8 weir pool may occur during October and the duration of the weir pool raising, and therefore the watering of the River Red Gums, will be dependant on the availability of surplus flows or existing environmental water allocations.

“These actions are aligned with the objectives of The Living Murray and are consistent with initiatives recently announced by the South Australian Minister for the River Murray, Minister Karlene Maywald, in relation to raising the upstream pool level of Locks 1, 4, 5 and 6,” Mr Morse said.

“Landowners, river diverters, boat operators and other river users are advised to take changes in river levels into account when planning activities and that further announcements will be made if significant changes to this operating plan are required,” he said.

For further information contact:

Lawrie Kirk

Manager Communication

Phone: 02 6279 0100

E-mail: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au

(Lawrie Kirk is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

TRIM Ref: 05/16071

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 | 456.49 | 2 241 | 57% | 80 | 2 161 | +54 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 187.89 | 2 274 | 75% | 30 | 2 244 | +179 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 26.70 | 640 | 95% | 100 | 540 | +38 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 482 | 28% | (- -) # | 0 | +1 |
| Total | | 9 352 | | 5 638 | 60% | -- | 4 946 | +272 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **58%**

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 | 567 | 55% | 3 | 564 | +35 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | 886 | 54% | 24 | 862 | +74 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | 1 464 | 43% | 100 | 1 364 | +50 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Sep-2005

| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversion (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2005 |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 2 127 | +24 | Snowy-Murray | +14 | 320 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 973 | +10 | Tooma-Tumut | +16 | 145 |
| Target Storage | 1 240 | | Nett Diversion | -2.1 | 175 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +26 | 490 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2005 |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 44.9 | 85.4 |
| Wakool System loss | -0.4 | 9.3 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 0.2 | 1.0 |
| Licensed Pumps | 11.3 | 25.5 |
| Lower Darling | 0.3 | 9.8 |
| TOTAL | 56.3 | 131.0 |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2005 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | 1.6 | 9 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 20.1 | 92 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 0.8 | 5 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.4 | 1 |
| Licensed pumps - SRW | 4.1 | 30 |
| TOTAL | 27.0 | 136 |

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 135 | |
| Flow this week | 64.6 | (9 200 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 148 | |
| Flow last month | 124 | |

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2005 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 80 | 100 | 120 |
| Euston | 170 | 150 | 140 |
| Red Cliffs | 160 | 150 | 150 |
| Merbein | 90 | 110 | 110 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 540 | 550 | 530 |
| Lock 9 | 150 | 160 | 160 |
| Lake Victoria | 190 | 190 | 190 |
| Berri | 260 | 260 | 290 |
| Waikerie | - | 380 | 460 |
| Morgan | 380 | 390 | 450 |
| Mannum | 500 | 500 | 470 |
| Murray Bridge | 480 | 500 | 450 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 1 390 | 1 400 | 1 390 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 1 000 | 980 | 1 020 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 1 570 | 1 830 | 2 060 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 1 710 | 1 840 | 2 160 |



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 | - | - | - | 6 250 | F | 5 710 | 8 620 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 2.77 | 209.29 | 15 350 | F | 17 590 | 20 830 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 2.05 | 218.94 | 2 960 | F | 3 710 | 4 850 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 1.23 | 154.86 | 600 | S | 600 | 600 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 2.06 | 150.53 | 4 430 | F | 5 090 | 6 560 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 1.09 | 148.53 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 1.47 | 127.49 | 4 960 | S | 6 170 | 6 320 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 2.05 | 117.09 | 12 400 | F | 18 060 | 18 360 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 3.01 | 106.85 | 16 390 | F | 20 260 | 20 970 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 3.16 | 81.71 | 10 160 | F | 10 620 | 15 270 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 1.86 | 64.78 | 10 150 | R | 10 300 | 14 610 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 4.09 | 53.21 | 13 550 | S | 15 040 | 16 030 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 2.37 | 44.21 | 12 960 | F | 15 480 | 14 660 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | 31.49 | 16 760 | F | 18 020 | 15 970 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 3.53 | 28.29 | 12 950 | F | 13 050 | 11 860 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 3.96 | 20.89 | 9 510 | F | 8 540 | 6 440 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | - | - | 7 830 | R | 7 670 | 6 810 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 2.52 | 155.75 | 5 700 | F | 6 760 | 8 120 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 10.50 | 148.18 | 9 600 | F | 12 910 | 16 520 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.61 | 93.03 | 1 065 | F | 1 920 | 3 400 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 2 520 | F | 3 080 | 2 830 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 3.09 | 58.47 | 2 810 | F | 3 060 | 3 220 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.70 | 55.19 | 1 070 | R | 860 | 820 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 0.53 | 56.49 | 229 | S | 240 | 250 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.20 | - | 40 | R | 30 | 50 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.06 | - | 223 | S | 250 | 350 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.72 | - | 111 | S | 100 | 60 |

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 35 500 | 45 390 |
|---|--------|--------|

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 | -0.15 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.21 | +1.65 |
| No. 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.00 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.10 | +0.42 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | +0.00 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.11 | +0.42 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | -0.04 | +0.69 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.15 | +1.13 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.01 | +0.89 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.04 | +0.37 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.08 | +0.30 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.04 | +0.30 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.11 | +0.56 | No. 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.02 | +0.09 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | | | local (m) | (m AHD) | |
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | +0.23 | 2.48 | 71.83 | 3870 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | -0.12 | 0.2 | 61.5 | 314 |

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | (m AHD) |
|--|---------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | 0.82 |

Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.92 | 4 |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.85 | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | 2 |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | 2 |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | 0.88 | 5 |

