REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 5 July 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012 dg/kes **7 July, 2006**
Trim Ref : *06/14821*

Rainfall data

Light rain was recorded throughout the southern part of the Basin this week (*see attached map*) with most areas receiving between 5 and 20 mm. However, up to 50 mm fell in parts of the Ovens River Catchment in north-eastern Victoria and flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta briefly peaked at about 850 ML/day but is now receding. Unregulated inflow to both Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs remains very low.

River Murray Operations

The relatively dry and frosty conditions over the past month (see June Summary below) have resulted in an increase in the forecast irrigation demand along the River Murray. In response the release from Hume Reservoir has been increased to provide a flow at Doctors Point (Albury) of about 6 500 ML/day, up from 1 200 ML/day last week. In addition, the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to 5 500 ML/day. The flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir is expected to be increased this week to about 7 000 ML/day or higher if there is no significant rainfall.

Further downstream, the Torrumbarry and Euston Weir pools will continue to be gradually lowered to maintain sufficient river flow throughout Sunraysia over the coming week. The Torrumbarry Weir pool is currently 85.77 m AHD (28 cm below full supply level) while the Euston Weir pool is at 44.42 m AHD (18 cm below full supply level).

During the week, the river level at Colignan (upstream of Mildura) fell as low as 1.20 m (gauge height) for two days. The river at Colignan was at this low level for several days last winter, however the previous time the river level was this low was in March 1985. The river level at Colignan has since risen to 1.24 m and will remain at about this level until the higher flows arrive in mid July.

Over the coming month the Lock 8 Weir Pool will be gradually lowered to 40 cm below the full supply level of 24.60 m AHD (*see attached media release*). This is part of an ongoing trial to gain a better understanding of the wide range of interests associated with manipulating weir pool levels along the River Murray.

The level of the Lower Lakes remains steady at about 0.78 m AHD, and a small number of gates remain open at Goolwa, Tauwitchere and Boundary Creek Barrages.

June Summary

Although there was average to above average rainfall in the north of the Basin, again there was below average rainfall in northern Victoria and south-eastern NSW (see attached map). Inflow to the River Murray System (excluding Menindee Lakes) during June was only 113 GL, which is expected to be exceeded 99 years in 100.

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MEDIA RELEASE

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Friday, 7 July 2006

Partial Lowering of Lock 8 Weir Pool Level

The water level of Lock 8 Weir pool will be partially lowered as part of a series of trials to gain a better understanding of the wide range of interests associated with manipulating weir pools along the Lower Murray (RMW) Acting General Manager Tony Morse announced today.

"The ability to either raise or lower weir pool levels provides improved operational flexibility and allows more efficient management our water resources as well as improving environmental values of the river", he said.

Mr Morse added that "If weir pool manipulations can be implemented over many years, the increased water level variability is expected to provide a greater range of habitat for aquatic flora and fauna. It will also minimise the undercutting of the river banks along the weir pool, thereby gradually improving the riverine environment".

In spring 2005, the Lock 8 Weir pool level was successfully raised 60 cm above the Full Supply Level (24.60m AHD) to assist in watering drought stressed parts of the floodplain.

The Lock 8 Weir pool is currently at 24.60 m AHD (full supply level), and commencing 10 July it will be gradually lowered at a rate of about 1-2 cm/day to a level about 40 cm below full supply level by early August. The lowering of the weir pool will expose parts of the river bank and associated wetlands that suffer from continuous inundation.

"The partial lowering of the Lock 8 weir pool is being undertaken in consultation with New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian agencies and with the co-operation of adjacent landholders. The river depth and salinity will be closely monitored to assess the potential for impacts on river navigation and water users", he said.

"The weir pool level will be regularly reviewed to take into account any changing conditions along the River Murray and the pool level will be returned to the full supply level during the spring when irrigation requirements increase", Mr Morse said.

River pumpers, landholders, stock owners, boat operators and other river users are advised to take this operation into account and make any necessary adjustments in response to the lower pool level.

In particular boat masters are reminded that regardless of the changes to the weir pool level, they need to follow the NSW Maritime Authority's *Boating Handbook* (http://www.maritime.nsw.gov. au/boathandling. html#inland) which states: "continually assess the safety of the vessel's speed" and "familiarise yourself with the area each time before attempting any high-speed activities such as water skiing or aquaplaning."

Mr Morse emphasised that The *Boating Handbook* states: "inland waterways are often murky and constantly changing, so boat masters need to be aware of possible dangers and obstructions that may be hidden just below the surface" and that "it is not feasible or practical to remove all these hazards, nor to mark them all with navigation markers".

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(Sheridan Lockerbie is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

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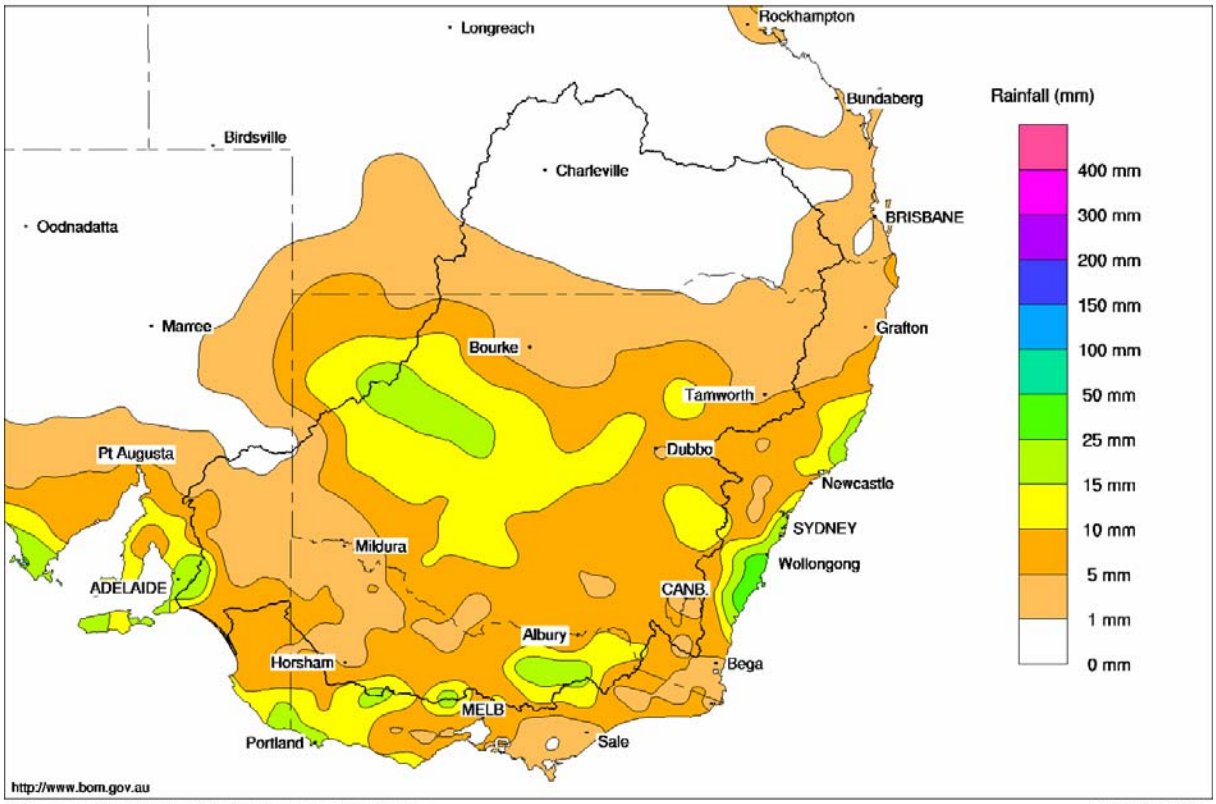
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 5th July 2006

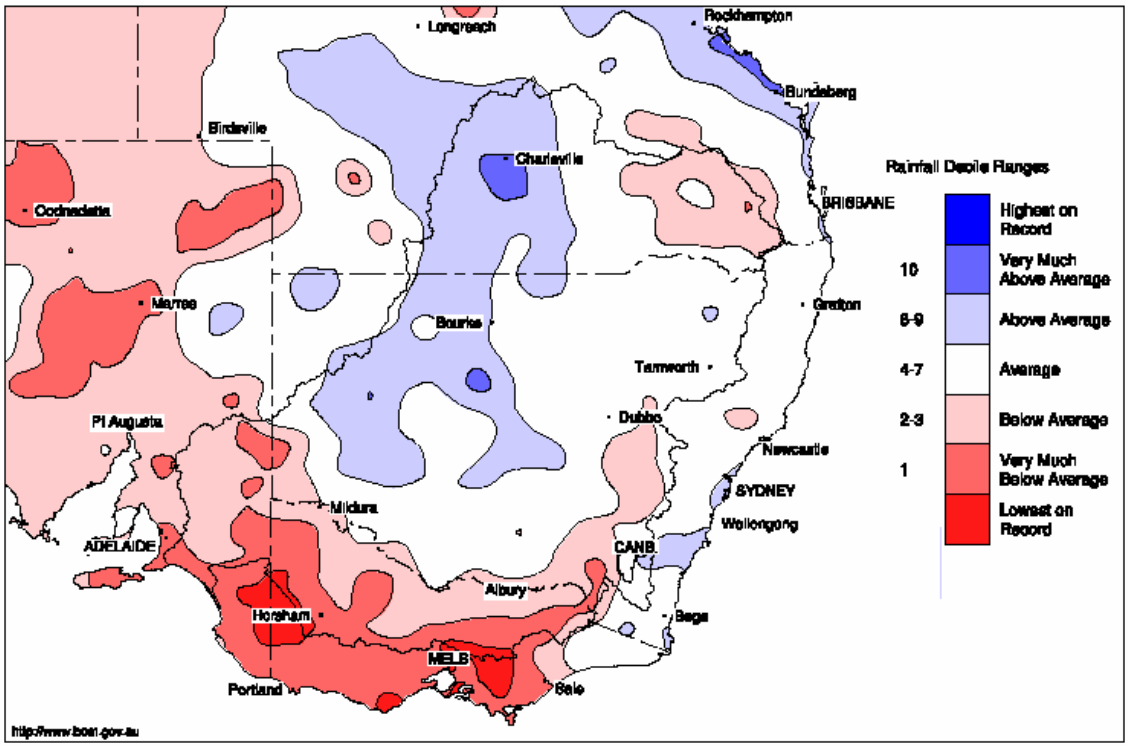
Product of the National Climate Centre



Issued: 05/07/2006

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles June 2006

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Issued: 03/07/2006

Week ending Wednesday 05 Jul 2006

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	MDBC Active Storage	Change in Storage for the week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	462.36	2 529	65%	80	2 449	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.18	660	22%	30	630	+35
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.60	406	60%	100	306	-12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		267	15%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		**9 352**		**3 863**	**41%**	**- -**	**3 386**	**+21**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **40%**

\# 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		345	34%	3	342	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		881	54%	24	857	+10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		750	22%	100	650	+3

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-Jul-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 004	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+30	246
Snowy-Murray Component	665	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	12
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	30.0	235
			Murray 1 Release	+42	277

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.1	.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.1
Licensed Pumps	n/a	.0
Lower Darling	n/a	.0
TOTAL	**0.2**	**.1**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	
TOTAL	**0.1**	

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5	
Flow this week	23.3	(3 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	17	
Flow last month	90	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	50	60	100
Euston	130	120	110
Red Cliffs	160	160	130
Merbein	90	80	110
Burtundy (Darling)	640	670	600
Lock 9	110	110	130
Lake Victoria	160	160	190
Berri	270	260	230
Waikerie	390	380	340
Morgan	420	410	340
Mannum	370	370	360
Murray Bridge	340	340	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 180	1 200	1 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	750	780	950
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 340	2 330	2 210
Goolwa Barrages	1 430	1 450	1 870

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Week ending Wednesday 05 Jul 2006

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	6 070	F	5 850	5 000
Jingellic	4.0	2.02	208.54	7 330	R	6 610	6 060
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.60	218.49	1 090	R	740	740
Heywoods	5.5	1.96	155.59	4 200	R	2 060	750
Doctors Point	5.5	2.13	150.60	4 960	R	2 600	1 260
Albury	4.3	1.18	148.62	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.05	127.07	3 050	R	2 010	1 700
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.73	115.77	3 490	R	2 470	1 850
Tocumwal	6.4	1.04	104.88	2 890	R	2 520	2 160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.07	79.62	2 410	R	2 220	2 190
Swan Hill	4.5	0.67	63.59	2 300	S	2 280	2 220
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.60	50.72	2 640	R	2 570	2 450
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.74	42.58	3 140	R	2 850	2 590
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	2 490	F	2 350	2 390
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.80	27.56	2 450	R	2 350	2 460
Rufus Junction	-	2.86	19.79	3 040	S	3 080	2 800
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.71	-	2 930	S	2 870	2 910
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.97	154.20	550	R	460	550
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.95	145.63	741	F	590	520
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	476	S	470	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.40	-	170	S	180	200
Edward at Liewah	-	0.77	56.15	353	R	300	290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.13	54.62	46	S	50	70
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.48	56.44	204	S	210	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.11	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	4.03	-	127	S	130	90
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	10	S	10	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 660	2 410

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	-0.26	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.56
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.27	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.16	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.35
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-0.04

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.45	0.64	69.99	335
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.09	0.1	61.4	228

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Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.78

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.83	1	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.81	2	Open	Open

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