

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 8 February 2006

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Trim Ref : 06/3831*

9 February, 2006



Rainfall and Inflows

Although it has been a little cooler along the River Murray over the past week, maximum daily temperatures were still between 30-37°C and there was very little rainfall. Consequently, unregulated inflows to the major storages and inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers continued to gradually decline. In the north of the Basin, isolated storms resulted in rainfall totals of up to 50 mm but there has been little or no increase in river levels.

System Operations

To improve water quality along the Mitta Mitta River during this period of low tributary inflow, the release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been increased to provide a variable flow of between 200 and 400 ML/day at Colemans. The flow will be varied on a weekly cycle with the higher flows of 400 ML/day occurring on weekends. This release pattern will be reviewed on 16 February 2006, after which further advice on future release patterns will be provided.

The release rate from Hume Dam has been steady over the past week resulting in a flow at Doctors Point of about 21 500 ML/day. The flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been maintained at 10 200 ML/day, which is the current channel capacity of the river as the flow passes through the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The waterbird breeding event in the forest is coming to a successful conclusion, with many of the chicks having moved from their nests to feed in the surrounding wetlands. All regulators within the forest have been closed to allow the wetlands to have their annual 'dry period' and the flow along Gulpa Creek is gradually being reduced from 800 ML/day to the regulated flow of 350 ML/day.

The storage in Lake Victoria continues to fall very rapidly and is now 406 GL (24.6m AHD, 60% capacity). To prevent the lake level falling too low over the coming months, RMW will continue its call on additional water from the Goulburn River inter-valley trade account. Also, Murray Irrigation Limited and Goulburn-Murray Water are continuing to transfer water released from Hume Reservoir around the Barmah-Millewa Forest via their irrigation channel systems. As a result of this operation, there is currently a relatively high flow along the mid reaches of the River Murray. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has increased to 6 300 ML/day while the flow downstream of Stevens Weir (Edward River) is 2 800 ML/day.

In the Sunraysia region, the flow at Wentworth has increased to 4 600 ML/day (9 February 2006) and the flow at Lock 7 is now 2 000 ML/day, after falling as low as 44 ML/day during mid January. In South Australia, the river salinity has gradually increased over the past two months as the flow rate reduced after the end of the 'surplus flow' period. At Lock 6 the salinity has increased from 140 EC to 190 EC, while at Morgan the salinity level has increased from 250 EC to 320 EC.

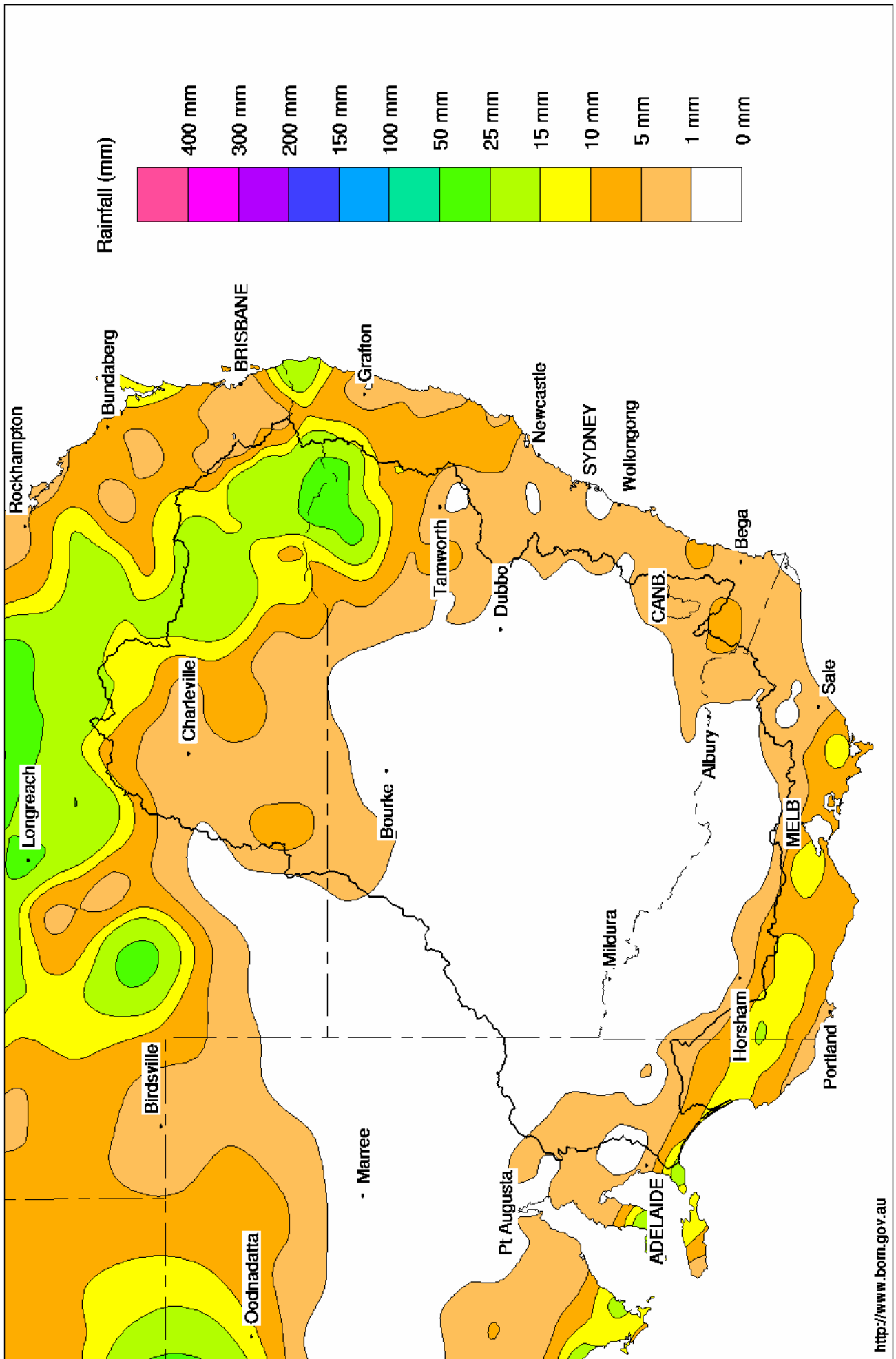
The average level of the Lower Lakes in SA over the past three days has been 0.74 m (AHD). It is now below the FSL level of 0.75 m for the first time since June 2005. All barrage gates are closed, however an environmental water allocation is being utilised to maintain a small flow through the fishways at Goolwa and Tauwichee to permit further movement of fish between the Coorong and Lake Alexandrina over the coming months.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 8th February 2006

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)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	462.48	2 536	65%	80	2 456	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	184.71	1 775	58%	30	1 745	-105
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.60	406	60%	100	306	-34
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		331	19%	(- -) #	0	-12
Total		9 352		5 048	54%	--	4 507	-151

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **53%**

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	406	40%	3	403	-27
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	877	54%	24	853	-15
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 247	37%	100	1 147	-57

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 07-Feb-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	n/a	n/a	Snowy-Murray	n/a	n/a
Snowy-Murray Component	n/a	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	n/a	n/a
Target Storage	n/a	n/a	Nett Diversion	n/a	n/a
			Murray 1 Release	n/a	n/a

Note - Data not supplied by Snowyhydro.

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	36.1	792.8
Wakool System loss	1.8	16.3
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	20.1
Licensed Pumps	12.6	204.6
Lower Darling	3.9	49.3
TOTAL	55.8	1 083.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	16.2	241
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.7	436
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.0	104
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.9	28
Licensed pumps - SRW	8.6	169
TOTAL	57.4	978

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.3	
Flow so far this month	56	
Flow last month	220	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	100	90	110
Euston	110	120	120
Red Cliffs	140	140	140
Merbein	160	180	130
Burtundy (Darling)	590	620	560
Lock 9	180	170	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	230	230	220
Waikerie	-	310	340
Morgan	320	320	320
Mannum	300	300	360
Murray Bridge	330	320	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 150	1 130	1 280
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 070	1 050	950
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 180	2 230	2 110
Goolwa Barrages	1 850	1 870	1 810

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	-	-	-	2 180	F	5 030	4 930
Jingellic	4.0	1.49	208.01	3 120	F	5 800	5 330
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.36	218.25	570	S	600	600
Heywoods	5.5	3.50	157.13	20 650	R	19 910	20 730
Doctors Point	5.5	3.61	152.08	22 000	R	21 340	22 190
Albury	4.3	2.68	150.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.68	129.70	21 600	S	21 790	23 340
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 200	S	10 200	10 200
Tocumwal	6.4	2.32	106.16	10 870	F	10 920	10 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.14	80.69	6 280	R	6 020	5 630
Swan Hill	4.5	1.13	64.05	5 130	S	5 150	5 110
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.69	51.81	6 690	R	6 500	6 290
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.37	43.21	6 570	F	6 410	5 660
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.94	4 560	F	4 050	3 410
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	27.66	3 860	R	3 410	2 920
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	6 690	F	6 610	7 040
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 590	S	4 560	4 000
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.70	153.93	230	R	370	490
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.71	145.39	297	R	350	490
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.75	93.17	1 343	F	1 530	1 800
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 780	S	2 830	2 580
Edward at Liewah	-	2.65	58.03	2 090	R	1 890	1 570
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.39	54.88	331	S	330	300
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.86	56.82	423	F	960	800
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.32	-	260	R	390	1 070
Darling at Bourke	-	4.05	-	191	R	130	100
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	F	70	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	n/a	2 300
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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	-0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+1.23
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.18
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.08	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.69
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.10	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	-0.01

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.25	0.74	70.09	445
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.02	0.49	61.79	625

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.76

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.86	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	All closed

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