

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 10 May 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012/kes

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11 May, 2006



Rainfall data

Widespread rain across the south of the Basin this week (*see map*) has now effectively ended the irrigation season and has also brought a small increase to tributary inflows. In north-eastern Victoria and south-eastern NSW, rainfall totals were generally between 15 and 50 mm, however 94 mm fell at Mt Hotham. Inflow from the Kiewa River has increased from 200 ML/day to 600 ML/day and flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta has increased from 500 ML/day to about 1 000 ML/day. Further west, between 5 and 30 mm of rain fell throughout the Mallee and along the Lower Murray in South Australia.

River Murray Operations

In response to the recent rain and lower irrigation demand, the release from Hume Reservoir has continued to be reduced over the past week. The flow at Doctors Point is now about 4 500 ML/day, down from 9 000 ML/day this time last week. Further reductions in the release from Hume Dam are planned this week. Storage in Hume Reservoir will now begin to increase after falling to 381 GL (12.5% capacity) on 10 May.

To conserve resources in Hume Reservoir for the 2006/07 season, the water level of Lake Mulwala will gradually be lowered over the coming week to about 124.6 m (30 cm below the full supply level of 124.9 m AHD) to assist meeting downstream flow requirements (*see attached media release*). This operation will also achieve a slow recession in the river level downstream of Yarrawonga Weir to minimise the potential for bank erosion along the River Murray through the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

The flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been gradually reduced from 9 400 ML/day down to 8 000 ML/day, with further gradual reductions planned this week. The flow downstream of the Edward River and Gulpa Creek Offtakes are also in the process of being gradually reduced.

The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir peaked at 8 000 ML/day on 6 May and is now gradually falling. Further downstream, a peak flow of about 10 800 ML/day is expected at Euston Weir this weekend and about 9 500 ML/day downstream of Wentworth Weir on 16 May.

Storage in Lake Victoria has steadily increased to 295 GL (10 May). The current higher flow along the River Murray between Torrumbarry and Wentworth Weirs will be captured and re-regulated in Lake Victoria increasing the storage to >400 GL by early June. The upstream weir pool levels of Locks 7, 8 and 9 have been returned to near full supply levels after being raised in March and April as a precaution against possible effects of low storage volumes in Lake Victoria.

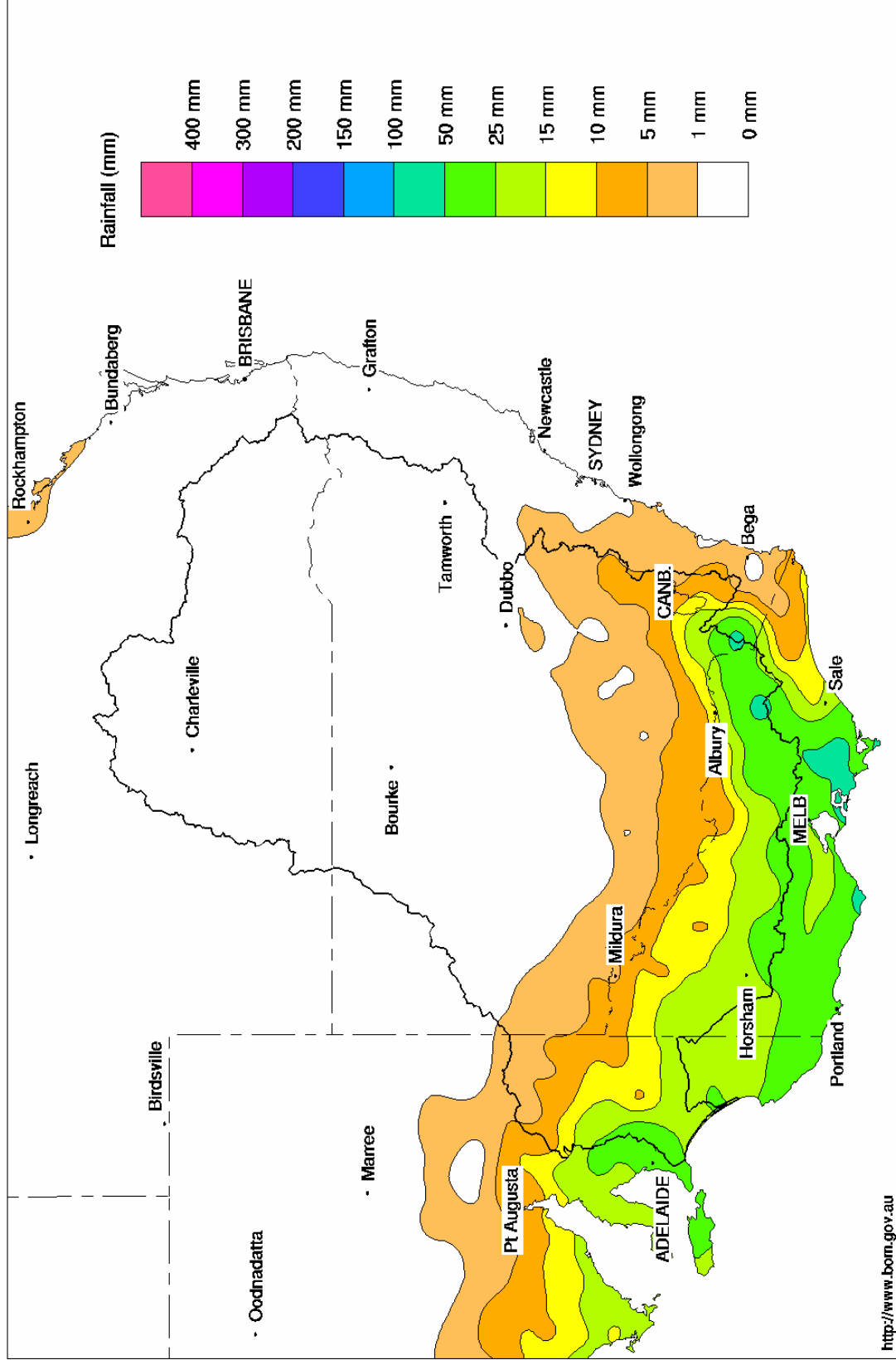
Flow rates along the River Murray in South Australia are now gradually falling as a result of the flow to South Australian being reduced to the May entitlement flow rate of 3 000 ML/day or 93 GL for the month. However, the level of the Lower Lakes has continued to increase and is now 0.8 m AHD (5 cm above the full supply level of 0.75m AHD). In response, six bays at Goolwa Barrage and seven bays at the Tauwitchere Barrage have been opened.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 10th May 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



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MEDIA RELEASE



Tuesday, 9 May 2006
PARTIAL LOWERING
OF LAKE MULWALA

TRIM Ref: 06/9458

The water level of Lake Mulwala will be partially lowered to conserve water in Hume Reservoir for the 2006-07 season, River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager David Dreverman announced today.

This operation will also achieve a slow recession in the river level downstream of Yarrawonga Weir, to minimise the potential for bank erosion along the River Murray through the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

Inflows to the River Murray in autumn 2006 were extremely low and River Murray storages remain well below average, according to Mr Dreverman.

“Resources held in Lake Hume can be increased by releasing water stored in Lake Mulwala and utilising inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers to meet downstream water requirements” he said.

To meet downstream requirements over summer and autumn, the flow in the river through the Barmah-Millewa Forest has been kept at or near channel capacity, however this is now being reduced due to recent rain. A partial lowering of Lake Mulwala will slow the rate of fall of river levels downstream and reduce potential bank erosion through the forest.

The water level of Lake Mulwala is about 124.85 m (AHD) or about 5 cm below the full supply level (124.90 m AHD). The lake level will be lowered to a level about 30 cm below the full supply level by Sunday 14 May.

“However, in the event of adverse conditions, such as high river losses, the lake level may drop below this for a short time,” Mr Dreverman said.

The water level in Lake Mulwala will be back to normal levels by mid August if required for the coming irrigation season. This will be dependent on weather and river flow conditions in coming months.

Boat operators and other lake users are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their lake activities.

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spokesperson)

Week ending Wednesday 10 May 2006

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	462.16	2 519	64%	80	2 439	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.69	381	13%	30	351	-12
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.50	295	44%	100	195	+34
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		282	16%	(- -) #	0	+2
Total		9 352		3 478	37%	- -	2 986	+25

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **35%**

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	341	33%	3	338	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	731	45%	24	707	+9
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	719	21%	100	619	+1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-May-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 358	-26	Snowy-Murray	+24	28
Snowy-Murray Component	755	-3	Tooma-Tumut	+1	1
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	22.9	27
			Murray 1 Release	+17	22

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.7	1 213.7
Wakool System loss	1.1	33.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	28.0
Licensed Pumps	3.0	378.1
Lower Darling	3.6	63.6
TOTAL	11.5	1 717.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.8	401
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	2.8	695
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	140
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	54
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	239
TOTAL	10.4	1 529

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(2 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	19.4	
Flow so far this month	29	
Flow last month	134	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	70	70	100
Euston	80	80	120
Red Cliffs	90	90	140
Merbein	70	80	120
Burtundy (Darling)	680	680	590
Lock 9	120	120	140
Lake Victoria	210	210	190
Berri	250	250	230
Waikerie	340	320	330
Morgan	330	340	330
Mannum	370	370	360
Murray Bridge	330	330	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 150	1 160	1 250
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	850	860	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 330	2 330	2 170
Goolwa Barrages	3 400	3 100	1 960



Week ending Wednesday 10 May 2006

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	-	-	-	4 860	R	2 400	3 190
Jingellic	4.0	1.69	208.21	4 620	R	2 900	3 370
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	218.32	700	F	790	700
Heywoods	5.5	1.91	155.54	3 850	S	5 400	14 620
Doctors Point	5.5	2.09	150.56	4 640	R	6 000	15 200
Albury	4.3	1.18	148.62	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.52	127.54	5 220	F	8 270	17 390
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.47	116.51	7 950	F	8 630	9 640
Tocumwal	6.4	2.04	105.88	8 760	F	9 490	10 500
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.48	81.03	7 480	F	7 890	7 400
Swan Hill	4.5	1.57	64.49	8 010	S	7 900	6 560
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.61	52.73	10 970	R	10 470	8 660
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.00	43.84	10 250	R	9 700	8 260
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.12	9 360	F	8 470	7 030
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.13	27.89	8 110	R	7 500	6 370
Rufus Junction	-	2.88	19.81	2 730	F	2 460	3 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.82	0.82	3 790	F	4 530	4 150
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.04	154.27	640	R	420	260
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.98	145.66	813	F	650	480
Goulburn at McCoy's Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	399	F	480	530
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 950	S	2 840	2 830
Edward at Liewah	-	3.11	58.49	2 740	S	2 740	2 610
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.57	55.06	706	S	680	500
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.62	56.58	275	F	280	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	90	F	120	130
Darling at Bourke	-	4.04	-	156	S	200	280
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	S	60	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 390	310
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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	+0.05	+0.60
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.32	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.37
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.49	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.15
No. 9 Kulline	27.40	+0.02	+0.09	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.10	+0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.76	0.7	70.05	398
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.02	0.15	61.45	269

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.76	6 open (11 May)
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	7 open (11 May)

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

