REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 13 December 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012/dwg, prs **15 December, 2006**
Trim Ref : *06/26640*

Weather

It has been mostly dry across the southern half of the Basin, however between 5 and 15 mm of rain fell in the Wimmera-Mallee in Victoria early in the week from a cold front and associated thunderstorms.

River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been maintained at about 10 600 ML/day and the storage volume has decreased to 1 378 GL (35% capacity). Inflow to Hume Reservoir from the Upper Murray and Snowy Mountains Scheme has been very low with the flow in the River Murray at Jingellic averaging only 550 ML/day.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been about 13 500 ML/day with the storage currently at 185 GL (6.1% capacity). Over the coming week the release from Hume Reservoir will be reduced by about 1 000 ML/day as the rate of transfer to Lake Victoria is decreased.

This reduction in release from Hume Reservoir will result in lower flows along the Murray and Edward Rivers over the coming weeks. On the Murray, the flow downstream of Yarrawonga is currently being reduced from 9 600 ML/day to about 8 800 ML/day, and the flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir will be gradually reduced from 4 500 ML/day to about 4 200 ML/day.

Slightly larger reductions in flow rate are expected to be made on the Edward River, with the flow downstream of the Edward River Offtake being gradually lowered from 1 600 ML/day to about 1 000 ML/day and the flow downstream of Stevens Weir being gradually lowered from 2 500 ML/day to about 1 800 ML/day.

Despite these changes to river flow, RMW plans to maintain water levels in weir pools within their normal operating range over the Christmas and New-Year period (*see attached media release*).

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently 492 GL (73% capacity) and unless there is significant rain it is expected to steadily fall over the coming months. Storage in the lake will be drawn upon to supplement lower river flows to meet the required flow to South Australia.

Although there has been a higher flow along the River Murray in South Australia over the past week, with the flow downstream of Lock 1 averaging 3 200 ML/day, the level of the Lakes Albert and Alexandrina has continued to fall. The average level of the lakes is now 0.54 m AHD, down from 0.56 m last week.

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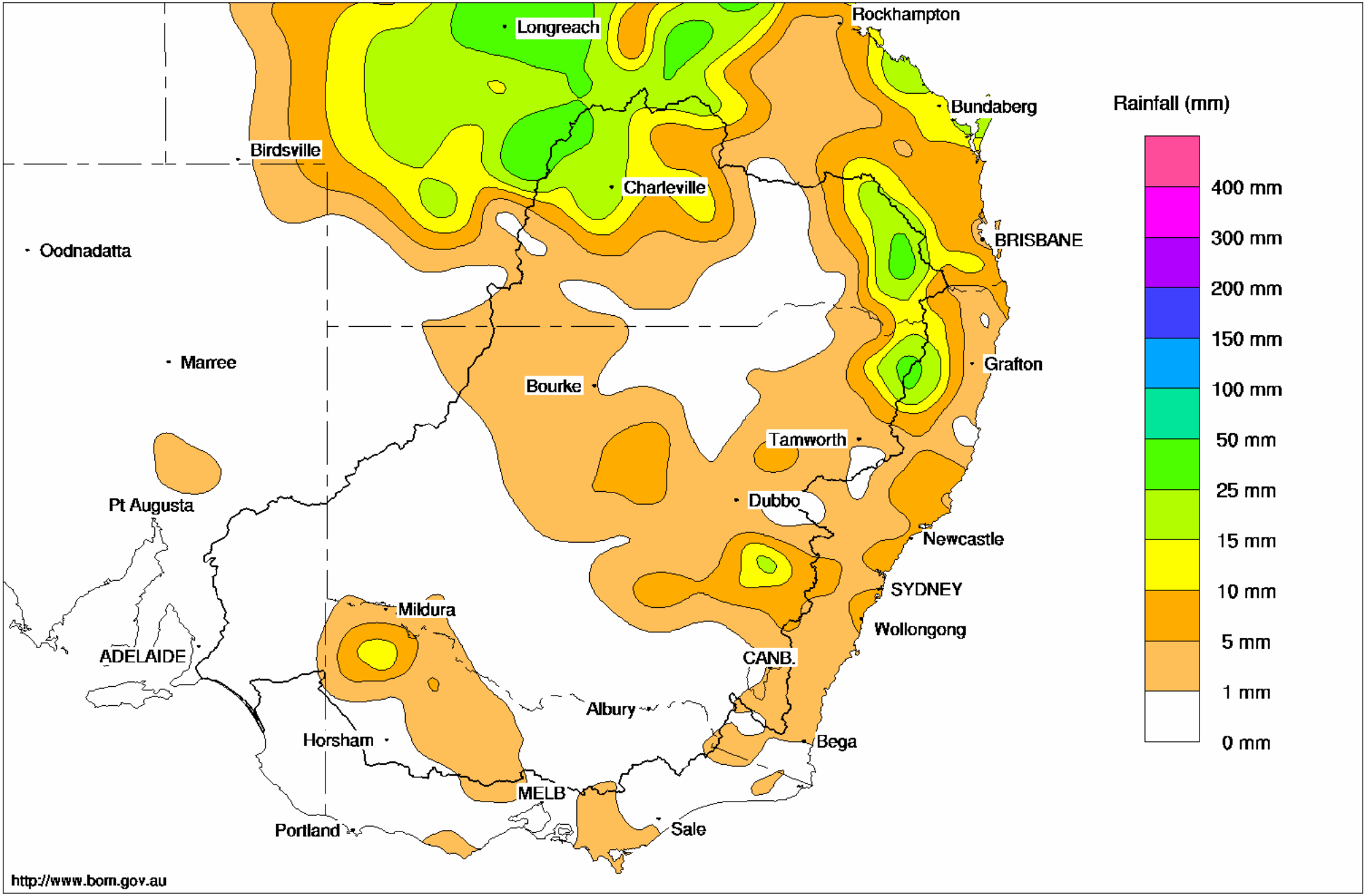
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 13th December 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



Issued: 13/12/2006

MEDIA RELEASE

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Thursday, 14 December 2006

Normal Weir Pool levels over Christmas – New Year

TRIM Ref: 06/26699

Despite the current drought, RMW plans to maintain the water levels of weir pools along the River Murray System within their normal operating range over the Christmas-New Year period where possible, including Lake Mulwala.

River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, Mr David Dreverman, said today that unless there were extreme temperatures leading to higher than planned river losses and diversions, RMW would maintain weir pools within their normal operating ranges until late January 2007.

"However, if dry conditions continue beyond the end of January 2007 and the major storages (Dartmouth, Hume and Lake Victoria) fall to very low levels, then it could become necessary for some weir pools to be temporarily lowered below their normal operating range. This would be most likely to occur sometime during February and March 2007" he said.

"The temporary weir pool lowering will help conserve water resources in Hume and Dartmouth storages as well as meeting downstream river flow requirements".

Mr Dreverman said that, if necessary, RMW would initially lower weir pools at locations where there would be least impact on river users, such as Lock 8. Weir pools located in the more intensely developed areas of the river would only be lowered as a last resort.

"It is currently not possible to precisely predict the extent of lowering required at each site during late summer as it will depend on weather conditions, river flows and storage levels over the coming months. An update on the likelihood of temporary lowering of weir pools will be provided early in the New Year" he said.

If extreme dry conditions continue into autumn, larger drawdowns may be necessary to sustain minimum flows in the river system. It is possible that Lake Mulwala may gradually be drained under these circumstances. A decision on this will be made later in the season taking into account weather conditions, river flows, storage levels, operating constraints and community requirements at the time.

"RMW understands the extent and timing of weir pool drawdowns will be particularly important to local communities. Drawdowns will be implemented only after close consultation with State Agencies. As much notice as possible will be given before there are any major changes in pool levels" he said.

"River pumpers, boat operators and other river users are advised to take this information into account and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities," Mr Dreverman said.

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Week ending Wednesday 13 Dec 2006

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	435.45	1 378	35%	80	1 298	-70
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.19	185	6%	30	155	-28
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.41	492	73%	100	392	-12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		176	10%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		**9 352**		**2 231**	**24%**	**- -**	**1 845**	**-113**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **22%**

\# 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		300	29%	3	297	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		394	24%	24	370	-38
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		443	13%	100	343	-49

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-Dec-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	633	-2	Snowy-Murray	+0	683
Snowy-Murray Component	390	-2	Tooma-Tumut	+0	34
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	0.0	649
			Murray 1 Release	+1	776

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.8	260.1
Wakool System loss	1.8	34.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	10.6
Licensed Pumps	4.8	108.2
Lower Darling	0.7	14.1
TOTAL	**13.1**	**427.5**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	13.2	204
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.2	378
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.0	69
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	16.4	101
Licensed pumps - LMW	11.3	61
TOTAL	**66.1**	**813**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	41.3	(5 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	76	
Flow last month	151	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	80	80	70
Euston	70	70	100
Red Cliffs	90	90	120
Merbein	80	90	110
Burtundy (Darling)	900	880	700
Lock 9	110	110	130
Lake Victoria	140	150	150
Berri	240	220	230
Waikerie	-	320	360
Morgan	360	360	390
Mannum	480	480	450
Murray Bridge	460	460	420
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 260	1 280	1 180
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 180	1 170	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 280	2 320	2 210
Goolwa Barrages	2 030	2 120	1 730

River Murray Water
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Week ending Wednesday 13 Dec 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	-	-	-	420	R	400	590
Jingellic	4.0	1.02	207.54	510	S	540	930
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.37	220.26	10 480	R	10 410	10 600
Heywoods	5.5	2.90	156.53	14 150	R	13 730	14 370
Doctors Point	5.5	2.99	151.46	13 900	R	13 510	14 100
Albury	4.3	1.97	149.41	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.86	128.88	14 100	R	14 040	15 290
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.64	116.68	9 600	S	9 600	9 680
Tocumwal	6.4	2.13	105.97	9 160	S	9 220	9 400
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.65	80.20	4 520	F	4 870	5 350
Swan Hill	4.5	1.05	63.97	4 630	F	4 800	5 100
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.82	51.94	7 260	F	7 530	8 150
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.44	43.28	7 000	F	7 430	8 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	5 970	F	5 580	6 790
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	5 180	R	5 220	6 460
Rufus Junction	-	3.31	20.24	5 620	R	5 280	5 010
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.59	-	3 460	S	3 340	2 310
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.54	153.77	90	R	50	80
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.49	145.17	66	S	80	30
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	369	S	350	300
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.31	82.08	2 480	F	2 520	2 710
Edward at Liewah	-	2.97	58.35	2 530	F	2 590	2 680
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.40	54.89	347	F	420	630
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.36	57.32	825	S	830	890
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.38	-	400	R	140	100
Darling at Bourke	-	2.99	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	70	F	90	120

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	280	270

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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.17	+1.01
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.13	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.13	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.55
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.25	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.16

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	-0.59	1.2	70.55	1190
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.96	0.98	62.28	1200

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.56

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Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.57	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.59	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.59	All closed	Closed	Open

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