

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 22 March 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, jm
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23 March, 2006



Rainfall

On Tuesday and Wednesday last week, there were falls of up to 40 mm across the catchment of the Upper Murray and light showers along the length of the River Murray. In addition, on Tuesday this week, moisture carried south from Ex-Cyclone Larry brought light showers to northwest NSW (*see attached map*). This has been the driest part of the Basin over the last three months. The peak rainfall recorded this week was 11 mm at Wilcannia on the Darling River.

System Outlook

Over the past week, diversions and river losses eased significantly following the light rain and a short period of cooler temperatures. This welcome change has reduced the chance of a water supply shortfall occurring in April as a result of low storage levels in Lake Victoria. However some risk still remains, particularly as temperatures are again slowly building.

RMW will continue to implement the package of measures to address this matter, which includes raising of weir pools to store additional water in the river for subsequent use, calling on inter valley trade accounts from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee and within month adjustment of the entitlement flow to South Australia. The situation will be closely monitored and continually reviewed and further advice on the situation will be provided as necessary.

River Operations

Release from Hume Reservoir has gradually been increased this week, as water demand from the Yarrowonga Weir Pool and river losses have increased to levels similar to those prior to the rainfall last week. The flow at Doctors Point is currently 24 000 ML/day (on Thursday 23 March), after reaching a low of 19 000 ML/day on Saturday 18 March.

RMW has reduced its call on water from the inter-valley trade account held in Eildon Reservoir, which has resulted in a gradual reduction in the inflow from the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge over the past week, from 2 000 ML/day to 1 500 ML/day. This reduction will allow RMW to call on the water remaining in the account at lower rates for a longer period as necessary.

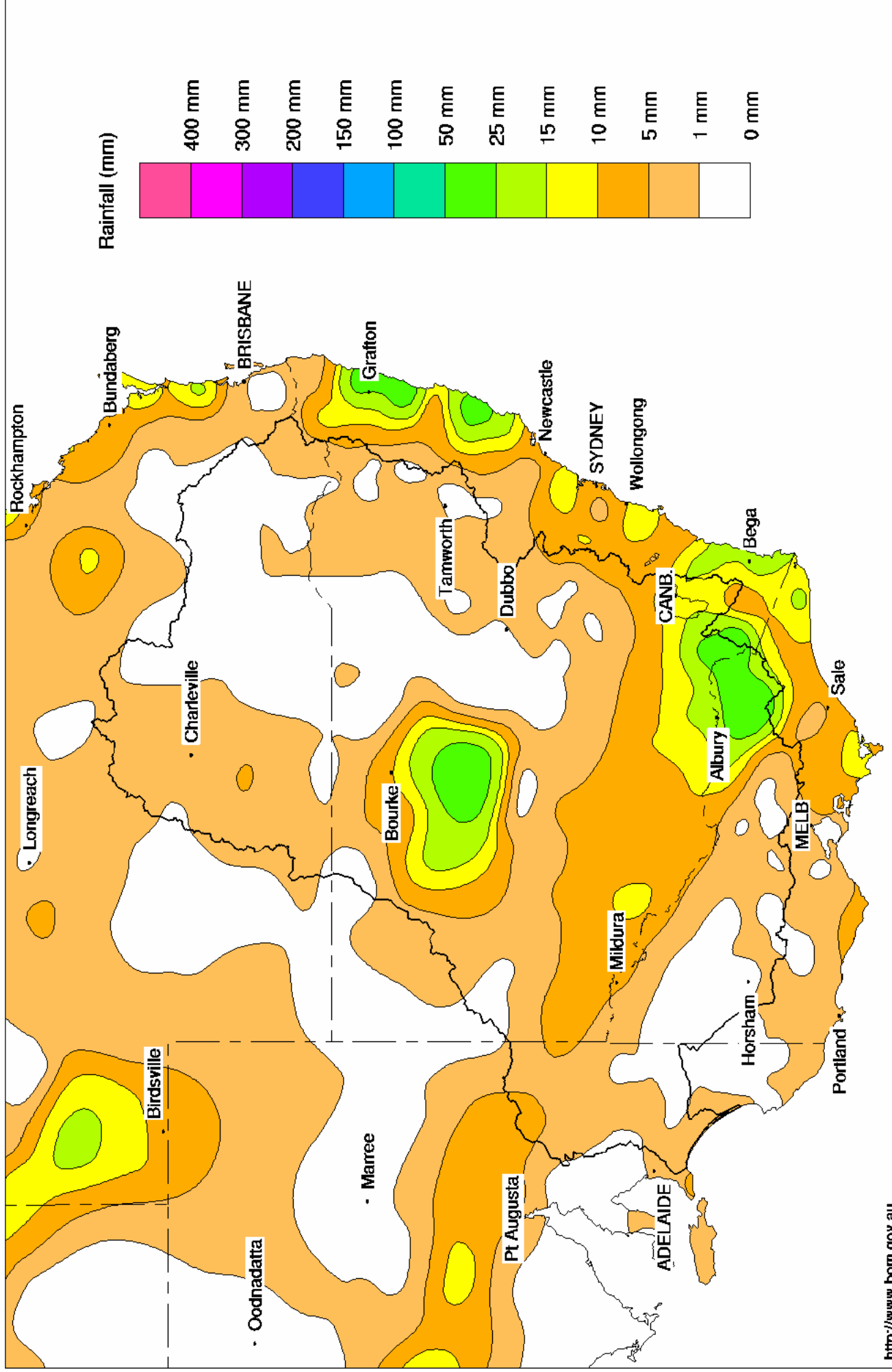
The upper pool levels of Locks 7 and 9 remain about 20 cm above Full supply level (FSL), whilst the upper pool level of Lock 8 is currently about 38 cm above FSL, and is gradually being increased to 50 cm above FSL. It is planned that the weir pools will remain at these levels until required to be gradually drawn down to provide additional water to maintain the flow requirements downstream.

On Tuesday this week, a gauging of the outlet at Lake Victoria was undertaken. The outlet gates were lifted clear of the water to determine the maximum outlet capacity at the current storage level, which was 23.23 m AHD, or 268 GL at the time. The flow to South Australia during the period of the gauging increased temporarily to about 8 200 ML/day. The flow to South Australia for the remainder of March will be adjusted to about 5 300 ML/day, to meet South Australia's entitlement flow for March, adjustments for interstate water trade and to deliver environmental water that will be used to water drought stressed River Red Gums and other floodplain vegetation.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 22nd March 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	462.24	2 523	65%	80	2 443	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.05	1 049	35%	30	1 019	-119
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.06	268	40%	100	168	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		294	17%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		4 135	44%	--	3 631	-108

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **43%**

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		349	34%	3	346	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		710	44%	24	686	-30
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		888	26%	100	788	-44

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 21-Mar-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 618	-39	Snowy-Murray	+8	827
Snowy-Murray Component	807	-11	Tooma-Tumut	+0	254
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	7.5	573
			Murray 1 Release	+11	1 137

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	43.6	1 024.3
Wakool System loss	0.6	22.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	25.9
Licensed Pumps	16.5	296.1
Lower Darling	0.3	57.2
TOTAL	61.5	1 425.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	12.6	332
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.8	581
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.2	130
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	44
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.9	206
TOTAL	47.2	1 294

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	
Flow this week	41.0	(5 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	140	
Flow last month	199	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	90	90	100
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	140
Merbein	110	120	130
Burtundy (Darling)	670	680	570
Lock 9	140	130	140
Lake Victoria	180	210	190
Berri	250	240	220
Waikerie	-	300	330
Morgan	320	320	320
Mannum	360	360	360
Murray Bridge	360	350	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 160	1 170	1 260
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 060	1 070	970
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 270	2 290	2 140
Goolwa Barrages	1 920	1 940	1 820



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	-	-	-	3 800	R	1 550	3 810
Jingellic	4.0	1.33	207.85	2 030	R	1 660	4 410
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.34	218.23	540	F	640	500
Heywoods	5.5	3.65	157.28	21 930	R	19 050	23 020
Doctors Point	5.5	3.75	152.22	23 600	R	20 840	24 800
Albury	4.3	2.82	150.26	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.60	129.62	20 800	R	22 270	25 700
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	9 840	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.30	106.14	10 710	S	10 710	10 710
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.21	80.76	6 520	R	5 570	4 730
Swan Hill	4.5	1.04	63.96	4 630	R	4 270	4 270
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.62	51.74	6 390	R	6 260	6 910
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.27	43.11	5 960	F	6 660	6 920
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.92	5 760	F	5 930	5 490
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.06	27.82	5 510	R	5 780	5 050
Rufus Junction	-	3.65	20.58	7 380	R	5 150	5 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 780	R	4 750	3 820
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.72	153.95	250	F	220	-
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.74	145.42	344	F	470	450
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.84	93.26	1 522	F	1 790	1 770
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 450	F	2 400	2 400
Edward at Liewah	-	2.80	58.18	2 300	S	2 330	2 500
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	54.87	315	F	520	640
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.09	57.05	603	F	670	760
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.38	-	400	F	520	1 030
Darling at Bourke	-	4.18	-	738	S	780	790
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	R	40	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	810	- 640
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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	-0.03	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.24	+1.33
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.10
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.57
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.42	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.22
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+0.30	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.33	+0.24	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.04

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.77	1.03	70.38	865
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.10	0.61	61.91	758

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.69

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.68	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.68	All closed



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