

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 23 August 2006



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24 August, 2006

Rainfall and inflows

Dry conditions persisted across the Basin this week (*see attached rain map*) with inflows to the Murray system remaining at record low levels. The impact of these extremely low inflows, particularly from the catchment of Hume Reservoir, and high early-season irrigation demands has seen storage in Hume Reservoir fall even further to 18% of capacity. Without very substantial rainfalls to boost levels in Hume, the storage level of 660 GL observed in July could be the season's peak. This would be well below the previous worst of 940 GL observed in July 1982 and again in August 2002.

Outlook for Spring

The low inflows could continue over Spring as indicated by the latest seasonal outlooks issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) on August 23 (*see attached map*). The outlook shows only a 35-40% chance of exceeding median rainfall across much of Victoria during spring, whereas across the southern parts of New South Wales the odds of exceeding median rainfall are only marginally better. Coupled with this is a strong shift in probabilities towards above-average daytime temperatures across south-eastern Australia. The BOM reports that these outlooks are "*a result of higher than average temperatures in both the Pacific and Indian Oceans, the latter of which has been warming strongly in recent months*".

River Murray operations

Release from Hume Dam increased to 19 500 ML/day during the week to meet increasing demands downstream. In order to supplement these releases, transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir have been maintained at approximately 10 000 ML/day, close to channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River. Diversion to Mulwala Canal reached 6 600 ML/day during the week, with 2 400 ML/day being diverted to Yarrawonga Main Channel. Irrigation demands have been high for the month up to August 23, with diversions through Mulwala Canal totalling 91 GL, well above the expected average diversion for August of about 34 GL.

Diversion to National Channel has increased to 3 000 ML/day, and to assist in the provision of these flows, the level of Torrumbarry Weir pool is being raised slightly (currently 85.83m AHD or ~0.2m below FSL). Levels in Torrumbarry Weir pool will potentially remain below FSL and may be fluctuated within the top 0.15 m over coming weeks. The increasing diversions are reducing flows in the mid-river, with release from Euston Weir expected to fall to 7 000 ML/day early in September.

Transfers to Lake Victoria have resulted in storage volume rising from 465 GL to 494 GL (73% capacity) during the week. The weir lowering trial conducted at Weir and Lock 8 Wangumma is drawing to a close and the upper weir pool will be slowly raised over the coming weeks. The weir pool was lowered over a six week period, reaching 24.20m AHD (40 cm below full supply level) and a summary of the outcomes of the trial will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

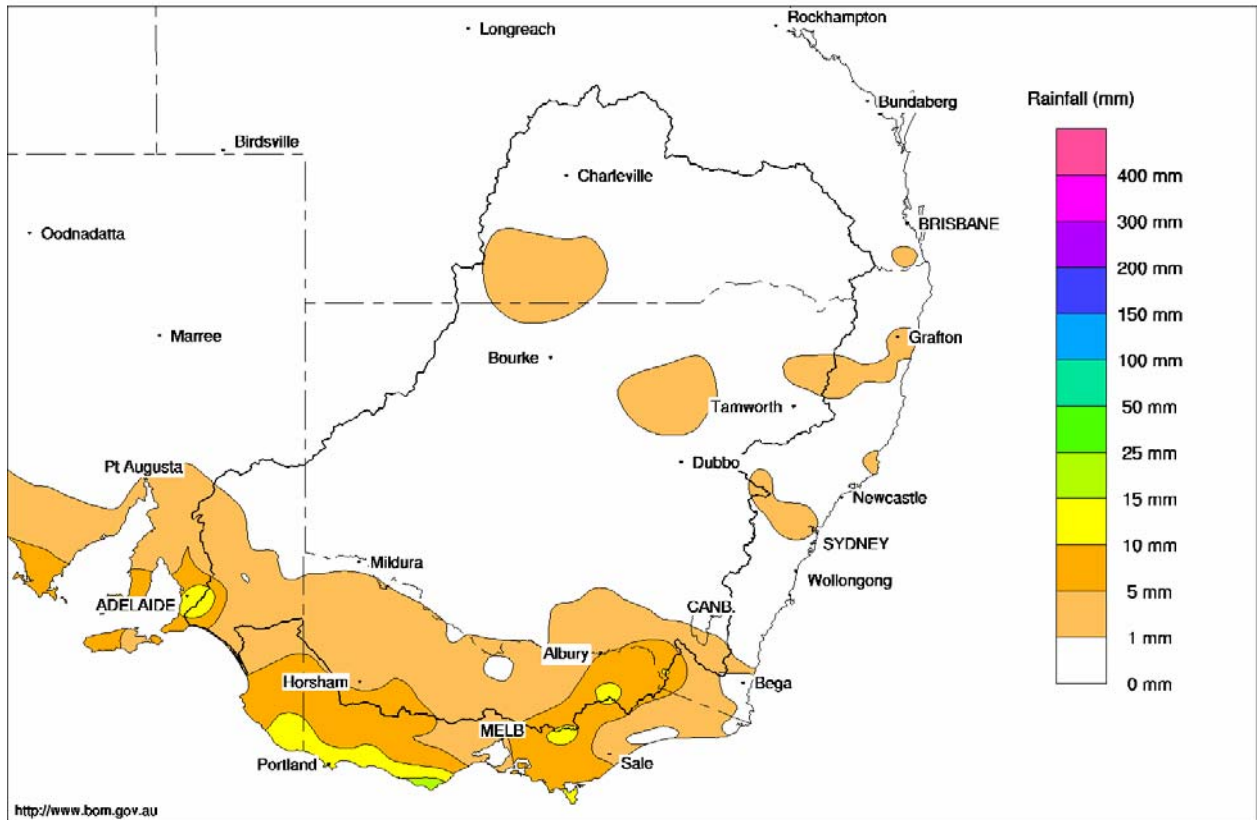
The level of the Lower Lakes has been maintained close to their fully surcharged level of 0.85m AHD. Barrage releases have been reduced by approximately 300 ML/day to conserve resources, with fishways remaining open on Goolwa and Tauwitchere Barrages, together with trickle flows through Boundary Creek and Mundoo Barrage.

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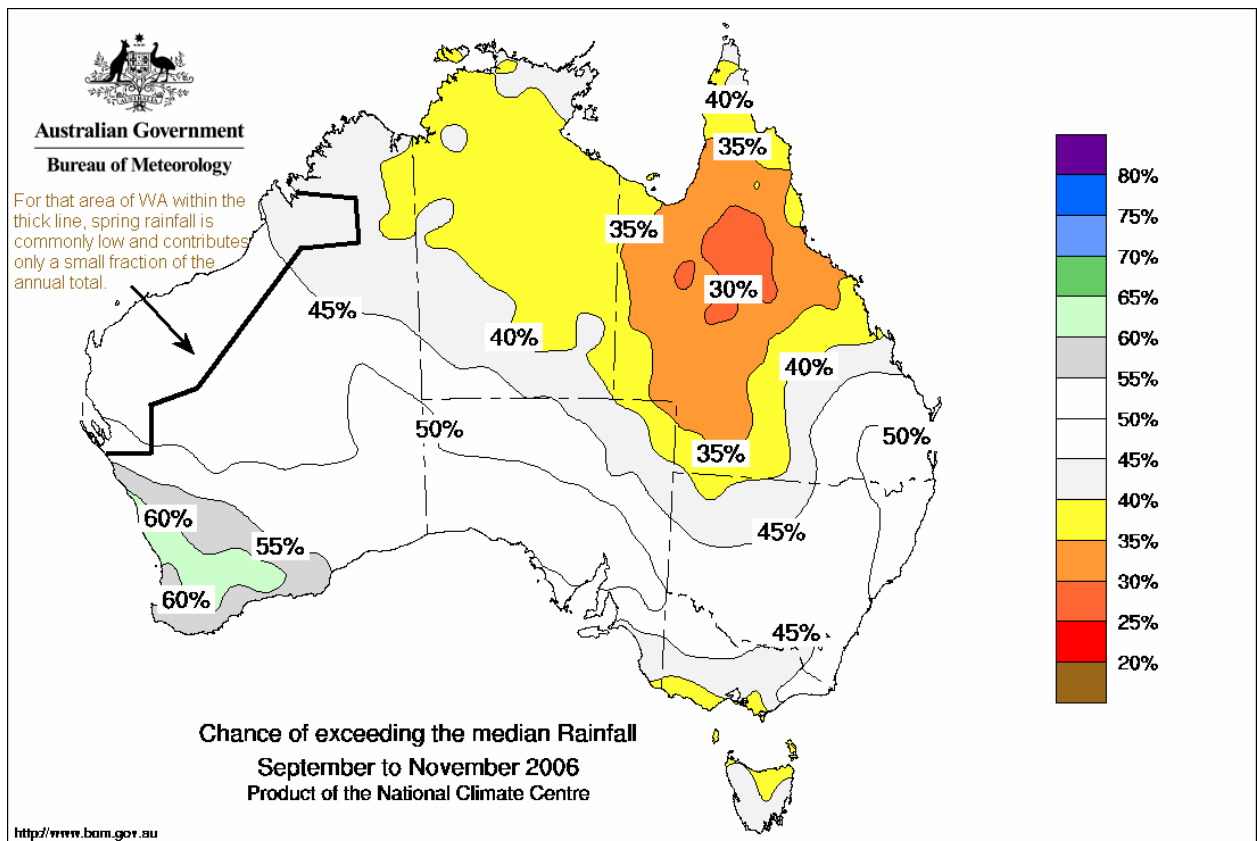
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd August 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



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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	459.53	2 388	61%	80	2 308	-57
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.68	533	18%	30	503	-42
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.43	494	73%	100	394	+29
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		260	15%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		3 674	39%	--	3 205	-73

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **38%**

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

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006	Change (GL)
Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	-	346	34%	3	343
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	-	985	60%	24	961
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	-	773	23%	100	673

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-Aug-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	730	-9	Snowy-Murray	+18	468
Snowy-Murray Component	471	-10	Tooma-Tumut	+1	20
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	17.2	449
			Murray 1 Release	+21	510

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	30.0	70.2
Wakool System loss	1.7	4.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	1.0
Licensed Pumps	5.1	11.9
Lower Darling	0.6	2.2
TOTAL	37.6	90.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	14.3	22
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.3	41
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.5	4
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	2
TOTAL	37.2	69

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	
Flow this week	28.7	(4 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	92	
Flow last month	108	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	70	70	70
Euston	90	90	100
Red Cliffs	120	120	130
Merbein	110	110	100
Burtundy (Darling)	620	620	620
Lock 9	130	130	150
Lake Victoria	160	160	160
Berri	240	230	240
Waikerie	-	380	380
Morgan	430	420	410
Mannum	440	450	460
Murray Bridge	400	400	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 120	1 120	1 150
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	680	650	660
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 190	2 190	2 250
Goolwa Barrages	1 550	1 530	1 490

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	-	-	-	1 790	S	3 230	4 150
Jingellic	4.0	1.43	207.95	2 700	F	4 230	5 360
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.22	220.11	9 580	F	9 870	9 590
Heywoods	5.5	3.29	156.92	19 050	S	18 610	14 890
Doctors Point	5.5	3.42	151.89	19 500	S	19 060	15 440
Albury	4.3	2.42	149.86	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.54	129.56	20 200	S	18 790	14 700
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.73	116.77	9 790	S	9 790	9 790
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 480	S	10 480	10 430
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.87	80.42	5 270	R	5 500	6 880
Swan Hill	4.5	1.10	64.02	4 940	F	5 490	6 910
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.03	52.15	8 140	F	8 700	9 760
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.68	43.52	8 470	R	9 220	9 790
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	8 690	F	8 870	9 240
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.16	27.92	10 100	R	9 960	10 280
Rufus Junction	-	2.97	19.90	3 630	F	3 660	3 610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.80	-	3 790	S	3 520	3 880
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.90	154.13	460	R	410	490
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	428	F	450	520
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	399	R	380	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.55	-	2 910	F	2 900	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	3.03	58.41	2 620	S	2 650	2 620
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	54.87	316	R	300	220
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.85	56.81	417	F	500	470
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.13	-	- 10	F	0	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	85	F	100	90
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.64	-	9	S	10	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 530	1 950
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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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.68
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.22	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.17	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.33	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.52	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	-0.33	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.33	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.62	0.67	70.02	366
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.07	0.14	61.44	261



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.84

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.96	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.85	1	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.93	All closed	Open	Open

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