

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 May 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, ng  
Trim Ref : 06/10419

25 May, 2006



## ***Rain and Inflows***

It was another dry week across the Basin with only light falls of rain crossing the Great Divide into the upper Murrumbidgee and Murray catchments. Tributary inflows across the upper Murray remain very low and sustained rainfall will be needed to wet up the catchments and generate streamflows.

## ***System Operation***

Release from Hume Dam was reduced this week to the minimum required rate of 600 ML/day in order to store as much water as possible for the coming season. Release from Yarrawonga Weir was progressively reduced from 5000 to 2500 ML/day and will be further reduced next week towards the minimum requirement of 1800 ML/day.

The level of Lake Mulwala is now being raised to the current target level of 124.6 m (30 cm below Full Supply Level) after falling a small amount below this during the week.

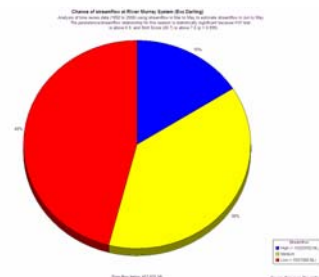
As expected, river levels are now falling in the mid reaches of the Murray with falls of 0.5 m observed at Barmah and downstream of Torrumbarry Weir. Further downstream at Swan Hill the river fell by 0.3 m to 1.3 m gauge height and similar falls are expected over the next two weeks if conditions remain dry. In the Edward/Wakool System, the level of Stevens Weir pool was lowered by another metre and will fall further over the next week or so.

Release to the Murray Mouth continues at low rates (about 2000 ML/day) from the Lower Lakes in South Australia.

## ***Outlook***

With above average temperatures in the Pacific Ocean, the Bureau of Meteorology has advised “*There is a moderate to strong shift in the odds towards above average maximum temperatures for winter across most of southern Australia*”. The corresponding outlook for rain shows a “*moderate shift in the odds towards below average winter rainfall*” for the upper Darling River catchments but a near-neutral outlook for the upper Murray. The Bureau’s outlook charts are attached and further details are available at <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead>.

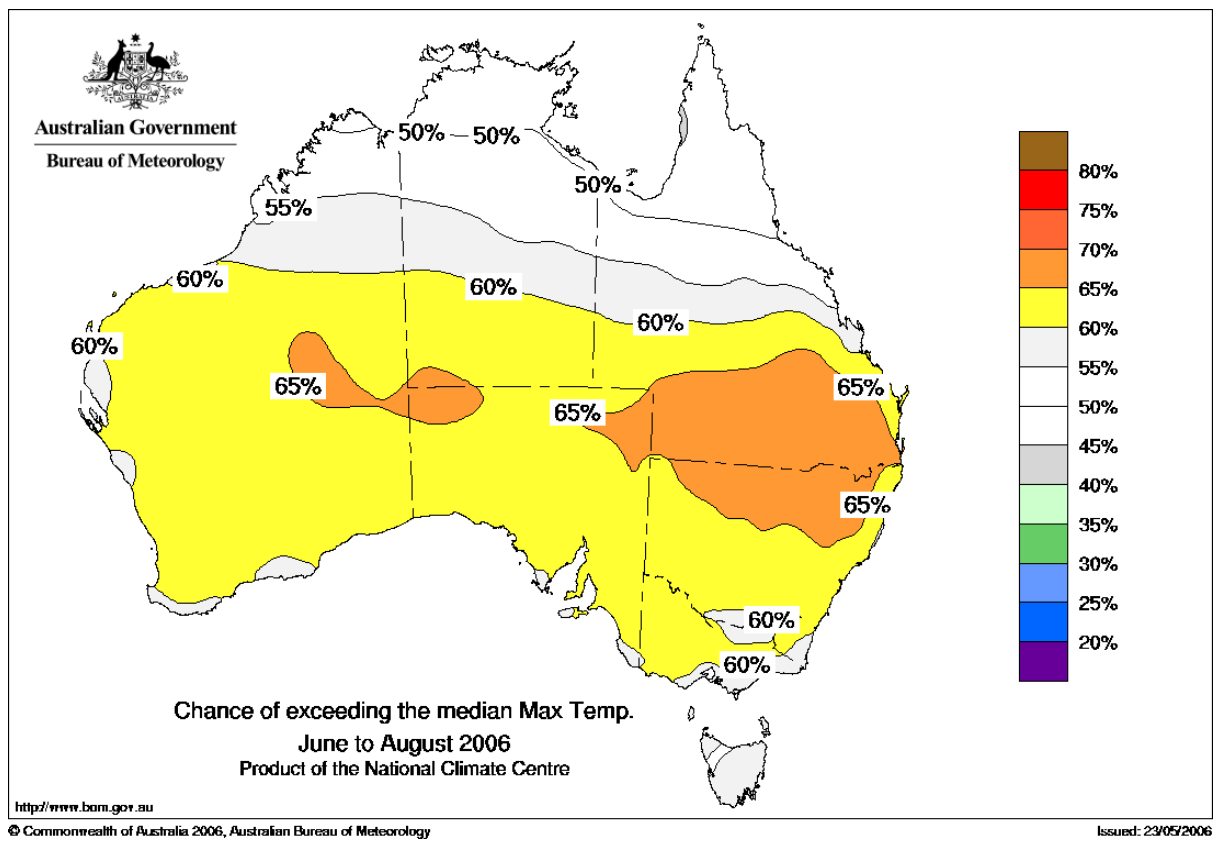
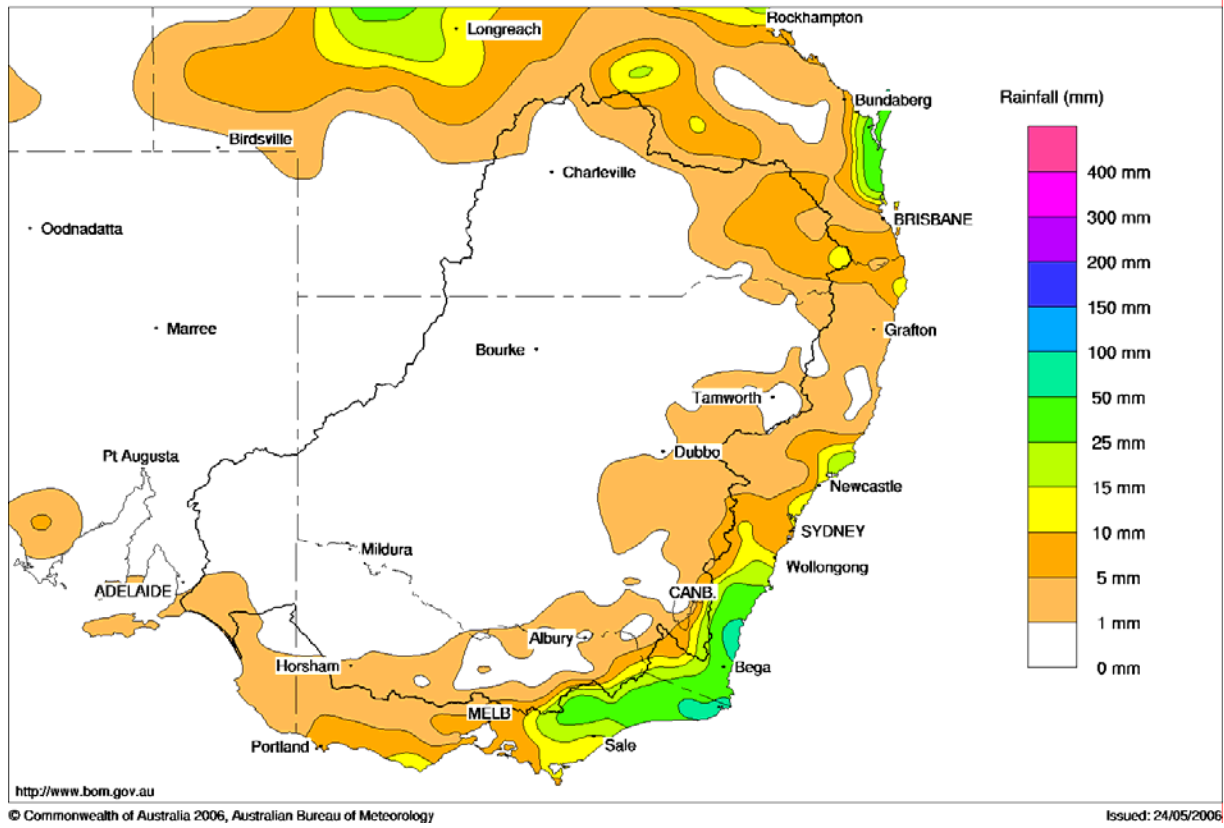
Analysis of historical streamflow records for the River Murray reveals that inflows over the rest of the season following a dry Autumn, like the one just observed, are more likely to be ‘low’ or ‘normal’. The chance of having high inflows is much reduced. The pie chart shows the relatively small chance of high inflows (in dark blue) compared the much higher likelihood of low inflows (in red) and ‘normal’ inflows (in light yellow). River Murray Water will provide updates on the outlook for streamflows over coming months.



DAVID DREVERMAN  
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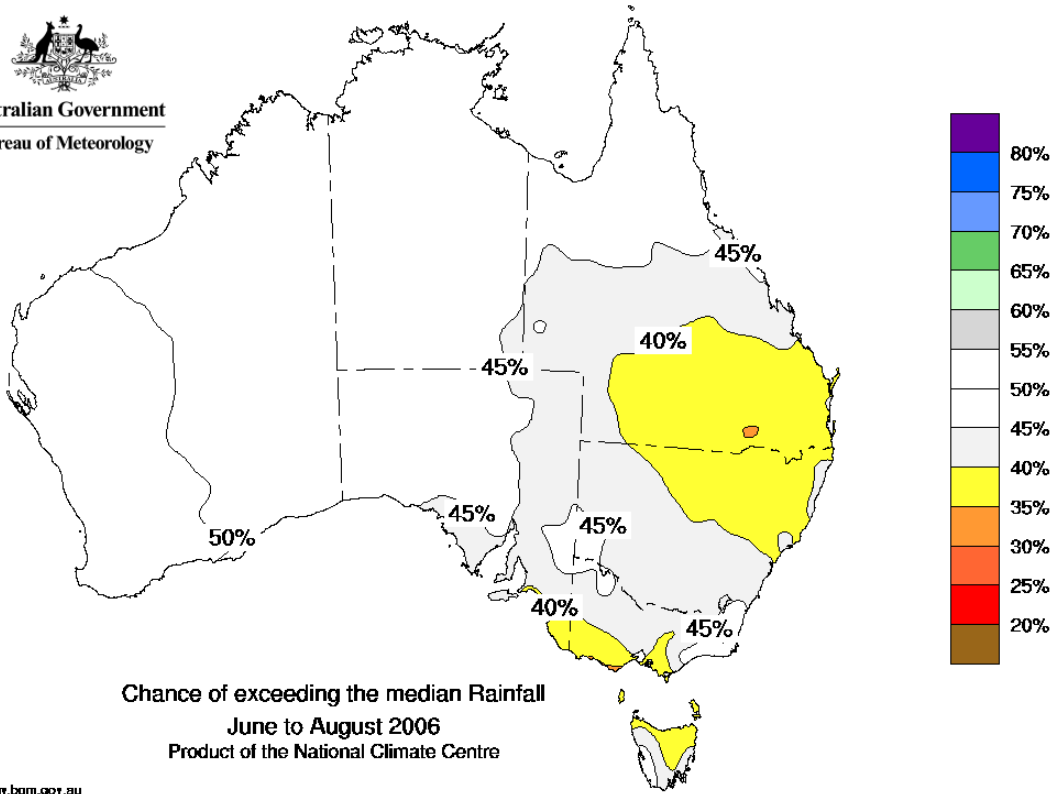
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th May 2006  
 Product of the National Climate Centre





Australian Government  
Bureau of Meteorology



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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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	462.27	2 525	65%	80	2 445	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.10	410	14%	30	380	+13
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.29	374	55%	100	274	+38
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		274	16%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 583</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>3 099</b>	<b>+51</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 36%

# 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		340	33%	3	337	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		720	44%	24	696	-2
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		733	22%	100	633	+4

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-May-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 315	-29	Snowy-Murray	+12	36
Snowy-Murray Component	743	-14	Tooma-Tumut	+1	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	10.8	33
			Murray 1 Release	+16	50

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .4	1 207.6
Wakool System loss	-0.1	34.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	28.5
Licensed Pumps	2.0	382.0
Lower Darling	0.1	64.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1 717.0</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	402
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	697
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	141
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.9	60
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.2	245
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>1 545</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	20.6	(2 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	71	
Flow last month	134	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	90	90	100
Euston	80	90	110
Red Cliffs	90	90	130
Merbein	50	50	120
Burtundy (Darling)	670	670	600
Lock 9	90	90	140
Lake Victoria	190	180	190
Berri	260	260	230
Waikerie	-	-	330
Morgan	370	370	330
Mannum	370	370	360
Murray Bridge	320	310	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 190	1 190	1 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 040	1 060	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 410	2 400	2 180
Goolwa Barrages	1 320	1 290	1 940



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	4 380	R	2 410	2 460
Jingellic	4.0	1.55	208.07	3 550	R	2 430	3 980
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.38	218.27	610	S	700	750
Heywoods	5.5	1.22	154.85	640	F	1 120	2 830
Doctors Point	5.5	1.56	150.03	1 390	F	1 910	3 690
Albury	4.3	0.73	148.17	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.84	126.86	2 280	F	2 650	4 870
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.53	115.57	2 510	F	3 600	6 690
Tocumwal	6.4	1.15	104.99	3 420	F	4 740	7 570
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.77	80.32	4 920	F	5 770	7 250
Swan Hill	4.5	1.32	64.24	6 380	F	7 260	7 550
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.45	52.57	10 150	F	10 650	10 650
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.00	43.84	10 250	F	10 080	10 340
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.13	9 790	F	9 620	9 880
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.17	27.93	8 440	R	8 400	8 670
Rufus Junction	-	2.95	19.88	3 120	R	2 640	2 700
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 570	F	3 030	3 290
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.19	154.42	860	R	740	700
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.93	145.61	694	F	750	910
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	416	F	490	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 090	F	1 340	2 610
Edward at Liewah	-	3.00	58.38	2 580	F	2 720	2 720
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.64	55.13	904	F	950	790
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.59	56.55	259	R	250	270
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	20	F	30	50
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	49	S	60	110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	18	S	30	40

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 300	3 550
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.32	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+0.66
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.33	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.33
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.53	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.08

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.63	0.66	70.01	355
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.16	0.12	61.42	244

**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.75

**Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.77	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.71	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.81	5

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