

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 January 2006

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27 January, 2006



Rainfall and Temperature

Weather conditions over the past week have again been hot and unsettled. The average maximum temperature across much of the Basin was above 35°C, and included several days exceeding 40°C. Rainfall was patchy, with the heaviest falls of up to 100 mm in parts of the Border and Gwydir Rivers catchment. There was little rainfall across the River Murray System.

Upper Murray Storages

Inflow to the upper Murray storages, Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs, have been gradually reducing over the summer months, and are now about 500 and 1 000 ML/day respectively. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has remained about steady at 2 540 GL (or 65% capacity) despite a temporary increase in release during the week for the purposes of electricity generation. Storage in Hume Reservoir fell 110 GL over the week, to 1 990 GL (or 65% capacity), as high rates of release have continued to meet downstream demands.

River Murray Operation

The hot weather over the past week, has resulted in a small increase in diversions and river losses along the mid and lower Murray, however they remain well below the high rates seen during the hot spell over the New Year period. Accordingly, flows in the lower Murray have continued to gradually increase over the past week. The flows at Euston, Mildura and Wentworth are now about 5 200 ML/day, 3 000 ML/day and 2 800 ML/day respectively.

The Euston Weir pool has been gradually refilled as the flows have increased. It is currently 4 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL), and is expected to return to FSL within a few days. The Mildura and Wentworth weir pools have fully recovered.

The Lock 8 Weir pool, which was raised for environmental benefit in September last year, has been drawn down to 9 cm above FSL. The additional water released from the weir over the past week has helped to maintain both the flow down Mullaroo Creek and a passing flow at Lock 7.

Downstream of Lock 7, the release from Lake Victoria has been increased to 6 000 ML/day to maintain South Australia's entitlement flow (currently 7 000 ML/day). This high rate of release has continued to draw heavily on Lake Victoria, which fell 48 GL over the week to 490 GL (or 71% capacity).

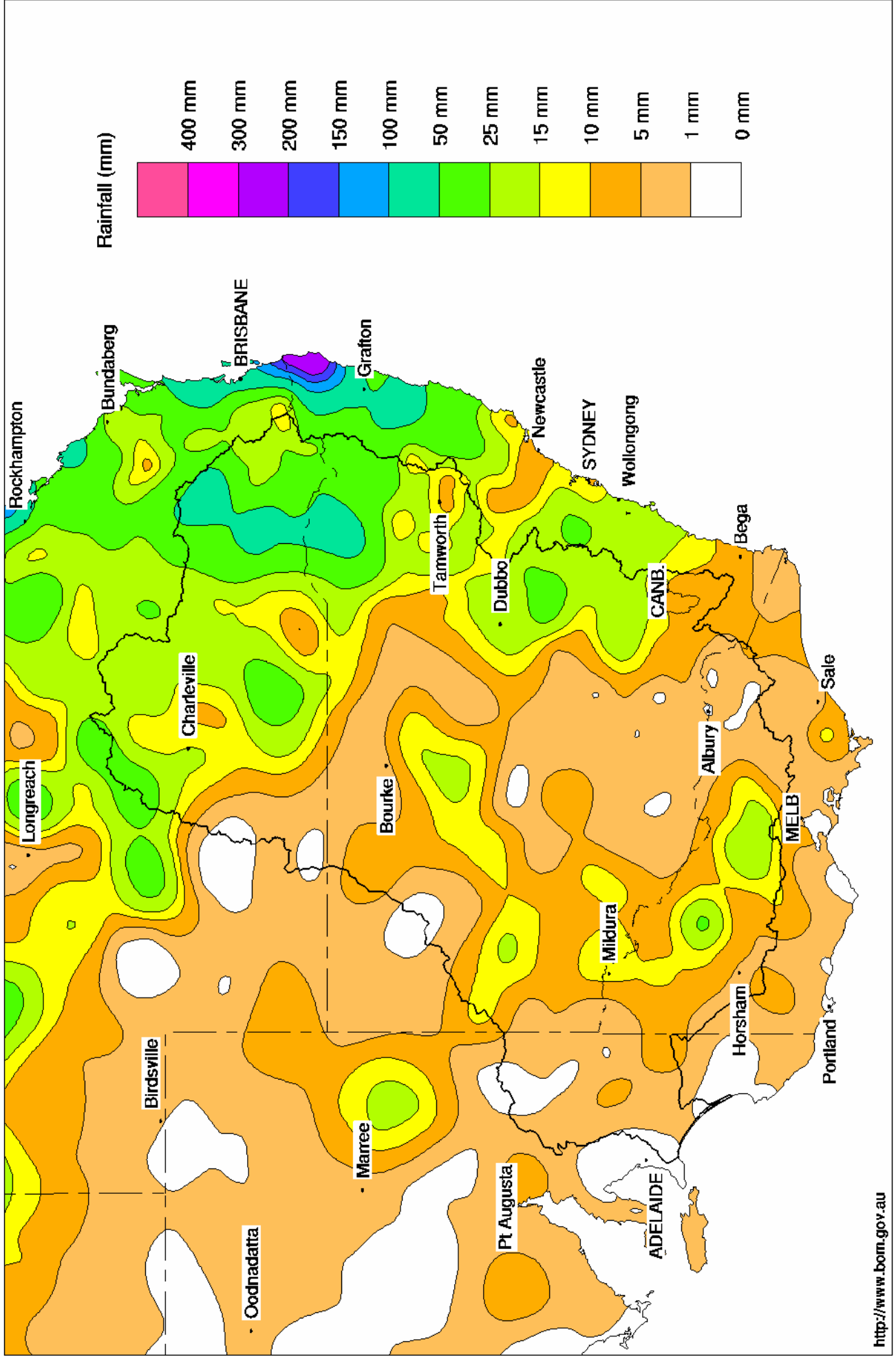
To reduce the rate of fall of Lake Victoria, Murray Irrigation Limited and Goulburn-Murray Water continue to transfer as much water as possible around the Barmah 'Choke' via their channel systems. Increased access to MIL channel capacity, combined with an increase in the flow at the Edward River Offtake last week from 1 350 ML/day to 1 600 ML/day, is expected to result in the release from Stevens Weir (on the Edward River) increasing from 2 000 ML/day to about 2 400 ML/day over the coming week. This will help sustain flows in the Sunraysia area as well as reduce the call on Lake Victoria.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th January 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 25 Jan 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	462.49	2 536	65%	80	2 456	-4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	186.13	1 990	65%	30	1 960	-112
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.38	489	72%	100	389	-48
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		348	20%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		5 363	57%	--	4 805	-167

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **57%**

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		464	45%	3	461	-32
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		922	57%	24	898	+27
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 356	40%	100	1 256	-56

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Jan-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 051	n/a	Snowy-Murray	n/a	623
Snowy-Murray Component	1 025	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	n/a	247
Target Storage	1 520	n/a	Nett Diversion	n/a	376
			Murray 1 Release	n/a	928

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	46.1	714.9
Wakool System loss	2.2	12.5
Western Murray Irrig.	1.8	17.4
Licensed Pumps	12.8	179.5
Lower Darling	2.2	42.1
TOTAL	65.1	966.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	18.8	209
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	26.5	389
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.3	89
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.9	23
Licensed pumps - SRW	8.8	152
TOTAL	63.3	863

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	49.5	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	176	
Flow last month	278	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	100	90	110
Euston	110	110	130
Red Cliffs	170	170	140
Merbein	190	180	120
Burtundy (Darling)	610	620	560
Lock 9	150	150	140
Lake Victoria	190	200	190
Berri	220	220	220
Waikerie	280	280	340
Morgan	320	300	320
Mannum	300	300	370
Murray Bridge	350	360	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 190	1 150	1 290
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 150	1 130	940
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 280	2 210	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 910	1 900	1 800



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	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	F	3 340	4 390
Jingellic	4.0	1.99	208.51	7 080	R	4 020	5 470
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.64	218.53	1 190	F	1 530	680
Heywoods	5.5	3.49	157.12	20 650	R	20 330	20 440
Doctors Point	5.5	3.70	152.17	23 000	R	22 160	21 760
Albury	4.3	2.78	150.22	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.77	129.79	22 600	S	22 370	23 890
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 200	S	10 200	10 200
Tocumwal	6.4	2.33	106.17	10 950	F	10 990	10 980
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.95	80.50	5 600	F	5 600	5 420
Swan Hill	4.5	1.11	64.03	5 070	F	5 020	4 640
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.59	51.71	6 260	R	5 950	4 950
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.14	42.98	5 230	R	4 970	3 930
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	3 000	F	2 560	2 100
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.89	27.65	2 870	R	1 750	1 390
Rufus Junction	-	3.56	20.49	6 810	R	6 730	6 430
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 540	S	3 640	3 650
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.50	154.73	1 350	F	910	590
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.76	145.44	377	F	470	650
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.02	93.44	1 845	F	2 090	2 310
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 970	F	1 960	1 740
Edward at Liewah	-	2.12	57.50	1 480	R	1 470	1 080
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.36	54.85	282	S	270	200
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.91	56.87	458	F	570	350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	120	F	330	160
Darling at Bourke	-	4.03	-	127	F	220	380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	S	30	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 370	2 900
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+1.24
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.18
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.35
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.12	+0.68
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.25	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.11	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.09	+0.10	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.09	+0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.75	71.1	2320
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.30	0.9	62.2	1100

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	0.82	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	All closed



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