

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 17 May 2006

Our Ref : M2006/00012 kes/dwg
Trim Ref : 06/10050

19 May, 2006



Rain and Inflows

Very little rain fell across the Basin during the week (*see attached map*) and consequently unregulated inflows to Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs declined. Inflow from the Kiewa River at Bandianna fluctuated between 400 and 1 000 ML/day primarily due to increased releases for electricity generation. Flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta has been maintained at about 800 ML/day following an increase in release from Lake Buffalo from 160 ML/day to 400 ML/day.

River Murray Operations

Release from Hume Dam has been further reduced this week, which has reduced the flow at Doctors Point from 4 500 ML/day to about 2 000 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir is now increasing and is currently 397 GL (13% capacity).

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been gradually reduced in recent weeks in order to slow the rate of recession in river levels downstream of Yarrawonga Weir. This has been aimed at reducing the potential for bank erosion along the River Murray through the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The level of Lake Mulwala is expected to temporarily drop several centimetres below 124.60 m AHD over the coming week.

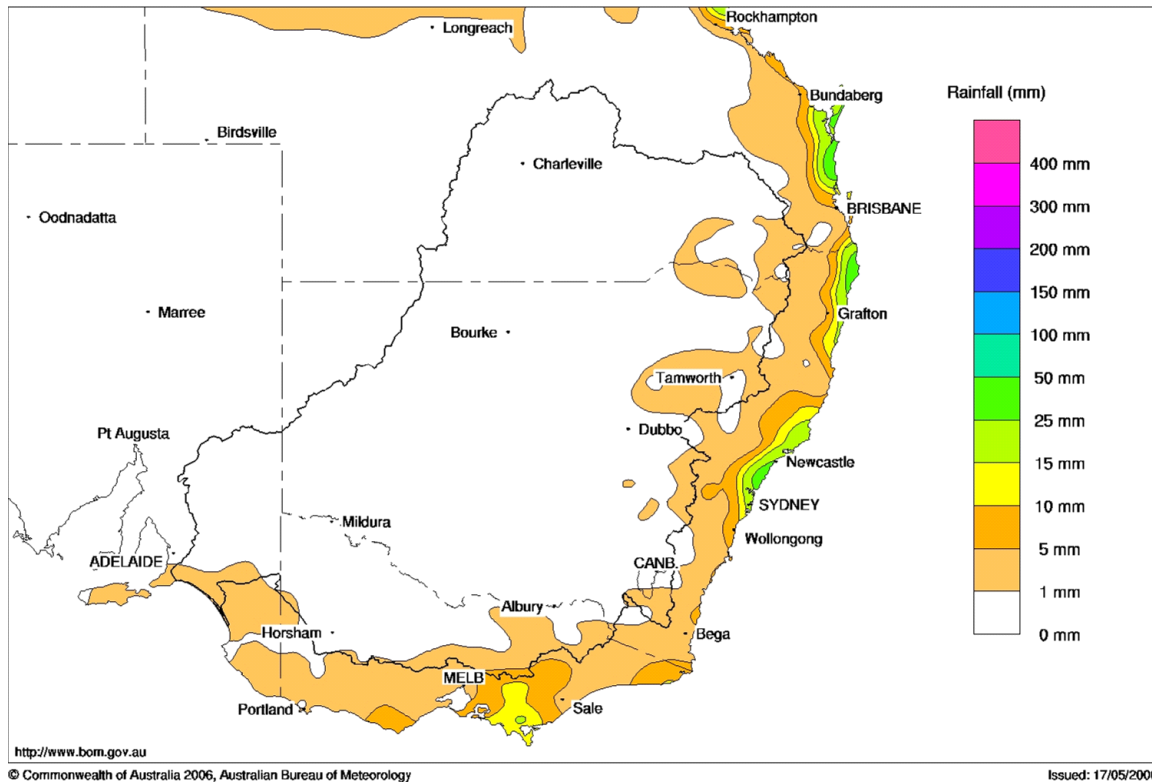
With a number of consecutive reductions in release from Hume Reservoir over the past fortnight, it is expected there will be significant reductions in river levels along the River Murray and Edward Wakool System over the coming weeks without further significant rain (*see media release attached*). Release from Yarrawonga Weir is currently 5 000 ML/day (18 May) and is expected to be gradually reduced to about 2 000 ML/day or near minimum over the coming week. Further downstream, flow at Torrumbarry Weir is currently 6 700 ML/day and expected to drop to about 3 000 ML/day by late May and river levels at Swan Hill are expected to fall significantly over the coming weeks.

The upstream pool level of Stevens Weir (Edward River) has been lowered to about 3.0 m (gauge height). This is below the level required to provide flow to the Yallakool Creek, Colligen Creek and upper section of the Wakool River and therefore flow along these streams will decline. Release from Stevens Weir has been progressively reduced to 1 250 ML/day by 19 May and this is expected to result in a significant reduction in the level of the Edward River at Moulamein early next week.

Storage in Lake Victoria has increased by 40 GL to 348 GL (52% capacity) and is expected to rise to about 420 GL by early June. The level of the Lower Lakes near the Murray Mouth in South Australia has gradually reduced to 0.75 m (AHD). During the week several barrage gates were closed, however, one bay at Goolwa Barrage and five bays at Tauwichee Barrage remain open, as do all three fishways. The release from the Goolwa Barrage since 10 May has been effective in reducing the salinity in the Goolwa Channel upstream of the barrage from 3 400 EC to about 1 250 EC.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 17 May 2006
RIVER MURRAY LEVELS TO FALL



TRIM Ref: 06/10039

River levels along the River Murray and the Edward-Wakool River System are being reduced to low levels as a result of the end of the irrigation season, River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, David Dreverman announced today.

“In response to recent rain and the closure of irrigation diversion canals, release from Hume Reservoir has been progressively reduced over the past two weeks at near maximum permissible rates to conserve water for the 2006-07 season”, Mr Dreverman said.

“The relatively high number of consecutive reductions in release from Hume Reservoir is expected to result in significant reductions in River Murray levels over a period of seven to ten days if there is no further significant rain”, he said.

“River levels are expected to progressively fall this week along the River Murray between Yarrawonga and Swan Hill. The River Murray at Swan Hill, currently about 1.6 m gauge height, is expected to fall towards 0.9 m by late May and then to the minimum target of 0.6 m by early June without further significant rain”, Mr Dreverman said.

The river level downstream of Euston Weir is expected to fall noticeably during the last week of May and early June.

River levels along the Edward-Wakool System are also expected to reduce significantly over the coming weeks.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

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(Allison Hicks is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Week ending Wednesday 17 May 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	462.24	2 523	65%	80	2 443	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.92	397	13%	30	367	+16
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.90	336	50%	100	236	+41
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		276	16%	(- -) #	0	-2
Total		9 352		3 532	38%	--	3 047	+59

* 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		341	33%	3	338	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		721	44%	24	697	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		729	22%	100	629	+10

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-May-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 344	-14	Snowy-Murray	+9	24
Snowy-Murray Component	757	+2	Tooma-Tumut	+2	2
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	6.9	22
			Murray 1 Release	+12	34

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- 5.8	1 207.9
Wakool System loss	0.8	34.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	28.2
Licensed Pumps	2.0	380.1
Lower Darling	0.7	64.3
TOTAL	-2.1	1 715.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.4	402
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	2.1	697
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	141
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	55
Licensed pumps - LMW	3.2	242
TOTAL	7.8	1 537

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	20.9	
Flow so far this month	50	
Flow last month	134	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	100	90	100
Euston	80	90	110
Red Cliffs	90	90	140
Merbein	70	70	120
Burtundy (Darling)	670	670	590
Lock 9	100	110	140
Lake Victoria	130	180	190
Berri	260	260	230
Waikerie	-	-	330
Morgan	360	340	330
Mannum	370	370	360
Murray Bridge	310	320	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 180	1 170	1 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 090	990	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 400	2 380	2 180
Goolwa Barrages	1 250	1 660	1 960



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	-	-	-	1 270	R	2 460	2 400
Jingellic	4.0	1.35	207.87	2 160	F	3 980	2 900
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	218.28	630	S	750	790
Heywoods	5.5	1.42	155.05	1 210	F	2 830	5 400
Doctors Point	5.5	1.64	150.11	1 730	F	3 690	6 000
Albury	4.3	0.80	148.24	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.12	127.14	3 330	F	4 870	8 270
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.08	116.12	5 480	F	6 690	8 630
Tocumwal	6.4	1.70	105.54	6 430	F	7 570	9 490
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.38	80.93	7 100	F	7 250	7 890
Swan Hill	4.5	1.60	64.52	8 270	R	7 550	7 900
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.46	52.58	10 200	S	10 650	10 470
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.98	43.82	10 140	F	10 340	9 700
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.16	10 080	F	9 880	8 470
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.17	27.93	8 730	S	8 670	7 500
Rufus Junction	-	2.92	19.85	2 950	R	2 700	2 460
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.70	-	3 130	S	3 290	4 530
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.98	154.21	560	R	700	420
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.99	145.67	838	F	910	650
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	399	S	380	480
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 890	F	2 610	2 840
Edward at Liewah	-	3.10	58.48	2 720	S	2 720	2 740
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.63	55.12	875	R	790	680
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	249	F	270	280
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	40	S	50	120
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	85	S	110	200
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	33	S	40	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 550	1 260
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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	-0.26	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.63
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.36	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.53	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.11	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	-0.42	0.68	70.03	377
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.04	0.14	61.44	261

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	0.78

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.76	1 open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.78	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	5 open



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