

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 7 November 2007

Our Ref : M2006/01015/PRS, DG
Trim Ref : 07/13962

9 November, 2007



Rainfall and inflows

There were further good falls of rain in the River Murray catchments this week with 50-100 mm falling in the alpine area of north-east Victoria and generally more than 10 mm along the river and in the irrigation districts. The low pressure system responsible for this rain produced the greatest rainfall outside of the Basin and caused flooding in parts of Gippsland for the second time this year.

The stream responses in the River Murray catchments were relatively small but very welcome after receding to very low levels over the past few weeks. The Ovens River at Wangaratta increased from 700 to 3 700 ML/day, the Kiewa River at Bandiana increased from 500 to 2 500 ML/day and inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir increased from 1 000 to 3 500 ML/day. There was less rain on the NSW side of the Murray and inflow to Hume Reservoir increased by a smaller amount from 800 to 2 000 ML/day.

The rain brought about an immediate improvement of water availability of about 20 GL. In addition to this it is now estimated that a further 30 to 60 GL of improvement in water availability will occur over the remainder of November. With the upper Murray catchments now a little wetter, a similar rainfall event soon could be expected to yield a much larger volume of runoff.

River operations

In response to the higher inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, release from Hume Reservoir was temporarily reduced from 5 500 to 3 000 ML/day. This will be increased again with a return to warm and dry conditions in order to meet the increasing demand for water along the River Murray System. The higher release from Hume Reservoir expected over the coming weeks will increase flow rates along the River Murray System (*see attached media release*).

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased from 5 500 to 6 000 ML/day and the flow downstream of Euston Weir has been increased from 2 500 to 3 500 ML/day. The Torrumbarry Weir pool level is being gradually raised and is now only 10 cm below the full supply level, however it may need to be partially drawn on again over the summer to meet short-term increases in irrigation demand.

The effect of higher flows to South Australia, now 3 400 ML/day, is being felt along the Lower Murray. Flow at Lock 1 increased from 1 200 to 2 700 ML/day and the salinity levels at most locations upstream of Lock 1 continue to gradually decline. The level of the Lower Lakes increased this week by 3 cm to 0.13 m AHD as a result of local rainfall.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager



MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 9 November, 2007

River Murray flows to rise over summer

Flows along the length of the River Murray are on the rise as more water is being released from storage to meet summer water demands.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission Chief Executive, Dr Wendy Craik AM, said flows in the Murray system are increased every year over summer to meet demand, and the same is now happening along the River Murray.

Transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume have begun at low rates and will rise to an average flow of about 4 500 ML/day in mid-November. Flow in the reach between Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir is expected to be lower than last season, but is likely to be within the range of 5 000 to 10 000 ML/day.

The level of Lake Hume, is currently 6 m higher than this time last year. The lake is expected to remain about 5 m higher than last year's levels up to mid January, the end of the peak holiday period. The volume in storage at that time is expected to be about 450 GL.

The pool level at Yarrawonga Weir is expected to fluctuate between 124.2 m AHD and 124.5 m AHD to keep wetlands in the upper reaches dry to reduce evaporation.

Torrumbarry Weir will rise to 85.9 m in early November, and is likely to fluctuate within the top 40 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL 86.05m AHD). River levels at Echuca are expected to range between 86.4 and 86.8 m AHD. River levels at Swan Hill have already risen 0.4 m and can be expected to exceed 1.2 m over summer.

Euston Weir is gradually being lowered to minimise evaporation losses, and is currently about 50 cm below FSL. Further details on planned operations at Euston will be released shortly.

Higher flows through Sunraysia to Mildura Weir (Lock 11) and Wentworth Weir (Lock 10) arrived earlier this week. It is expected that flow downstream of Wentworth Weir will be in the range from 2 500 to 4 500 ML/day over summer.

Flow to South Australia, currently 3 400 ML/day, will rise further this summer and weirpools will be at near normal levels. The Lower Lakes, however, are already at near record low levels can be expected to continue falling if conditions remain dry.

“While flows, river levels and some weirpools will be lower than normal, there is still plenty of River Murray to enjoy”, Dr Craik said.

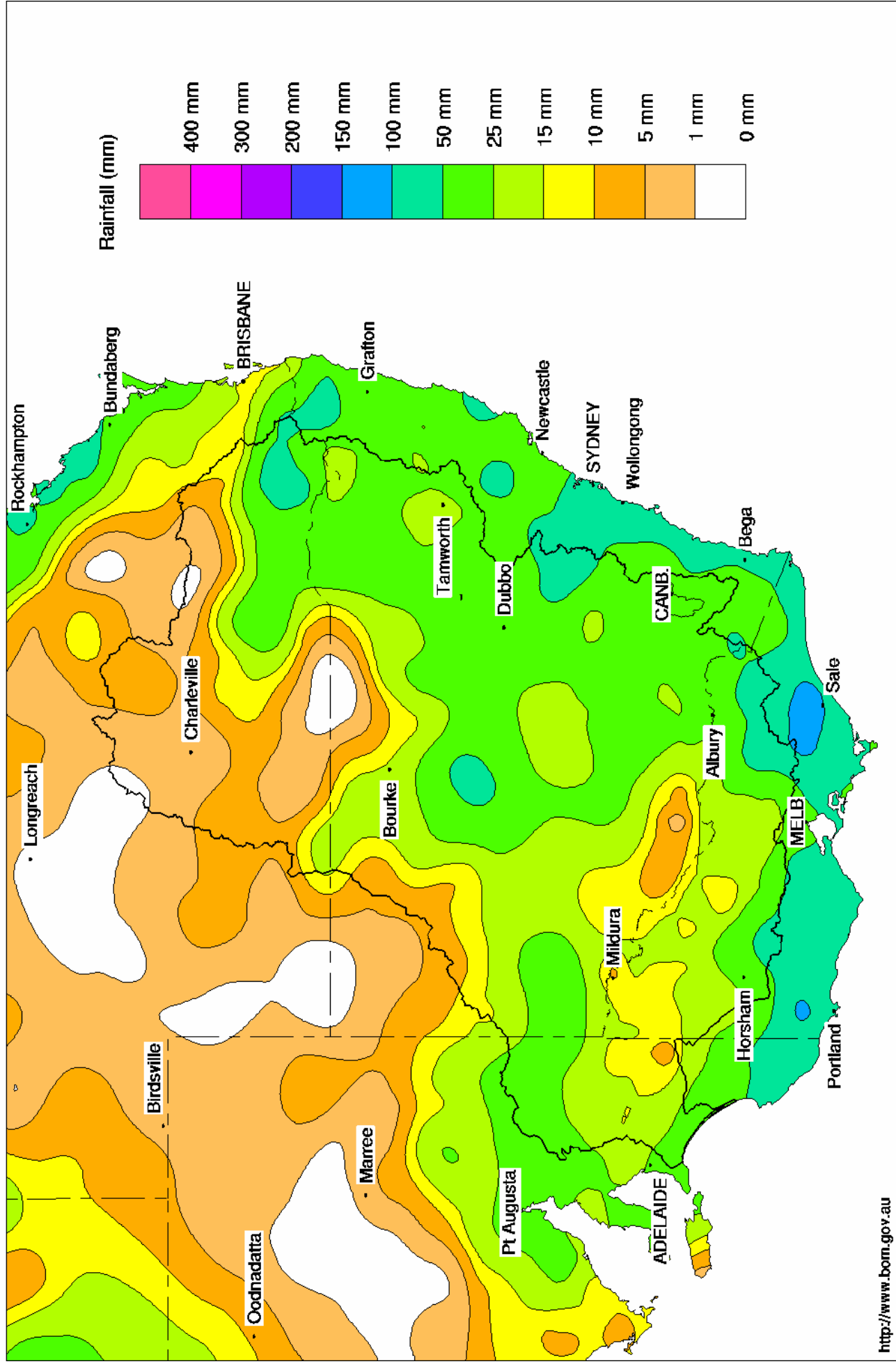
“Actual flows and levels will be affected by the weather but the message remains that there will be good opportunity for recreation along the River Murray this summer.

However, lower than normal levels in some locations may provide a hazard to boating and it is important that river users consider this in their activities”, Dr Craik said.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 7th November 2007

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	412.27	711	18%	80	631	+12
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.89	821	27%	30	791	-13
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.92	440	65%	100	340	-17
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		40	2%	(- -) #	0	+0
Total		9 352		2 012	22%	--	1 762	-18

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 21%

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		387	38%	3	384	+4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		525	32%	24	501	-2
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		818	24%	100	718	+15

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 06-Nov-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	N/A	N/A	Snowy-Murray	N/A	N/A
Snowy-Murray Component	N/A	-	Tooma-Tumut	N/A	N/A
Target Storage	N/A		Nett Diversion	N/A	N/A
			Murray 1 Release	N/A	N/A

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.9	23.9
Wakool System loss	0.0	3.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	3.4
Licensed Pumps	1.1	17.6
Lower Darling	0.2	2.4
TOTAL	2.4	50.6

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.7	25
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.6	39
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	16 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	4
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.0	20
TOTAL	5.8	104 *

* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180 *	
Flow this week	24.6	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	25	
Flow last month	80	

* Reduced to approx. 100 GL during November drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	80	110
Euston	120	130	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	210	210	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 270	1 280	1 170
Lock 9	170	150	130
Lake Victoria	180	180	170
Berri	330	330	460
Waikerie	-	-	660
Morgan	760	740	720
Mannum	540	550	460
Murray Bridge	530	520	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 530	2 450	2 280
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 670	2 510	2 300
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 600	2 600	2 560
Goolwa Barrages	16 150	15 360	14 160



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	-	-	-	700	F	620	1 250
Jingellic	4.0	1.34	207.86	2 030	F	1 520	2 030
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.37	218.26	550	F	760	440
Heywoods	5.5	1.62	155.25	2 760	F	4 310	5 060
Doctors Point	5.5	2.08	150.55	4 750	F	5 620	5 650
Albury	4.3	1.10	148.54	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.39	127.41	4 570	F	5 070	5 210
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.17	116.21	6 030	R	5 580	5 220
Tocumwal	6.4	1.60	105.44	5 930	R	5 730	5 120
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.75	80.30	4 890	R	4 750	3 820
Swan Hill	4.5	1.01	63.93	4 620	R	4 230	3 520
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.01	51.13	4 220	R	3 870	3 160
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.81	42.65	3 630	R	3 390	2 340
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 980	F	2 370	1 510
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	3 040	R	2 070	1 180
Rufus Junction	-	2.89	19.82	2 830	F	2 890	2 110
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.26	-	2 740	S	1 870	1 220
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.81	155.04	1 919	F	1 210	670
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.74	146.42	2 928	F	1 610	840
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	474	S	440	460
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.45	80.22	200	F	200	200
Edward at Liewah	-	0.46	55.84	194	F	190	180
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.00	54.49	7	S	10	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	191	F	180	160
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	85	F	120	30
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	19	F	30	150
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.47	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 020	4 880
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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	-0.59	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.04	+0.60
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.17	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.50	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.07	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.28	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.24
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.27	+0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.14	-0.49

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.46	0.52	69.87	227
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.14	0.115	61.415	236



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.13

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.18	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.00	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-0.05	All closed	Closed	Closed

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