

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 10 January 2007



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11 January, 2007

Rainfall

Thunderstorms provided further patchy rain throughout the Basin this week. Between 5 and 15 mm of rain fell along the mid reaches of the River Murray with 14 mm falling at Kerang and 10 mm at Wentworth. The Riverland in South Australia received between 2 and 9 mm of rain. There was insufficient rain in the upper catchment to increase inflows however irrigation demand and river losses have remained relatively low.

River Murray Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has continued at 10 600 ML/day along the Mitta Mitta River, with about 90% of the release currently being made from the low level outlet. The transition to releases being made from the low level outlet has had a negligible effect on water quality which is continually being monitored. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has reduced by 70 GL to 1 100 GL (28% capacity).

Inflow to Hume Reservoir from the Upper Murray at Jingellic has reduced from 400 to 300 ML/day, with the release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme via Kancoban Pondage remaining steady at 140 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir reduced by 17 GL to 108 GL (3.6% capacity) and the flow downstream at Albury has averaged 12 500 ML/day.

In response to continued lower diversions and river losses, the release downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 8 000 to 7 700 ML/day. Release downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has been steady at 5 000 ML/day, but is expected to reduce to 4 300 ML/day over the coming week if there is no significant rain. Release downstream of Euston Weir, currently at 6 400 ML/day, is also expected to reduce over the coming week to about 6 000 ML/day.

Storage in Lake Victoria has reduced by 14 GL to 427 GL (63% capacity) and the flow to South Australia has been steady at 5 600 ML/day. Flow downstream of Lock 1 has averaged 3 100 ML/day however the level of the Lower Lakes at the Murray Mouth has continued to fall and is now 0.44m AHD.

Water Quality

While salinity levels along most of River Murray System have remained at relatively low levels, there are a number of locations where the salinity has recently increased. In the Darling River at Burtundy, the salinity has increased from 800 to 1000 EC since late November 2006, while the salinity in the Lower Lakes at Goolwa has increased from 2 000 to 2 600 EC since late December 2006.

Water samples taken prior to Christmas show increasing levels of Blue-green algae at some locations. The River Murray at Lake Hume, Albury, Barham, Tooleybuc, Euston and Mount Dispersion are currently on amber (moderate) alert. The Gulpa Creek at Mathoura is also on amber alert, whilst the Darling River at Menindee Lakes and Weir 32 are on red (high) alert.

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

River Murray Water

Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

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	426.93	1 100	28%	80	1 020	-70
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	166.10	108	4%	30	78	-17
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.80	427	63%	100	327	-14
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		173	10%	(- -) #	0	-7
Total		9 352		1 808	19%	--	1 426	-108

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 17%

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		297	29%	3	294	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		263	16%	24	239	-9
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		385	11%	100	285	-9

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-Jan-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	634	-1	Snowy-Murray	+0	683
Snowy-Murray Component	389	-1	Tooma-Tumut	+0	39
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	-0.1	644
			Murray 1 Release	+0	781

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.0	275.2
Wakool System loss	1.9	41.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	14.2
Licensed Pumps	3.8	124.1
Lower Darling	0.4	16.5
TOTAL	11.0	471.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.1	246
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	12.0	446
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.6	91
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	139
Licensed pumps - LMW	9.0	104
TOTAL	36.8	1 025

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	39.2	(5 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	56	
Flow last month	179	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	70	70	70
Euston	80	80	90
Red Cliffs	90	100	110
Merbein	90	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	1 000	980	740
Lock 9	100	110	120
Lake Victoria	170	160	160
Berri	200	200	220
Waikerie	300	310	350
Morgan	340	340	380
Mannum	460	450	460
Murray Bridge	480	490	430
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 370	1 330	1 200
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 240	1 190	1 000
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 490	2 440	2 240
Goolwa Barrages	2 600	2 490	1 810



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	-	-	-	140	R	140	130
Jingellic	4.0	0.95	207.47	310	S	350	370
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.39	220.28	10 610	S	10 630	10 650
Heywoods	5.5	2.77	156.40	12 790	R	12 230	12 110
Doctors Point	5.5	2.85	151.32	12 900	S	12 510	12 510
Albury	4.3	1.83	149.27	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.63	128.65	12 300	R	12 060	12 440
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.40	116.44	7 700	S	7 900	8 490
Tocumwal	6.4	1.89	105.73	7 520	F	7 790	8 170
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.78	80.33	4 950	F	5 160	4 500
Swan Hill	4.5	1.09	64.01	4 940	S	4 620	4 060
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.63	51.75	6 430	R	6 340	6 090
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.34	43.18	6 390	S	6 410	6 090
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 100	F	5 060	4 590
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.87	27.63	4 560	S	4 460	4 010
Rufus Junction	-	3.22	20.15	5 110	R	5 090	5 200
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.42	-	3 190	S	3 160	3 280
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.50	153.73	70	R	40	0
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.46	145.14	48	S	60	80
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.14	92.56	369	R	340	340
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.67	81.44	1 560	S	1 630	1 690
Edward at Liewah	-	2.33	57.71	1 710	F	1 810	2 110
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.40	54.89	347	S	330	290
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.44	57.40	887	R	890	930
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.11	-	52	R	90	110
Darling at Bourke	-	2.76	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	63	R	50	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	470	240
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+0.91
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.17
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.11	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.52
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.23	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.18	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.33

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.06	1.52	70.87	1850
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.68	1.15	62.45	1420



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.45

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.50	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.50	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.55	All closed	Closed	Open

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