

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 January 2007



*Our Ref : M2006/01015/prs, dwg*  
*Trim Ref : 07/2126*

25 January, 2007

## Rainfall and Inflows

Widespread rain fell across the south-west of the Basin this week with isolated storms providing very heavy falls in some locations. Blanchetown (Lock 1) recorded 84 mm of rain Mildura 40 mm and Swan Hill 51 mm. Less rain fell in north-eastern Victoria, generally 10 to 30 mm, however Mt Hotham recorded 88 mm.

The rain directly on the river and a significant reduction in irrigation demand has temporarily increased flow rates along the mid and lower reaches of the River Murray. However, inflows to the main storages in Upper Murray increased by only a small amount and have since receded to the very low levels prior to the rain. The estimated tributary inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir temporarily increased from 100 to 650 ML/day, while unregulated inflow to Hume Reservoir increased from 130 to only 400 ML/day.

## River Murray Operations

Storage in Hume Reservoir has increased from 90 to 109 GL (3.6% capacity). This has been due to a combination of higher inflows from the Snowy Mountains Scheme and a temporary reduction in the release from Hume Dam from 12 500 to 10 000 ML/day in response to lower irrigation demand and reduced river losses.

This small increase in storage at Hume Reservoir has enabled the release from Dartmouth Reservoir to be reduced from 10 600 to 10 000 ML/day, which is the normal channel capacity of the Mitta Mitta River (*see attached flow advice*).

To allow a partial lowering of Lake Moira, the level of the River Murray in the Barmah-Millewa Forest has been temporarily lowered by reducing the release from Yarrawonga Weir and by increasing the flow downstream of the Edward River and Gulpa Creek Offtakes (*see attached media release for details*).

In response to reduced irrigation demand, the flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir temporarily increased from 4 700 to 5 900 ML/day and the flow downstream of Euston Weir has increased by a similar amount from 6 000 to 7 000 ML/day.

The greatest impact of the rain was seen at downstream of Wentworth Weir where the flow temporarily increased from 4 000 to 6 600 ML/day. This additional water is being captured in Lake Victoria storage, which increased by 2 GL to 403 GL (60% capacity). In comparison, storage in Lake Victoria had been reducing by about 15 GL per week over the past month.

The rain in South Australia has provided a short-term boost to river flows with the release downstream of Lock 1 rising from 3 000 to 5 500 ML/day. In addition, Locks 1, 2, 3 and 4 have been surcharged slightly above their full supply levels and the level of the Lower Lakes has increased from 0.38 to 0.40 m AHD.

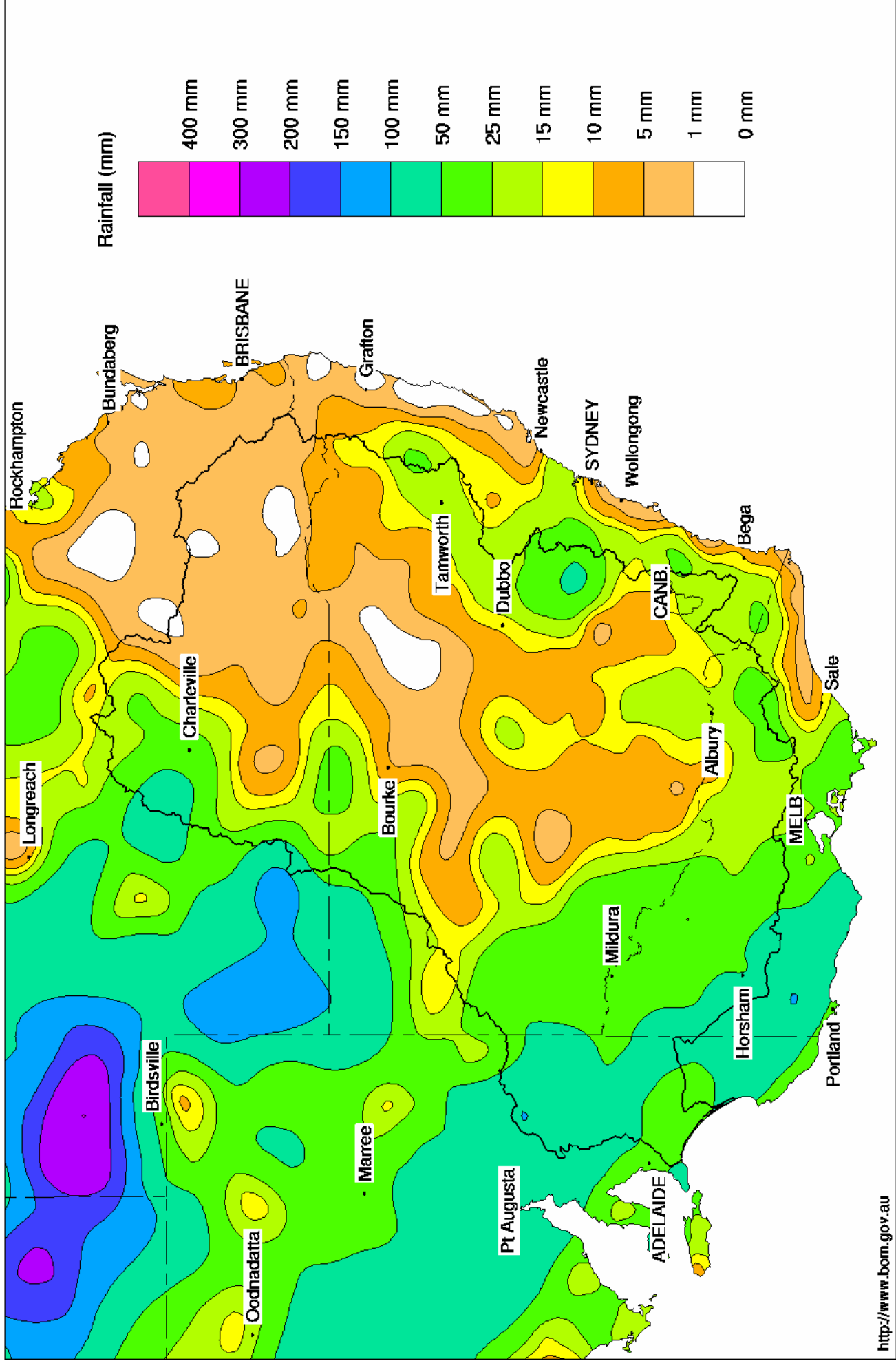
DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

*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](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)*

---

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th January 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



# MEDIA RELEASE

---



TRIM : 07/2017

**Monday, 22 January 2007**

## **Murray levels temporarily lowered below Yarrowonga Weir**

The level of the River Murray between Yarrowonga and Echuca will be temporarily lowered over the coming week to allow water to flow out of Lake Moira, River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager David Dreverman announced today.

“Lower water levels in Lake Moira, which is located in the Barmah-Millewa Forest, will save water by reducing evaporation and also provide environmental benefits by allowing a greater part of this wetland to go through its natural drying cycle over the remainder of summer and into autumn”, Mr Dreverman said.

Mr Dreverman added that “the lowering of the water level in Lake Moira is not usually undertaken until autumn due to high irrigation demands over the summer months, however the recent rain has reduced irrigation diversions and provided an opportunity to temporarily reduce the river level and allow water to flow from the wetland into the river”.

As part of this action, release from Yarrowonga Weir has been reduced from 7 700 to 7 000 ML/day, a reduction of about 9 cm to 1.31 m gauge height. In addition, more water will be temporarily diverted into the Edward River. Over the coming 2-3 days the level downstream of the Gulpa Creek offtake will be gradually increased by about 10 cm to 3.2 m gauge height (310 ML/day), and the level downstream of the Edward River offtake will be increased by about 30 cm to 2.25 m gauge height (1 300 ML/day).

“These changes are expected to result in the level of the River Murray at Picnic Point gradually falling by about 25 cm (currently 2.12 m gauge height) by 25 January”, Mr Dreverman said.

Further downstream, the level of the River Murray at Echuca Wharf is expected to reduce by 20- 25 cm (currently 86.6m AHD), however this will also depend on inflows received from the Goulburn River. The Torrumbarry Weir Pool will be maintained at or near the full supply level to minimise the impact on the river levels downstream of Echuca.

Mr Dreverman added that “this is a temporary measure and that river levels at Picnic Point are expected to start gradually increasing again by 29 January, but possibly not as high as before due to the lower downstream water requirements”.

Mr Dreverman advised river pumpers, boat operators and other river users to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

In particular boat masters are reminded that regardless of the changes to the weir pool level, they need to follow the NSW Maritime Authority's *Boating Handbook* (<http://www.maritime.nsw.gov.au/boathandling.html#inland>) which states: “continually assess the safety of the vessel’s speed” and “familiarise yourself with the area each time before attempting any high-speed activities such as water skiing or aquaplaning.”

### **Media contact:**

Sam Leone

Media Officer

Phone: 02 6279 0141 , E-mail: [sam.leone@mdbc.gov.au](mailto:sam.leone@mdbc.gov.au)

*(Sam Leone is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)*

# Flow Advice for Mitta Mitta River

---

**Monday, 22 January 2007**

## **Mitta Mitta River flow to be reduced**



Flow along the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir is gradually being reduced as a result of the recent rain, an increase in release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme and lower irrigation demand.

River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, Mr David Dreverman, said today that storage in Hume Reservoir had marginally increased over the past few days sufficient to allow a reduction in the rate at which water needs to be transferred from Dartmouth Reservoir.

The flow along the Mitta Mitta River is currently being gradually reduced from 3.40 m to 3.29 m at Tallandoon (10 000 ML/day), however this will be reviewed over the coming week as the full impact of the recent rain becomes clear.

Mr Dreverman thanked the Mitta Landholders for their co-operation over the past three months during which time the rate of release from Dartmouth Reservoir had been increased to 600 ML/day above normal channel capacity of 10 000 ML/day to maintain sufficient storage in Hume Reservoir as a result of the drought.

Without the co-operation of the Mitta Mitta River community, Hume storage levels would have been about 40 GL below the current very low volume.

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take into account the lower flow rates along the Mitta Mitta River and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

The release from Dartmouth Reservoir will be regularly reviewed and further advice will be issued if there is a significant change to the release program.

**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	422.02	958	25%	80	878	-71
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	166.13	109	4%	30	79	+19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.57	403	60%	100	303	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		166	10%	(- -) #	0	-3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 636</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 260</b>	<b>-53</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 15%

# 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		287	28%	3	284	-5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		256	16%	24	232	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		355	10%	100	255	-12

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Jan-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	547	-54	Snowy-Murray	+29	721
Snowy-Murray Component	347	-26	Tooma-Tumut	+10	56
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	18.5	665
			Murray 1 Release	+28	824

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.1	283.7
Wakool System loss	0.7	43.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	15.6
Licensed Pumps	3.8	132.5
Lower Darling	0.0	16.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>492.2</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.3	266
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.8	466
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	98
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	6.0	146
Licensed pumps - LMW	9.0	122
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>1 097</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	38.8	(5 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	135	
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	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	110
Merbein	100	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	1 010	1 020	760
Lock 9	110	110	120
Lake Victoria	180	170	160
Berri	220	220	220
Waikerie	290	300	350
Morgan	330	330	380
Mannum	430	450	460
Murray Bridge	470	480	430
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 330	1 340	1 210
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 340	1 240	1 020
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 400	2 400	2 250
Goolwa Barrages	5 660	4 450	1 960



**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	-	-	-	3 260	F	3 620	2 030
Jingellic	4.0	1.56	208.08	3 630	R	3 080	1 020
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	3.28	220.17	9 940	F	10 430	10 600
Heywoods	5.5	2.47	156.10	9 400	R	10 170	12 670
Doctors Point	5.5	2.59	151.06	10 100	R	10 780	12 970
Albury	4.3	1.58	149.02	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.23	128.25	9 550	F	11 310	12 590
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.31	116.35	7 000	S	7 440	7 710
Tocumwal	6.4	1.79	105.63	6 900	F	7 320	7 440
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.90	80.45	5 380	F	5 450	4 670
Swan Hill	4.5	1.15	64.07	5 260	R	4 590	4 460
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.60	51.72	6 300	R	5 960	6 140
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.43	43.27	6 940	R	6 330	6 210
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 940	F	5 650	4 640
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	5 930	F	5 390	3 980
Rufus Junction	-	3.16	20.09	4 740	R	4 910	5 270
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.53	-	5 450	S	3 780	2 940
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.74	153.97	270	R	250	180
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.40	145.08	26	S	30	30
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	474	R	370	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.80	81.57	1 730	F	1 700	1 550
Edward at Liewah	-	2.21	57.59	1 570	S	1 570	1 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.53	55.02	596	R	540	390
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.58	57.54	1 000	F	1 000	930
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.28	-	172	R	110	150
Darling at Bourke	-	2.59	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.73	-	88	S	80	60

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	930	- 400
---	-----	-------

**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	-0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+0.86
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.65
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.10	+0.24
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.22
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.22	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	-0.22

<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	-1.04	1.45	70.8	1710
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.38	1.08	62.38	1330



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.38

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.41	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.40	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.40	All closed	Closed	Open

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