

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 April 2007



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27 April, 2007

Rainfall

There were a few showers along the River Murray System this week with the higher falls occurring in north-eastern Victoria. There was 17 mm at Mount Hotham and 11 mm at Benalla. On 26 April widespread rain began falling in South Australia, with over 50 mm falling at some locations. The Bureau of Meteorology has predicted that this rain band will gradually pass over the eastern States this weekend.

River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been steady at 600 ML/day and is expected to be reduced to the minimum release of 200 ML/day early next week. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir declined by a further 3 GL to 463 GL (11.8% capacity). The storage volume is now likely to level out or gradually rise and is above the previous lowest level of 411 GL (10.5 % capacity) in April 1983.

With the imminent closure of the main irrigation canals in NSW and Victoria on 30 April, the flow downstream of Hume Reservoir at Doctors Point (Albury) has been gradually reduced from 7 000 to 2 500 ML/day. It is expected to be reduced further over the coming week to about 1 200 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased this week by 6 GL to 112 GL (3.7%) and further increases in storage volume are expected now that the release has been reduced.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been gradually reduced over the past week from 4 300 to 2 300 ML/day and a further reduction to about 1 800 ML/day is expected in the near future.

Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir is currently 2 600 ML/day and is expected to temporarily increase to over 3 000 ML/day this coming week due to lower irrigation demand and the likely effect of the forecast rainfall. However, if there is not significant rainfall then the flow at Torrumbarry Weir will gradually reduce next week to about 1 500 ML/day and the river level at Swan Hill may approach 0.6 m in early May.

Flow downstream of Euston Weir is expected to temporarily increase this weekend from 2 600 to over 3 000 ML/day and then gradually reduce again if there is no significant rain.

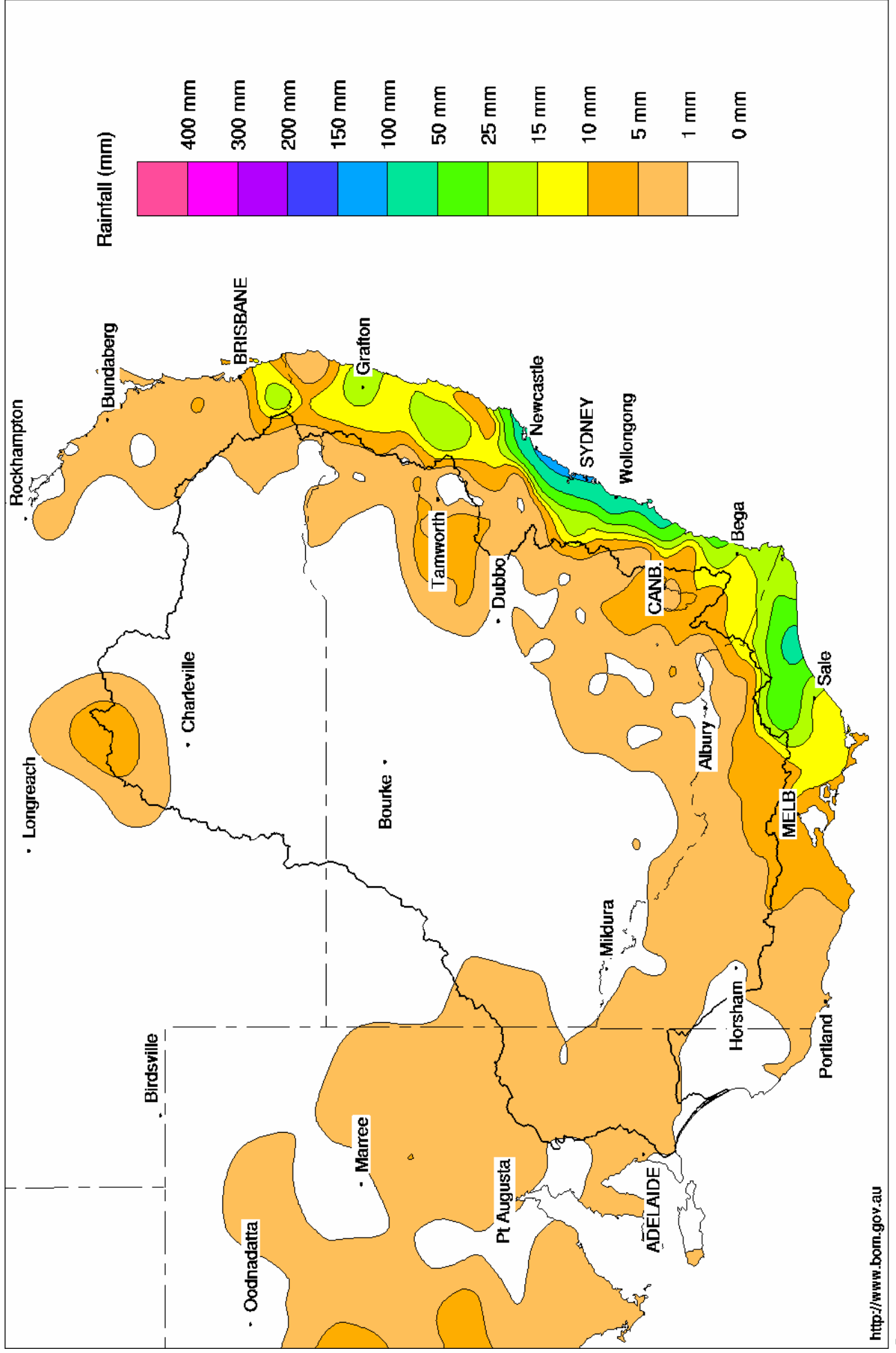
The NSW Department of Natural Resources has advised that releases from Menindee Lakes into the Lower Darling River will cease on 30 April. Inflows to the Wakool River System via the Wakool River, Yallakool Creek, Colligen Creek and Merran Creek will also cease on 30 April (*see attached media releases*).

The flow to South Australia has been steady at 1 750 ML/day, however last week's increased flow, in conjunction with a minor lowering of the Lock 5 Weir Pool to 4 cm below FSL, has gradually increased flow rates further downstream. The flow at Lock 3 has increased from 200 to 750 ML/day and the flow at Lock 1 has increased from 100 to 250 ML/day.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th April 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre





NSW Government

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

News release

26 April 2007

Lower Darling water releases suspended to protect Broken Hill water supplies

Releases of water to the lower Darling River downstream of Weir 32 will cease at the end of April in order to prolong supply to Broken Hill, the NSW Department of Natural Resources (DNR) said today.

DNR's Executive Director Water Management, David Harriss, said the decision to stop releasing water into the lower Darling was taken after storage levels at Menindee Lakes fell to 96,000 megalitres - less than six per cent of capacity.

"There have been no flows past Wilcannia upstream of Menindee Lakes since September last year, and the last significant flows were in January 2005," he said.

"The water supply for Broken Hill is secure for the immediate future. The water remaining in Menindee and local storages will ensure supply until about winter 2008.

"However the Department has decided to cease releases downstream of Weir 32 by the end of this month, which will conserve water supply for Broken Hill."

Mr Harriss said releases were being reduced gradually until the end of the month.

"Landholders on the Lower Darling River downstream of the weir should be aware that unless there is a significant improvement in upstream flows, there will be no flows in the lower river," he said.

"Irrigators with bores will be allowed to continue accessing groundwater within the conditions of their water licence.

"Unfortunately it is impossible to predict when flows will be re-established – we need some good rainfalls in the catchment for this to happen."

Media contact: Buntly Driver (03) 5898 3910



News release

26 April 2007

WATER FLOWS TO CEASE IN THE WAKOOL RIVER SYSTEM

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) today announced that flows into the Wakool River System will cease as of Monday 30th April.

DNR's Executive Director Water Management, David Harriss said that, diversions into the Wakool River system normally cease in May.

"However, this year, because of the continuing drought and reduced water availability, diversions into the system need to be stopped earlier," he said.

"The priority for river management is to secure essential urban and domestic and stock supplies for 2007/08.

"The transmission losses in the Wakool River system have been high, and now that irrigation demand has reduced significantly it is inappropriate to continue providing flows into the system when that water will be needed for urban supply next year."

Mr Harriss said that flows will also cease into the Merran Creek, which is part of the Wakool River system.

Flows should persist for a week or more in the lower reaches as the system dries out. Landholders should secure as much water as feasible on-farm to supply their domestic and stock requirements for the immediate future.

Mr Harriss said when water availability in NSW improves, diversions into the Wakool River system will return to normal.

Media contact: Buntly Driver (03) 58983910

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	400.00	463	12%	80	383	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	166.21	112	4%	30	82	+6
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.69	218	32%	100	118	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		101	6%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		894	10%	--	582	-7

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 7%

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		246	24%	3	243	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		206	13%	24	182	+8
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		189	6%	100	89	-27

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Apr-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	234	-38	Snowy-Murray	+31	925
Snowy-Murray Component	173	-30	Tooma-Tumut	+0	66
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	30.9	859
			Murray 1 Release	+37	1 049

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	328.3
Wakool System loss	1.5	67.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	23.0
Licensed Pumps	1.7	167.8
Lower Darling	0.1	18.2
TOTAL	3.6	604.9

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	7.7	361
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.7	605
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.0	134
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	156
Licensed pumps - LMW	5.2	215
TOTAL	21.9	1 472

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	12.4	(1 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	43	
Flow last month	88	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	80	70	70
Euston	120	120	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	110
Merbein	150	140	110
Burtundy (Darling)	1 090	1 090	870
Lock 9	130	130	120
Lake Victoria	190	190	160
Berri	330	340	240
Waikerie	-	350	330
Morgan	360	350	360
Mannum	400	400	440
Murray Bridge	490	470	430
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 600	1 610	1 300
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 610	1 570	1 170
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	2 360
Goolwa Barrages	-	-	3 100



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	-	-	-	4 370	F	5 100	4 200
Jingellic	4.0	1.71	208.23	4 770	F	4 800	3 860
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.45	218.34	710	S	710	930
Heywoods	5.5	1.74	155.37	3 580	F	4 570	6 820
Doctors Point	5.5	1.92	150.39	3 520	F	4 540	6 930
Albury	4.3	1.00	148.44	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.24	127.26	3 860	F	5 170	6 670
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.65	115.69	3 200	S	3 560	4 310
Tocumwal	6.4	1.13	104.97	2 910	F	3 400	3 990
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.17	79.72	2 760	F	2 950	2 600
Swan Hill	4.5	0.73	63.65	2 610	R	2 420	2 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.67	50.79	3 050	R	2 850	2 830
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.59	42.43	2 570	R	2 520	2 490
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 980	F	1 870	1 780
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	1 670	R	1 630	1 550
Rufus Junction	-	2.43	19.36	1 180	S	1 190	860
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.01	-	190	R	130	100
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.67	153.90	197	F	280	220
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.46	145.14	35	R	30	20
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	400	R	360	310
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.56	80.33	310	F	310	360
Edward at Liewah	-	0.81	56.19	375	F	390	290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.28	54.77	182	S	200	220
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	178	S	170	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	7	F	10	30
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	34	F	50	80
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	33	S	30	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)		
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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	-0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+0.10
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	-0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+0.02
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.14
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.17	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.11	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.20	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.74

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-4.49	0.63	69.98	325
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.09	0.19	61.49	305



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.10

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.13	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.15	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.19	All closed	Closed	Closed

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