

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 29 August 2007

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31 August, 2007



Rainfall and Inflows

This past week was extremely dry with virtually no rain falling in the southern basin. As a result, inflows have steadily decreased from last week's average of 13 GL/day to around 10 GL/day. Lack of rain and higher than average temperatures for this time of the year in irrigation areas has necessitated the start to the irrigation season. For example, Mildura has experienced temperatures up to 29 °C compared with an average max temperature of 18 °C for August. Diversions in both the Victorian and NSW major offtakes have commenced at relatively low rates to fill channels, supply stock and domestic water and supply limited irrigation water.

In contrast, the high rainfall experienced in Southern Queensland has extended into parts of the Border Rivers in the north of the Basin, with Goondawindi receiving 35 mm of rain. Flow in the Macintyre River at Goondiwindi increased temporarily from 70 to 6 700 ML/day but has since dropped back to 2 000 ML/day. It is still too early to forecast how this rain will effect flow in the Darling River, but it is unlikely to improve resource availability in the Murray System.

River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has risen to 632 GL (16.2% capacity) and Hume has risen to 760 GL (25% capacity). Release from Hume may soon be increased above the minimum rate if it stays warm and dry. Every effort is being made to minimise the release from Hume in order to initially conserve water as far upstream as possible and reduce losses.

Early season irrigation demands will be initially supplied from inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa rivers. Once these inflows are insufficient to meet downstream requirements, Lake Mulwala will be further drawn down in order to supplement flows downstream to meet irrigation demands at the major offtakes. The aim is to retain as much flexibility as possible, through September to capture any Kiewa/Ovens flush. Lake Mulwala pool level is currently around 124.4 m AHD and if required, may be drawn down to about 123.8 m AHD by mid-September. Release from Yarrowonga Weir has decreased from 4 500 ML/day to 3 000 ML/day and is likely to be further decreased to around 2 500 ML/day over the coming week.

Torrumbarry Weir is currently at 85.94 m AHD (11 cm below Full Supply Level) and will be raised to about 86.00 m AHD within the next few days. This increased pool level will provide greater flexibility in river operations, helping to delay the need to increase releases from Hume Reservoir.

Euston Weir is currently 25 cm below Full Supply Level in order to achieve water savings and is expected to remain at about this level over the coming weeks. The release downstream of Euston is currently 5 700 ML/day and is expected to reduce to about 2 500 ML/day by mid September if conditions remain dry.

On the Edward River, the Stevens Weir pool level has been partially raised to 3.3 m AHD (FSL is 5.2 m AHD) and will remain at this level over the coming weeks in order to supply water to the Wakool Canal. Release from Stevens Weir is currently 600 ML/day and, if conditions remain dry, is expected to reduce to around 300 ML/day over the coming week. NSW State Water announced that the water supply to the Murray and Edward river effluent streams which include the Yallakool and Colligen Creek, Wakool and Merran Creek systems will not commence in the immediate future. (See attached media release)

Lake Victoria continues to rise and current storage is 526 GL (78 % of capacity), up 24 GL from last week. Release from Lake Victoria has remained steady at 700 ML/day with flow to SA at 1100 ML/day.

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DEFERRAL OF SUPPLY TO YALLAKOOL, WAKOOL, COLLIGEN AND MERRAN CREEK SYSTEMS

29 August 2007

Water supply to the Murray and Edward River effluent streams which include Yallakool and Colligen Creek, Wakool River and Merran Creek System will not commence in the immediate future.

South Area Customer Service Manager Lindsay Beck said the Department of Water and Energy had advised there is insufficient water available to New South Wales to enable releases into many of the effluent systems in the Murray Valley.

"As a result, State Water can not accept water orders from landholders and customers in these systems until further notice," he said.

Mr Beck said as the season progressed State Water would revise the delivery strategy for these river and creek systems.

Enquiries should be directed to the **Duty Operations Officer on 03 5898 3925.**

- ENDS-

**Media enquiries and interviews:
Donna Ambler 02 6841 2077 or 0429 449711**

For **Water Delivery Announcements** and State Water Media Releases go to:
<http://www.statewater.com.au/whanew/mediareleases.htm>

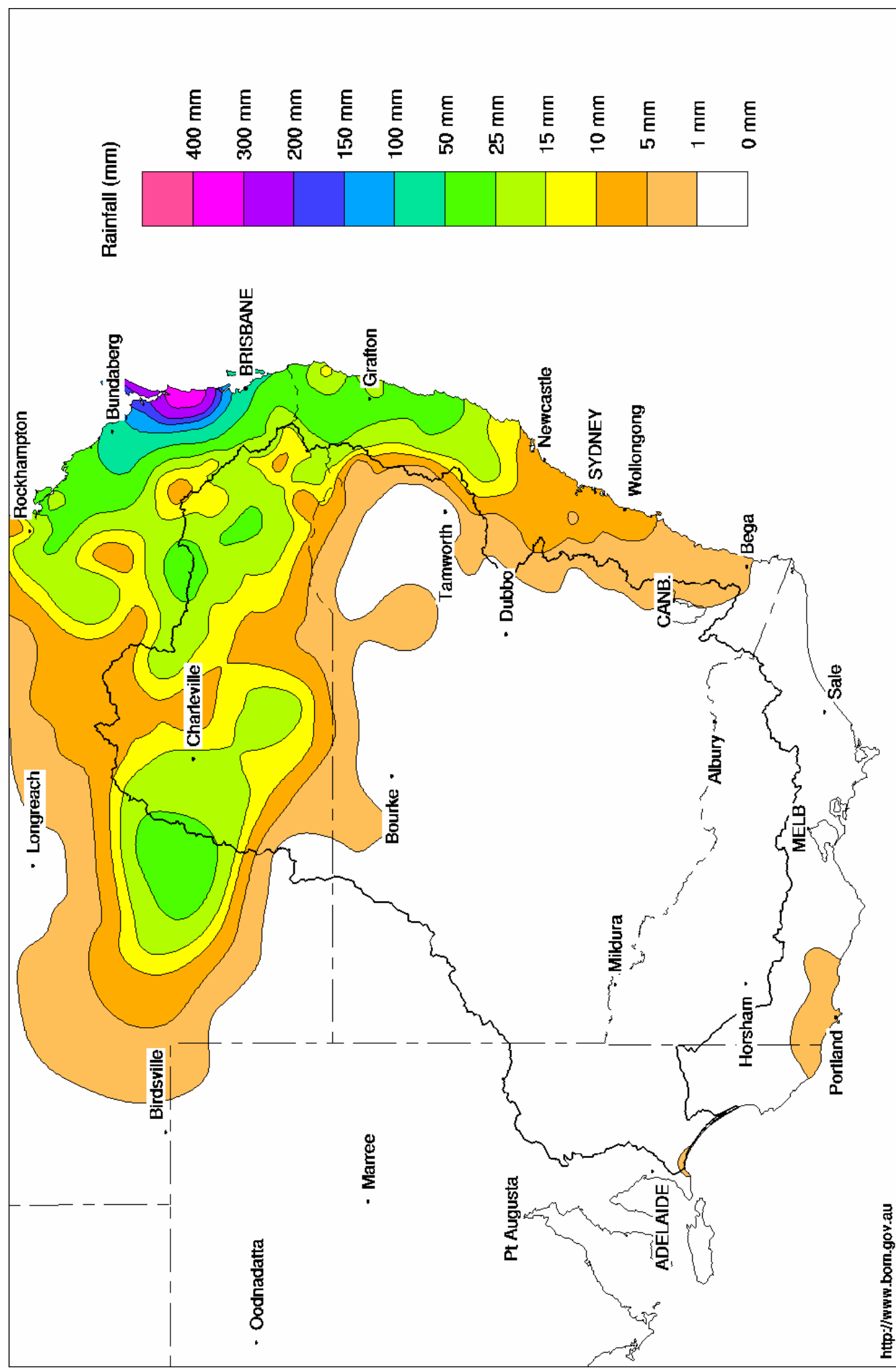
For **Available Water Determinations** and Department of Natural Resources
Media Releases go to:

http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html

For more information about **storage levels** and **river heights**
go to the *Waterinfo Website* at <http://www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au>

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 29th August 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	408.73	632	16%	80	552	+10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.26	760	25%	30	730	+26
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.72	527	78%	100	427	+29
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		70	4%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		1 988	21%	--	1 709	+61

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **20%**
 # 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		433	42%	3	430	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		473	29%	24	449	-13
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		738	22%	100	638	+17

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Aug-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	288	+27	Snowy-Murray	+2	238
Snowy-Murray Component	182	+16	Tooma-Tumut	+0	74
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	1.5	163
			Murray 1 Release	+3	328

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	1.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.4
Licensed Pumps	0.9	4.6
Lower Darling	0.2	.4
TOTAL	1.2	7.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.8	9
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.5	2
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	4
TOTAL	8.8	17

Flow to South Australia (GL)

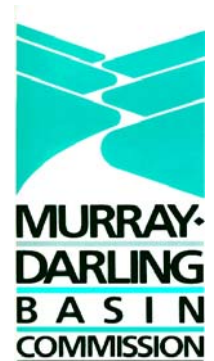
Entitlement this month	124 *	
Flow this week	7.9	(1 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	36	
Flow last month	37	

* Reduced to approx. 35 GL during August drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	150	110	100
Euston	110	100	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	120	120	110
Burtundy (Darling)	1 070	1 070	1 070
Lock 9	120	110	130
Lake Victoria	130	130	180
Berri	480	490	470
Waikerie	660	650	640
Morgan	710	700	670
Mannum	400	410	430
Murray Bridge	550	540	530
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 210	2 120	2 040
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 350	2 440	2 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 510	2 560	2 510
Goolwa Barrages	13 200	12 720	15 140



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	-	-	-	750	R	880	2 570
Jingellic	4.0	1.37	207.89	2 290	F	2 790	5 060
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.36	218.25	540	S	560	640
Heywoods	5.5	1.07	154.70	460	S	460	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.54	150.01	1 430	R	1 220	1 720
Albury	4.3	0.67	148.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.41	126.43	1 130	F	1 370	1 850
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.61	115.65	3 020	S	3 800	5 360
Tocumwal	6.4	1.14	104.98	3 460	F	4 410	5 750
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.08	79.63	2 480	F	3 320	4 730
Swan Hill	4.5	0.81	63.73	3 460	F	4 330	4 720
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.34	51.46	5 460	F	5 820	6 180
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.21	43.05	5 870	F	6 390	6 720
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 080	F	6 230	6 250
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	5 610	F	5 800	5 760
Rufus Junction	-	2.39	19.32	620	F	650	630
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.13	-	280	F	510	650
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.42	154.65	1 220	R	1 050	1 520
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.46	146.14	2 105	R	2 390	3 320
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	369	S	360	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.94	80.71	680	F	900	810
Edward at Liewah	-	1.54	56.92	893	F	1 050	1 160
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.16	54.65	71	F	90	120
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.58	56.54	254	F	280	350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	-	7	S	10	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	223	S	280	380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.44	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 430	9 870
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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	-0.51	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.09	+0.09
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.11	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	-0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.27	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.02
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.09
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.36	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	-0.09	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.62

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.28	0.62	69.97	315
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.08	0.17	61.47	287



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.23

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.24	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.24	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.25	All closed	Closed	Closed

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