



**STILL FILLING:** The Menindee Lakes storage increased by 17 gigalitres this week.

# Basin sodden

## Catchments are primed from rain

THERE were good falls of rain across most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week.

According to River Murray Water, the highest falls of rain were in the upper catchments of the Goulburn, Campaspe and Loddon rivers while there were moderate falls in parts of southern and western NSW.

Violet Town, in northeast Victoria, recorded 61mm while there was 72mm at Kinglake West, north of Melbourne, and 56 mm at Junee, near Wagga Wagga.

Streamflows responded well in the upper Murray tributaries, as the catchments were primed from previous rain.

The Mitta Mitta River recorded a flow peak of 2370 ML/day at Jinnomunjie while the Ovens River at Wangaratta peaked at 1050 ML/day.

Inflows from the Goulburn River are expected to increase to about 2500 ML/day during the coming week.

Murray System inflows (excluding Menindee Lakes) averaged about 14.8 GL/day for the last 7 days, up from 9.4 GL/day last week.

The long-term average is 22.5 GL/day for June.

The Paroo River continues to flow slowly into the Darling River upstream of Wilcannia,

2500 ML/day.

Rainfall in June 2010 was below average across much of the Murray-Darling Basin, including the upper reaches of the River Murray System.

As a result, Murray System Inflows (excluding Menindee inflows and Snowy releases) were about 280 GL, which is below the long term average for June of 674 GL, but is the highest for June since 2002.

The upper catchments remain wet and should respond well to future rainfall events during winter and spring.

MDBA active storage (including Menindee Lakes) has increased by 70 GL to 3285 GL (38 per cent capacity).

This volume is significantly higher than this time last year (1200 GL or 14 per cent capacity), but still well below the long term average for the end of June (5530 GL).

Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 15 GL during the week and is currently storing 1281 GL water (33 per cent capacity).

There was an increase of 49 GL in Hume Reservoir to 814 GL (27 per cent capacity).

Releases from Dartmouth Reservoir have been maintained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

Euston, Mildura and Wentworth weirs have remained steady at close to Full Supply Level (FSL).

Flows through these weirs are expected to increase over the next one to three weeks as the higher flows arrive from the upper Murray, and the Goulburn rivers.

In late July, the Mildura Weir pool will be fully drawn down to allow for upgrade works.

It is expected that the weir pool will be raised back to FSL by mid-August.

The Mildura Lock will be closed while the pool level is low.

Menindee Lakes are still filling, albeit slowly.

The storage volume increased during the week by 17 GL to 1522 GL (88 per cent capacity).

Currently, Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo are fully surcharged while Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla are at about 81 per cent capacity.

The volume of water stored in Menindee Lakes is expected to peak at about 1550 GL in late July.

The release from Menindee Lakes is currently at the normal winter minimum of 200 ML/day.

Lake Victoria's storage has decreased by 11 GL in the last week to 358 GL (53 per cent capacity), and the storage volume is expected to continue decreasing for the next couple of