

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 23 August 2000

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng **25 August, 2000**



Rainfall totals in the upper Murray and tributary catchments were generally less than forecast this week. Falls of between 10 and 25 mm on southern alpine districts produced only minor increases in streamflows. Inflows to upper Murray storages receded during the latter part of the week, and are expected to continue receding next week at a slower rate. Elsewhere in the Basin, light falls of less than 10 mm fell across northern and western New South Wales, but were generally insufficient to generate rises in streamflows.

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 240 GL to 2 478 GL (82% of capacity, which 560 GL and 3.0 m below full supply level). River Murray Water is continuing to closely monitor inflows and storage at Hume, and there is now about a 90% chance of Hume filling this spring. Recent inflows and the current storage position are not yet sufficient (based on historical inflow and demand sequences) to ensure spilling of the storage without further significant rain. However, any further substantial inflow events would be sufficient to enable 'pre-releases' to be made for flood mitigation purposes without impacting on the availability of water resources.

Rainfall totals in the Kiewa and Ovens River catchments were also less than expected, and inflows from these tributaries to the Murray receded during the week. Release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased to a peak of 22 000 ML/day before being reduced to 16 500 on 23 August, and without further significant rain, release will continue to be gradually reduced next week.

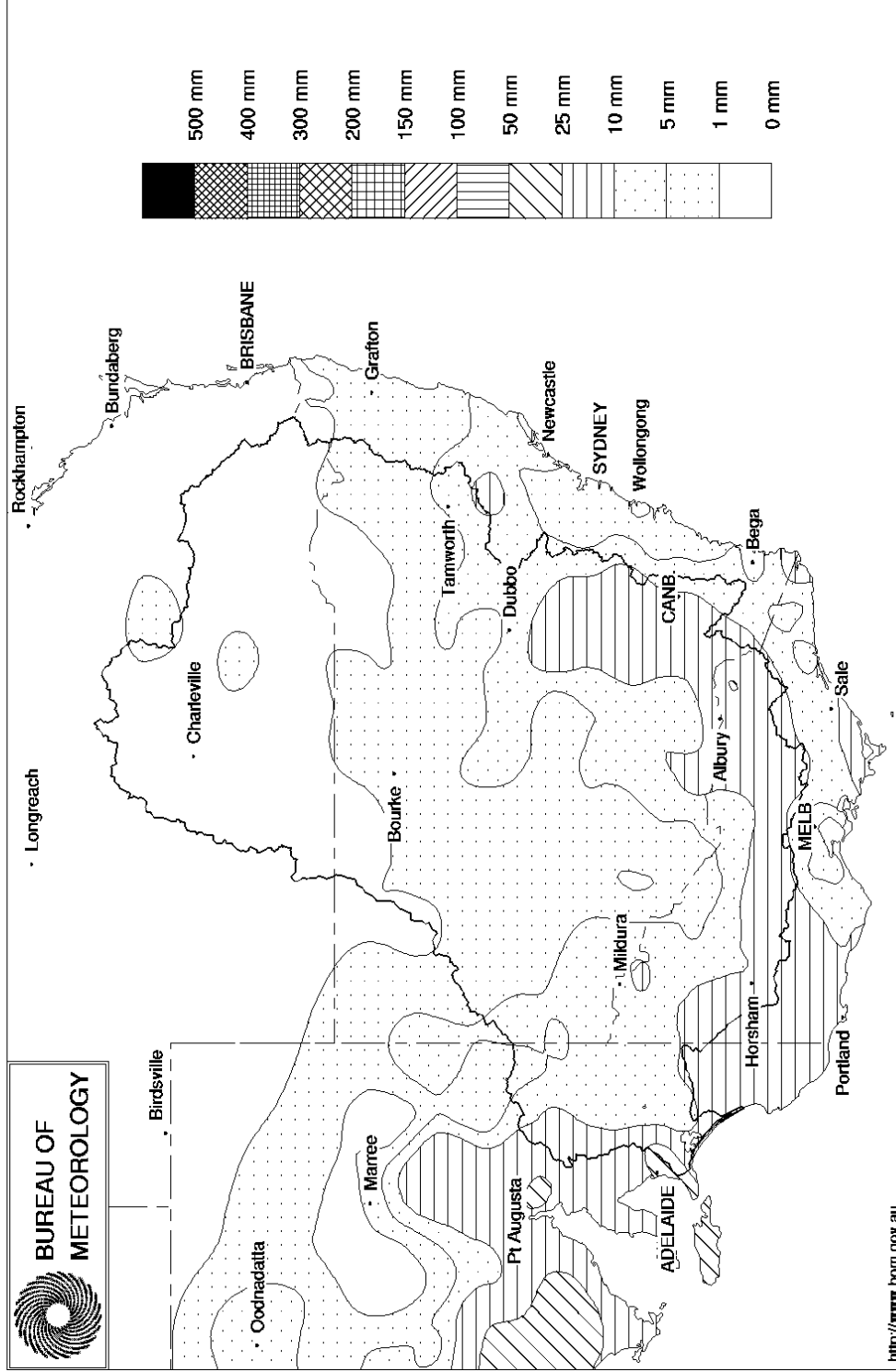
The lower Goulburn catchment contribution to the River Murray peaked at about 4 500 ML/day this week. This, together with reduced diversion via National Channel, led to flow in the River Murray downstream of Torrumbarry Weir being increased from 9 000 ML/day to 10 700 ML/day by the end of the week, with a further rise to a peak of about 11 500 ML/day expected next week. Murrumbidgee River flow to the Murray has increased to 1 800 ML/day in response to rain in recent weeks, and is forecast to increase further next week. As a result, flow in the River Murray downstream of Euston Weir (currently 11 000 ML/day) is expected to increase to about 13 500 ML/day by the end of August.

Storage in Menindee Lakes has been maintained at surcharge capacity by balancing discharges to the Lower Darling River and the Great Darling Anabranch (currently a total of 3 400 ML/day) and evaporation with inflows. Upstream of Menindee, flow in the Darling River at Bourke has remained relatively steady between 2 000-2 500 ML/day since late June. Inflows to the Darling River from the Paroo River have increased slightly since early August (currently estimated at about 2 000-2 500 ML/day).

Lake Victoria currently holds 572 GL (84% capacity, and about 1.0 m below full supply level). The Lake water level is continuing to be drawn down slowly, at a rate of about 25 mm/day, and is to continue until at least 31 August. Flow to South Australia is currently 12 000 ML/day (which is 5 000 ML/day above the current requirement of 4 000 ML/day August entitlement plus 3 000 ML/day additional dilution flow). Without further significant rain, it will be reduced to the requirement of 7 500 ML/day in September. Opportunities for further drawdown of the Lake to minimise the duration of inundation of the foreshore will depend on improvements in inflows to the River Murray system. Lake Victoria will be subsequently refilled in spring to conserve water resources for South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales.

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General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd August 2000
 Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending 23-Aug-2000

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	FSL	Full Supply	Level	Storage		Dead storage	Active storage	Change for week
	m AHD	GL	m AHD	GL	%	GL	GL	GL
Dartmouth Reservoir	486	3906	460.43	2432	62%	80	2352	+42
Hume Reservoir	192	3038	189.06	2478	82%	30	2448	+240
Lake Victoria	27	680	26.02	572	84%	100	472	-16
Menindee		1682 *		1997	119%	480 #	1517	-0
Total		9306		7480	80%	690	6790	+266

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 79%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	511	50%	3	508	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1054	65%	24	1030	+48
Eildon Reservoir	3390	913	27%	100	813	+34

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-Aug-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversions	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2264	-12	Snowy-Murray	+32	419
Snowy-Murray Component	1040	-23	Tooma-Tumut	+7	86
Target Storage	1190		Nett Diversion	24.9	334
			Murray 1 Release	+36	489

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	23.1	36.8
Wakool System loss	1.6	3.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	0.7
Licensed Pumps	5.0	17.8
Lower Darling	13.4	56.6
TOTAL	43.4	115.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.9	0.9
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.8	67.6
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	1.9
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	0.8
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	12.5
TOTAL	24.7	83.6

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124
Flow this week	88.6
Flow so far this month	326
Flow last month	211

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	220	125	208
Euston	200	235	225
Red Cliffs	350	330	253
Merbein	330	230	192
Burtundy	410	406	375
Lock 9	210	223	238
L. Victoria	370	331	327
Berri	340	331	329
Waikerie	350	360	374
Morgan	350	342	411
Mannum	400	419	446
Murray Bridge	370	382	406
Meningie	1300	1250	1213
Goolwa Barrages	870	1039	1031



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	7770	S	7500	5890
Jingellic	4.0	3.02	18280	R	21980	18390
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.20	3680	R	3760	2750
Heywoods	5.5	1.34	600	R	560	590
Doctors Point	5.5	2.09	4510	R	5520	5270
Albury	4.3	1.10	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.44	5230	F	8000	5320
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.65	17800	F	20600	15370
Tocumwal	6.4	3.47	20110	F	19580	13170
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.27	10666	R	9950	8260
Swan Hill	4.5	1.69	8930	F	8070	7480
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.78	11300	R	9860	9660
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.12	10960	R	9780	11010
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.16	10020	R	10570	12520
Rufus Junction	-	4.24	11336	F	12180	14870
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	12400	S	14030	16210
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.46	3950	R	4070	4430
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.43	9202	R	12370	14290
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.29	4058	F	3450	3940
Edward at Liewah	-	2.40	1870	F	2040	1770
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.52	542	S	490	230
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.97	1810	R	610	450
Darling at Bourke	-	4.36	2160	F	2300	2160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.14	1530	R	1420	1940
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	70	S	60	70

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	36780	31670
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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	+0.03	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.93
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.50
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.51
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.28	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+1.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.52	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.70
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.66
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.02	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	+0.25

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	+0.29	4.21	9170
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.25	3.05	4480

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.78	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.73	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.74	All closed

