

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 6 December 2000

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :brc:bwh

8 December, 2000



Rainfall was mainly restricted to NSW catchment areas of the Basin this week, with totals of generally less than 25 mm recorded on the western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. These falls are not expected to significantly increase the volume of floodwater in transit in the Darling River system upstream of Menindee Lakes, and the volume currently in transit to the Lakes is significantly less than in the 1998 flood event. Release from Menindee Lakes is not expected to exceed 20 000 ML/day unless there is further significant rainfall in the Darling River system (see copy of Media Release attached).

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been maintained at 400 ML/day at Colemans (minimum flow 200 ML/day) over the last two weeks to reduce the impact of turbid water entering the Mitta Mitta River from downstream tributaries. Monitoring of water quality in the Mitta Mitta River and tributaries is continuing, and the rate of release from Dartmouth will be kept under review.

As reported last week, release from Hume Reservoir was increased to greater than channel capacity downstream of the Kiewa River junction on Thursday 30 November in order to provide sufficient flow for environmental requirements of the Barmah-Millewa Forest and high irrigation demand. Flow at Albury reached a peak of 28 000 ML/day during 1 and 2 December, and was reduced to 27 000 ML/day in the afternoon of 2 December. Albury flow was reduced to channel capacity on 5 December – this reduction was earlier than previously expected, and this was due to a slower recession of flow contribution from the Ovens River than anticipated, and irrigation diversions from Lake Mulwala being slightly less than forecast.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been set to meet the current flow targets specified by the Barmah-Millewa Forum to maintain suitable water levels in the forest to sustain environmental processes in progress. Accordingly, release was reduced from 20 000 to 18 500 ML/day on 4 December, and will be maintained at 18 500 ML/day until 9 December, and will then be reduced to 16 000 ML/day. These target flows are aimed at maintaining inundation of key wetland areas in the forest, particularly the Gulpa Creek system and Moira Lake, to allow completion of breeding cycles of large numbers of waterfowl.

The occurrence of some areas of “black water” in the Barmah-Millewa Forest and other areas of the Murray has been recently reported. This is a natural event of discolouration of floodwaters due to break down and leaching of leaf and forest litter, and resulting deoxygenation of water as a result of long periods of slow water movement during and after a flood. This feature is not uncommon after the occurrence of floods, however, because there have been few floods in recent years, there has been less black water observed. The black water currently being reported has resulted from flooding generated by rainfall events upstream, rather than from release of the Barmah-Millewa Forest Water Allocation. Since mid August, the total volume released from Yarrawonga Weir has been over 4 000 GL, almost all of which has been generated by rainfall events, and only about 160 GL (or 4%) of that volume was specifically released from the Barmah-Millewa Forest Account.

Following the flooding in the mid Murray and tributaries in November, flow in the River Murray at Euston Weir peaked at about 51 300 ML/day this week. When combined with flow in transit in the lower Darling River due to release from Menindee Lakes, the River Murray flow at Wentworth is expected to peak at about 55 000 ML/day during the next 7 days. River Murray Water is planning, in consultation with South Australian agencies, to operate Lake Victoria to enhance this peak flow to achieve environmental benefit on floodplains in South Australia in a similar manner as undertaken with the previous peak in October.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager



MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday, 6 December 2000

Releases from Menindee Lakes

River Murray Water and the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation today announced that releases from Menindee Lakes are now expected to reach a peak of 20 000 ML/day at Weir 32 (6.25 m gauge height) by Monday 11 December.

Inflows to Menindee Lakes are currently about 9 000 ML/day and increasing slowly. Releases from the Lakes are currently about 16 000 ML/day at Weir 32 (5.4 m gauge height), and the storage is being slowly drawn down to provide airspace to manage the flood peak when it reaches Menindee in late December or early January.

Release from the Lakes to the lower Darling River is currently not expected to exceed 20 000 ML/day unless there is further significant rainfall throughout the catchment.

Flow in the Darling River at Burtundy is now about 7 700 ML/day (4.0 m gauge height), and is expected to reach about 13 500 ML/day (5.8 m gauge height) in mid December.

The duration of the peak release at Weir 32 will be advised in future media releases, as more information on inflow volume to Menindee Lakes becomes available.

The flow in the Darling River and tributary catchments upstream of Menindee is being monitored closely by the Department of Land and Water Conservation. Regular updates will be provided during the flood event.

Flow in the River Murray at Wentworth is currently about 51 000 ML/day. As a result of combined inflows from the current small flood in the River Murray, and releases from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River, the flow in the River Murray at Wentworth is now expected to peak in the range 53 000 to 55 000 ML/day in the period 10 to 15 December.

For further information contact:

Daniel Connell

Media Liaison Officer

Phone: (02) 6279 0129

Mobile: 0418 276 498

Email: daniel.connell@mdbc.gov.au

(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

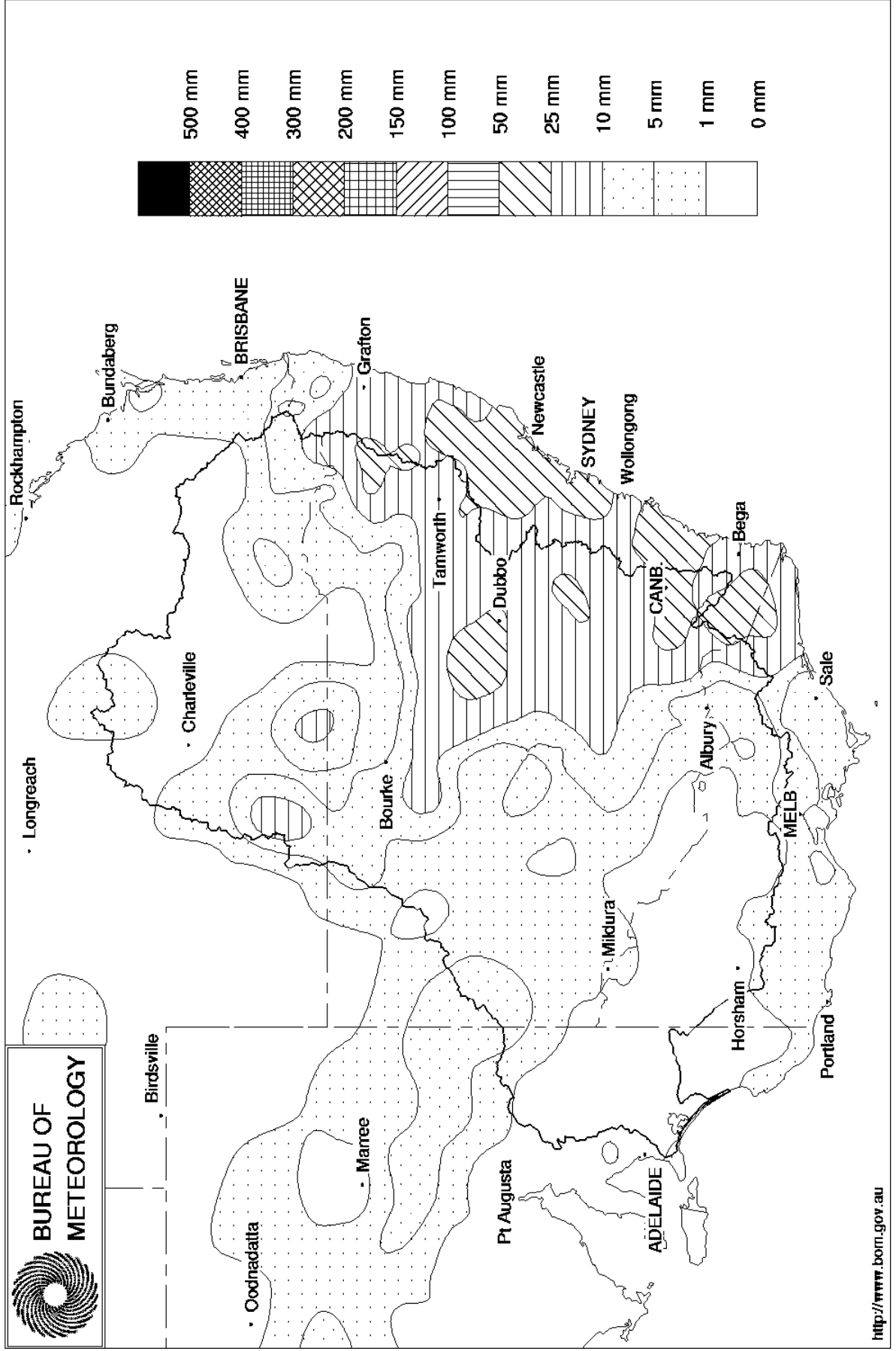
Recorded Information Service, Menindee Tel. (08) 8091 4586

DLWC Website:

<http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/drr/flood/>

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th December 2000

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending 06-Dec-2000

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level m AHD	Full Supply Capacity GL	Storage Level m AHD	Current Storage		Dead storage GL	Active storage GL	Change for the week GL
				GL	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3906	472.60	3084	79%	80	3004	+13
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	191.13	2865	94%	30	2835	-104
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.57	632	93%	100	532	-16
Menindee		1682 *		1777	106%	480 #	1297	-106
Total		9306		8358	90%	690	7668	-212

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **89%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026		913	89%	3	910	-12
Blowering Reservoir	1631		1355	83%	24	1331	-39
Eildon Reservoir	3390		1792	53%	100	1692	-1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Dec-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3058	+25	Snowy-Murray	+5	522
Snowy-Murray Component	1524	+16	Tooma-Tumut	+6	283
Target Storage	1510		Nett Diversion	-0.7	239
			Murray 1 Release	+12	844

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July	Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	68.7	515.8	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	21.3	121.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.4	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.9	254.2
Western Murray Irrig.	1.2	7.8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.9	44.3
Licensed Pumps	8.0	96.6	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.6	11.5
Lower Darling	11.9	136.9	Licensed pumps - SRW	5.0	64.4
TOTAL	89.8	761.5	TOTAL	59.7	495.4

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217
Flow this week	306.7
Flow so far this month	267
Flow last month	809

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	200	209	222
Euston	180	191	196
Red Cliffs	250	260	232
Merbein	220	230	192
Burtundy	450	422	424
Lock 9	240	236	220
L. Victoria	270	272	302
Berri	270	248	291
Waikerie	270	270	341
Morgan	260	275	340
Mannum	290	270	340
Murray Bridge	300	273	339
Meningie	1180	1240	1277
Goolwa Barrages	580	922	1545



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage m	Gauge height m	Flow ML/day	Trend	Average flow this week ML/day	Average flow last week ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	1630	R	2840	2490
Jingellic	4.0	1.81	5730	F	8240	8430
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.75	1790	F	2000	2440
Heywoods	5.5	3.60	22950	F	24560	20230
Doctors Point	5.5	3.92	25500	F	26610	23860
Albury	4.3	3.00	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.48	27400	S	26640	23030
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.72	18500	S	19570	25690
Tocumwal	6.4	3.47	20110	F	21380	30050
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.88	18279	F	20690	35310
Stevens Weir (d/s)		3.23	4650	F	7236	10241
Swan Hill	4.5	3.56	21840	F	23040	24300
Wakool Junction	8.8	8.64	45249	F	47060	48080
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	6.03	51190	S	51040	47050
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	5.83	52800	R	47730	38940
Rufus Junction	-	6.85	47635	R	43820	31180
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	34900	R	32070	27130
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.54	1600	R	1740	2640
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.95	3257	F	3900	6490
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.40	755	F	1050	7710
Edward at Liewah	-	4.69	6240	F	6870	8270
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.87	18500	F	20430	22970
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.95	610	F	780	1180
Darling at Bourke	-	9.73	38000	R	31700	17330
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.00	7670	R	4990	690
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.44	11300	F	8740	3530

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12260	16000
---	-------	-------

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	+0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.72	-28.25
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.07	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.10	+2.52
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.43	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.12	+2.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+2.76	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.14	+3.12
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+3.19	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+2.30
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+2.46	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+2.34
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.71	+3.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.04	+1.55

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.38	0.76	450
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.09	0.28	394

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	15
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	30

