

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 April 2001

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng

19 April, 2001



Conditions were dry throughout the Murray-Darling Basin this week except for some light rainfall in the range of 1 to 5 mm recorded in the Victorian tributaries of the upper Murray.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been held steady to maintain flow at Albury near 12 700 ML/day throughout the week. Rain forecast for next weekend may result in a reduction in demand and a consequential reduction in release from Hume Reservoir. Storage in Hume is currently 830 GL or 27% of capacity.

In the Ovens River, the additional releases from Lake Buffalo and Lake William Hovel have now ceased, and flow at Wangaratta is expected to decrease to about 500 ML/day early next week. The additional volume supplied by Victoria from the Ovens River over the last two weeks is about 8 000 ML, and has enabled that volume to be conserved in Hume Reservoir for subsequent use.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala declined to 5 300 ML/day before rising to 6 500 ML/day by the end of the week, and is expected to remain near this level next week unless influenced by rain. Diversion from the Lake to Mulwala Canal is expected to cease this season at the end of April 2001, however, demand during the remainder of April will be partially met by drawing on water stored in the canal itself as the irrigation season draws to a close. Diversion to Yarrawonga Main Channel is expected to continue to 15 May unless conditions become very wet. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced to 7 700 ML/day and is expected to be reduced further next week as demand downstream continues to decline.

Diversion from Torrumbarry Weir pool to National Channel has decreased from 3 700 to 3 400 ML/day, and is expected to gradually reduce in coming weeks with the conclusion of diversions expected on or before mid May. Further downstream at Swan Hill, flow in the Murray increased from a temporary low of about 2 000 ML/day to 2 800 ML/day. A short lived but significant rise in river salinity was recorded at Swan Hill this week with readings peaking at 430 EC before declining to the current level of 110 EC. This was in response to temporary cessation of the Barr Creek pumps which prevent saline flows from entering the River Murray.

Flow in the Darling River at Wilcannia increased from 2 000 to 3 600 ML/day, and will continue to rise next week. Release from Menindee Lakes has continued to be gradually reduced and is now 2 750 ML/day. It is expected that release will reach the minimum requirement of 500 ML/day by late April.

Flow in the River Murray at Wentworth has receded from 13 000 to 8 000 ML/day as a result of declining flows in the Murray and lower Darling, and will continue to recede next week. Flow to South Australia has declined from 21 000 to 16 000 ML/day, and further reductions will occur next week. The water level of Lake Victoria was drawn down by 0.7 m to 24.3 m, which is 2.7 m below full supply level.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

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	472.79	3095	79%	80	3015	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	176.98	830	27%	30	800	-64
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.18	379	56%	100	279	-68
Menindee		1682 *		1922	114%	480 #	1442	-22
Total		9306		6226	67%	690	5536	-156

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **64%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	404	39%	3	401	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1631	647	40%	24	623	-20
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1061	31%	100	961	-38

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Apr-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2934	-11	Snowy-Murray	+14	707
Snowy-Murray Component	1406	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	314
Target Storage	1340		Nett Diversion	12.9	393
			Murray 1 Release	+9	1067

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)	30.7	1554.1	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	13.1	463.8
Wakool System loss	1.6	36.4	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.7	738.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	28.8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	146.2
Licensed Pumps	10.9	353.6	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	54.0
Lower Darling	0.2	289.6	Licensed pumps - SRW	3.2	151.7
TOTAL	44.0	2262.6	TOTAL	42.9	1554.1

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135
Flow this week	122.8
Flow so far this month	368
Flow last month	430

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	110	276	219
Euston	170	153	198
Red Cliffs	220	230	243
Merbein	230	250	225
Burtundy	400	397	412
Lock 9	320	306	269
L.Victoria	330	334	305
Berri	340	338	325
Waikerie	360	360	388
Morgan	350	348	390
Mannum	380	383	405
Murray Bridge	410	403	398
Meningie	1220	1220	1255
Goolwa Barrages	550	575	1159



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	-	-	2160	F	2270	1760
Jingellic	4.0	1.33	2150	S	2790	2690
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.35	700	F	750	780
Heywoods	5.5	2.81	12260	S	12290	15290
Doctors Point	5.5	2.90	12600	F	12700	16210
Albury	4.3	1.86	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.80	13900	S	14170	17910
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.43	7760	F	8240	8920
Tocumwal	6.4	2.07	8990	F	9160	9390
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.34	3438	R	3330	2510
Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.51	235	S	262	299
Swan Hill	4.5	0.79	2850	S	2460	2220
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.86	3231	R	3300	5130
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.87	3190	F	3510	6990
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.14	7830	F	9660	14680
Rufus Junction	-	4.70	14912	F	16480	22310
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	17500	F	18370	19060
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.76	320	F	330	440
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.97	659	F	690	890
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.27	553	R	540	400
Edward at Liewah	-	1.45	860	F	1030	1870
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	292	R	330	540
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.08	740	R	540	1080
Darling at Bourke	-	4.70	5410	R	4790	4330
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.71	4580	F	5580	8750
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.49	740	F	2040	5640

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1800	-480
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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	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.31	+2.37
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.16	+0.87
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.11	+0.88
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.16	+1.75
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.50	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.10	+1.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.12	+0.26	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.15	+1.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.15	+0.54	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.58

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	0.78	480
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.42	547

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	10
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.80	5

