

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 12 December 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng/bwh

13 December, 2001



Rain was recorded across most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Falls were generally between 1 and 10 mm, with heavier falls in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. Streamflows in the tributaries of the Murray have again shown little or no response to the rain.

Natural runoff in catchments of Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs has receded to low levels following recent dry conditions, and actual inflows are now about 1 000 and 8 500 ML/day respectively. Release from Dartmouth and Hume averaged about 4 000 and 18 000 ML/day respectively over the week, resulting in a storage reduction of 23 and 69 GL respectively.

Diversion from Lake Mulwala averaged about 10 500 ML/day (about 80% of capacity) and is expected to remain near this rate next week. Release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced from 10 400 to 9 900 ML/day late in the week in response to reduced irrigation orders downstream. It is expected that release will again be increased to 10 400 ML/day in response to higher temperatures and higher demand later in summer. On the Edward River, release from Stevens Weir averaged about 2 000 ML/day, however, this will be reduced to about 1 700 ML/day next week in response to the temporary reduction in demand along the Murray.

Diversion to National Channel from the Torrumbarry Weir pool reached 4 000 ML/day (near capacity) late in the week, and is expected to remain at high rates next week. Release from Torrumbarry Weir averaged about 3 600 ML/day during the week, and without rain is expected to remain at near this level next week.

Release from Euston Weir is currently being maintained at about 3 400 ML/day. The summer weekly pulsing regime which was reinstated last week, was suspended this week to provide conditions suitable for the conduct of a detailed survey of river salinity between Euston and Wentworth Weir. The survey is being undertaken by boat using sensitive salinity monitoring equipment, and will provide more accurate information on the location and magnitude of saline inputs to the River Murray. This information will be used to assess the performance of existing salinity interception schemes, and to assist the planning of future salinity reduction works along the River Murray. The pulsing of release from Euston Weir will recommence late next week.

Release from Menindee Lakes at Weir 32 will be increased next week in response to the continuing dry conditions in the River Murray upstream of Wentworth (*see media release attached*). This operation is a continuation of the harmony operation of Menindee Lake and Lake Victoria aimed at minimising evaporation losses by transferring water from Menindee to Lake Victoria (which has a smaller surface area than the Menindee Lakes) or to supplement flow in the River Murray.

Flow to South Australia was manipulated this week to provide a temporary flow peak to assist passage of *M.V. Maratala* (a RMW maintenance vessel operated by SA Water) upstream to undertake maintenance work on trestles in the navigable pass at Lock 8. Flow for the remainder of the month will be adjusted slightly below the average daily entitlement flow to ensure that the December flow to South Australia is equal to the entitlement volume.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 13 December 2001
Increase in Release from Menindee Lakes



River Murray Water announced today that release from Menindee Lakes will be increased as part of the ongoing program of transfer of resources to the River Murray and Lake Victoria. This harmony operation of Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria minimises total evaporation loss in the two storage systems by minimising storage in Menindee Lakes.

Higher rates of transfer from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria are currently required because of the dry conditions being experienced in the Murray System. Flow at Euston is currently at minimum requirement and consequently most of the flow requirement to South Australia must now be supplied from Menindee Lakes. Storage levels in Lake Victoria are being held high to provide water to assist in supplying water to South Australia later this season.

Commencing Saturday 15 December, flow at Weir 32 (currently 6 400 ML/day, 2.45 m gauge height) will be gradually increased to 7 500 ML/day (2.74 m gauge height) by Monday 17 December. This increase is forecast to produce a rise in the water level at Burtundy from the current level of 3.4 m to approximately 3.7 m by late December.

To assist both consumptive and recreational users of the lakes in coming weeks, the following forecast is provided:

Storage	Level At 13/12/01			Forecast Level For 1/1/02 * (Indicative Only)		
	Level (m AHD)	Storage (GL)	% Of Capacity	Level (m AHD)	Storage (GL)	% Of Capacity
Wetherell	59.69	129 GL	48%	59.2	112 GL	42 %
Pamamaroo	58.51	138 GL	51%	57.6	64 GL	24 %
Menindee/ Cawndilla	58.36	753 GL	66%	57.9	637 GL	56 %
TOTAL	-	1 020 GL	61%	-	813 GL	48 %

* Assumes continuing dry conditions on the River Murray and the upper Darling River system.

Current release rates from the Lake storages are as follows.

Wetherell: 0 ML/day
Pamamaroo: 2 800 ML/day
Menindee: 3 600 ML/day (Outlet capacity at current lake level)
Cawndilla: 500 ML/day (To the Darling Anabranch)

It is currently expected that the increased flow at Weir 32 will be provided by gradually increasing release from Lake Pamamaroo to 3 900 ML/day. Under dry conditions, as storage levels in Lakes Pamamaroo, Menindee and Cawndilla fall, the outlet capacity of the lakes will decline. This will consequently result in a gradual reduction in flow at Weir 32.

Unless there are significant inflows from the Darling system, no releases are expected to be made from Lake Wetherell until about March next year.

The release rate from Menindee Lakes will be kept under review according to flows in the River Murray and storage in Lake Victoria. If flow in the River Murray upstream of the Darling Junction increases significantly as a result of rain, release from Menindee Lakes will be reduced to conserve resources.

A further media release will be issued if a significant change to the pattern of release from Menindee Lakes is required.

For further information contact:

Daniel Connell

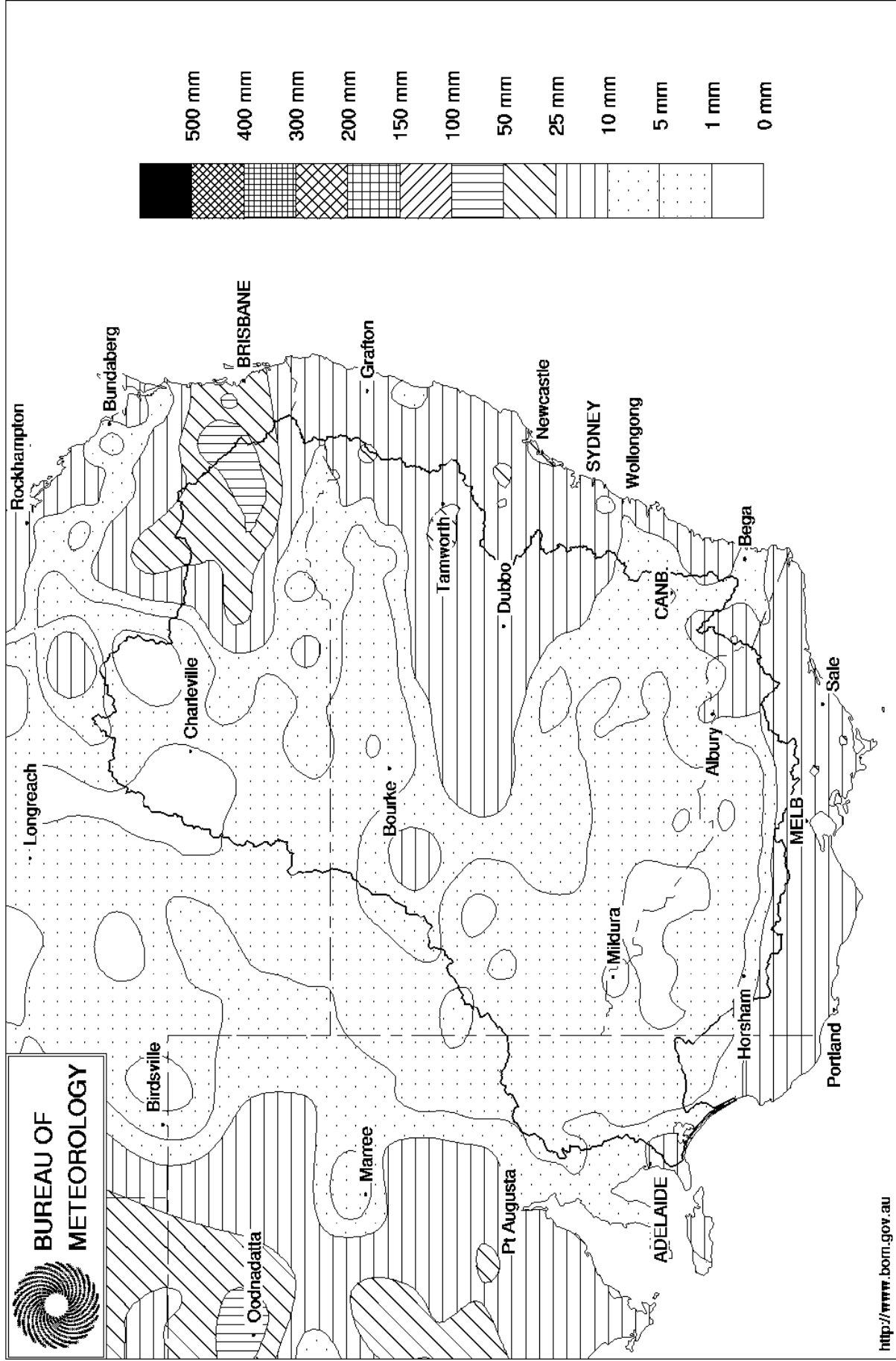
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th December 2001
 Product of the National Climate Centre



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	477.93	3398	87%	80	3318	-23
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	187.73	2247	74%	30	2217	-69
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.28	600	88%	100	500	-1
Menindee		1682 *		1030	61%	480 #	550	-71
Total		9306		7275	78%	690	6585	-164

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **76%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	438	43%	3	435	-23
Blowering Reservoir	1631	813	50%	24	789	-51
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1383	41%	100	1283	-33

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-Dec-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3198	+3	Snowy-Murray	+13	472
Snowy-Murray Component	1473	-	Tooma-Tumut	+4	203
Target Storage	1510		Nett Diversion	8.7	270
			Murray 1 Release	+17	745

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	45.5	605.7
Wakool System loss	1.7	13.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	9.4
Licensed Pumps	9.8	135.1
Lower Darling	4.0	27.7
TOTAL	61.8	790.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	17.3	195.0
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	26.9	332.5
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.3	56.0
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	30.2
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.8	83.2
TOTAL	56.4	696.8

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217
Flow this week	56.7
Flow so far this month	91
Flow last month	221

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	220	211	236
Euston	160	179	253
Red Cliffs	280	270	322
Merbein	290	290	302
Burtundy	510	474	422
Lock 9	410	423	376
L. Victoria	420	406	371
Berri	450	466	429
Waikerie	580	590	521
Morgan	610	586	515
Mannum	500	495	508
Murray Bridge	540	547	551
Meningie	1160	1210	1175
Goolwa Barrages	1150	1147	1313



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	-	-	3170	F	2500	2760
Jingellic	4.0	1.77	5410	R	5060	5180
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.31	4260	F	4830	4580
Heywoods	5.5	3.22	18550	S	18110	19760
Doctors Point	5.5	3.53	20600	R	19940	21100
Albury	4.3	2.56	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.67	20500	S	20470	20670
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.72	9880	F	10310	10410
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	9439	F	9500	9450
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.49	3856	R	3640	3320
Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.02	2100	R	1960	1334
Swan Hill	4.5	0.84	2980	S	2980	2350
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.15	3845	R	3760	3800
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.90	3460	S	3470	3720
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.08	7830	R	8280	8560
Rufus Junction	-	3.41	6013	F	7760	6230
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	4570	R	4400	4610
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.70	1790	R	1690	1130
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.17	1089	F	1260	1490
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.24	504	F	470	470
Edward at Liewah	-	1.99	1390	R	1250	1760
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.35	245	S	260	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.38	150	S	420	190
Darling at Bourke	-	4.09	460	R	340	360
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.36	6050	F	6410	6660
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.60	1120	F	1060	480

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4920	9200
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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	-0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.04	+1.09
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.06	+0.26
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.13	+0.37
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.13	+0.95
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.44	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.26
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.08	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.06

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.09	0.68	377
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.38	0.30	415

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	1

