REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 December 2001

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng:bwh **21 December, 2001**

Rain was mostly restricted to the northern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with good falls of between 10 and 50 mm in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland. With continuing warm and dry conditions along the River Murray, flow contributions from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers have continued to recede, and river losses and diversions have increased.

Harmony operation of Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs has recently been reviewed, and the transfer from Dartmouth is now being reduced to achieve target storage in Dartmouth with the aim of conserving resources by maintaining the chance of spill from Hume by next spring at less than the chance of spill from Dartmouth. Accordingly, release from Dartmouth (which was recently increased specifically for electricity generation purposes, and currently about 4 000 ML/day) is being gradually reduced to 1 000 ML/day by early January (*see Media Release attached*). Release will be kept under review, however, it is now very unlikely that an increase in release from Dartmouth would be required to supplement storage in Hume for irrigation requirements over the remainder of the season. However, it is possible that that some increases in release will occur from time to time over the remainder of summer as a result of releases specifically for hydro-electric generation to meet high electricity demand arising from hot conditions or other reasons.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been increased to 22 000 ML/day, and flow at Albury is currently about 24 000 ML/day, which is the highest flow rate recorded this irrigation season. Diversion from Lake Mulwala has increased to a total of 11 600 ML/day (85% of capacity) and release from Yarrawonga Weir has again been increased to 10 400 ML/day which is near the channel capacity at Yarrawonga for the passage of regulated flow through the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

Diversion from Torrumbarry Weir to National Channel has remained at effective capacity of about 4 000 ML/day during the week. Flow downstream of the weir has fallen from 3 800 to 3 400 ML/day, and is expected to remain near steady next week before rising as a result of increased flows upstream in the Murray and Goulburn. Flow in the Goulburn River is forecast to rise from 400 to 600 ML/day as a result of the arrival of water released from Lake Mokoan to assist in meeting flow requirements along the River Murray during a period of relatively high demand and losses.

Flow pulsing at Euston Weir was recommenced late this week, and flow downstream (currently 3 700 ML/day) will be reduced to about 3 300 ML/day early next week. If high demands and losses continue, the level of the Euston Weir pool may be gradually drawn down over Christmas-New Year to assist in meeting downstream flow requirements. It is currently expected that any drawdown would be no more than 0.3 m, however, further advice will be provided if necessary.

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The Commission, River Murray Water and the staff at the storage, weirs and barrages wish you a very happy and safe festive season.

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Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued for the week ending 26 December 2001. The next Report will cover the two week period ending 2 January 2002.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 21 December 2001

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Reduction in Transfer from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir

River Murray Water announced today that transfer of water resources from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir is being reduced in accordance with the combined operating rules for the two storages.

Since mid October 2001, harmony transfers from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir have been made at an average of 4 000 ML/day, with a cyclic program of variation in river level with the objective of providing environmental benefits.

The 'harmony' operating rules provide improved recreational benefits arising from higher water levels than would otherwise occur in Hume Reservoir, as well as flood mitigation benefits in the Mitta Mitta valley by maintaining lower water levels in Dartmouth Reservoir. Under these rules, water conservation objectives are also met be maintaining an appropriate 'airspace' in Dartmouth and Hume aimed at holding the chance of subsequent spill from Hume at no greater than the chance of spill from Dartmouth.

Storage in Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs is currently at 86% and 70% of capacity respectively. Following a review of the storage position of these storages, and forecast operation for the remainder of the season, it is now necessary to reduce transfers in accordance with the 'harmony' operating rules.

Southern Hydro made a power station entitlement release commencing on 18 December 2001. Flow was temporarily increased from about 4 000 to 4 800 ML/day and maintained near this rate until 20 December before being reduced to 4 200 ML/day.

Commencing 8:00am on 21 December the water level at Colemans will be gradually reduced from its current level of 2.11 m (4 200 ML/day) at a rate of fall of 6 cm each day (or 1 cm every 4 hours) to a level of 1.40 m (1 000 ML/day) by 2 January 2002. Further downstream, the level at Tallandoon (currently 2.49 m or 5 300 ML/day) is expected to fall to 1.67 m or 1 500 ML/day by 3 January.

It is possible that some increases in release will occur from time to time over the remainder of summer as a result of releases specifically for hydro-electric generation in response to increased electricity demand arising from hot conditions or for other reasons.

Further notification will be provided if there are any further significant changes to release rates.

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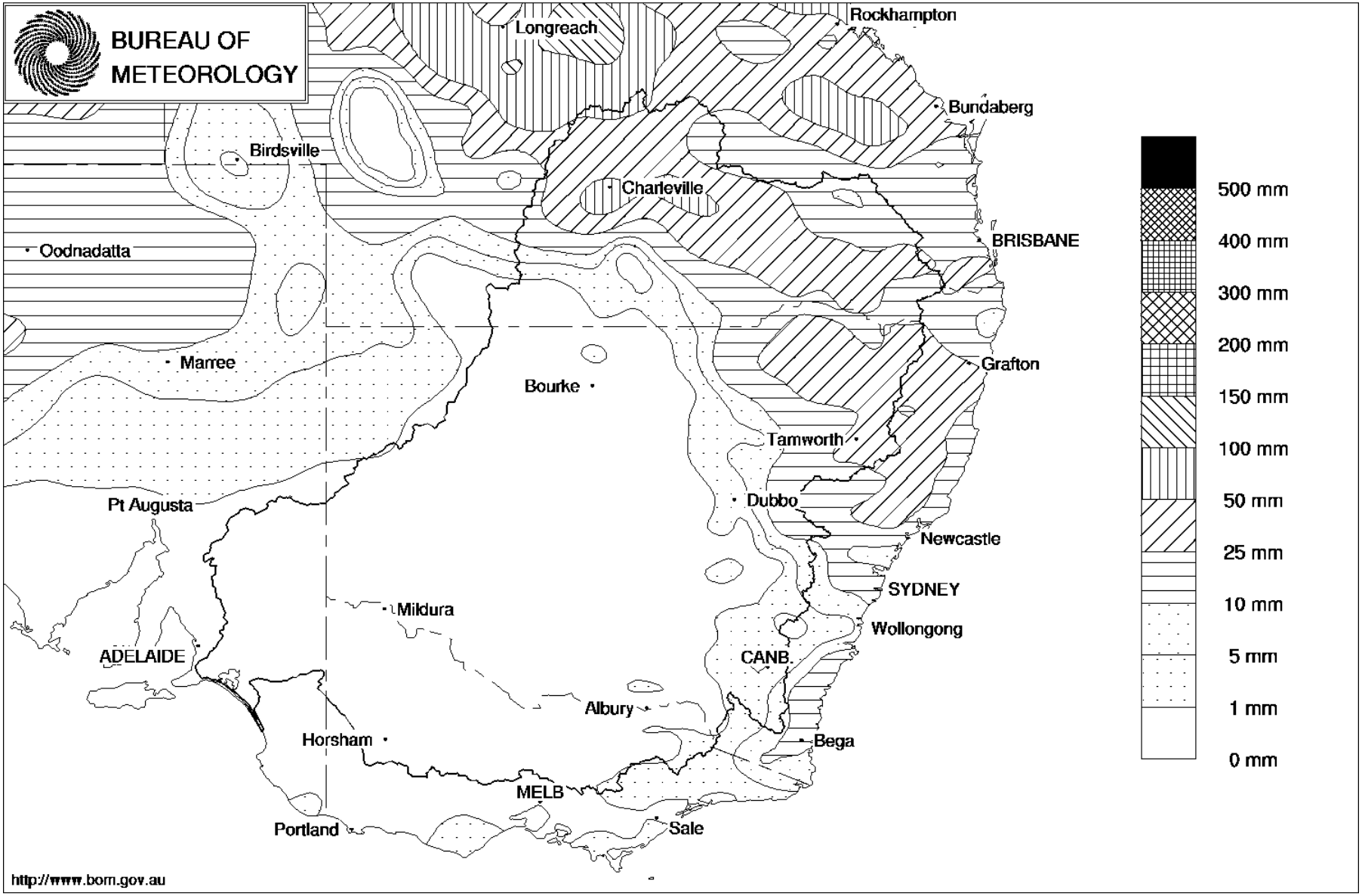
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th December 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



 ID code: IDCRFXMD.20011213200112l9.bw.img Issued: 19/12/2001

Week ending 19-Dec-2001

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level m AHD	Full Supply Capacity GL	Storage Level m AHD	Current Storage GL	Current Storage %	Dead storage GL	Active storage GL	Change for the week GL
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3906	477.59	3378	86%	80	3298	-21
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	187.25	2167	71%	30	2137	-80
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.28	600	88%	100	500	+0
Menindee		1682 *		948	56%	480 #	468	-82
Total		**9306**		**7093**	**76%**	**690**	**6403**	**-182**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **74%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026		401	39%	3	398	-37
Blowering Reservoir	1631		779	48%	24	755	-34
Eildon Reservoir	3390		1346	40%	100	1246	-37

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Dec-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3197	-1	Snowy-Murray	+10	481
Snowy-Murray Component	1469	-	Tooma-Tumut	+4	207
Target Storage	1510		Nett Diversion	6.0	274
			Murray 1 Release	+15	760

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	50.0	655.8
Wakool System loss	1.9	14.8
Western Murray Irrig.	1.2	10.6
Licensed Pumps	11.4	146.4
Lower Darling	3.9	31.5
TOTAL	**68.3**	**859.1**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	19.3	214.3
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	30.2	362.7
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.1	62.8
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	31.5
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.8	89.0
TOTAL	**63.8**	**760.4**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217
Flow this week	44.8
Flow so far this month	136
Flow last month	221

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	140	180	233
Euston	180	175	249
Red Cliffs	260	270	319
Merbein	280	270	300
Burtundy	490	506	426
Lock 9	430	421	379
L.Victoria	410	402	372
Berri	450	449	430
Waikerie	570	590	527
Morgan	580	588	519
Mannum	520	515	508
Murray Bridge	530	532	550
Meningie	1180	1170	1174
Goolwa Barrages	1120	1151	1305

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Week ending 19-Dec-2001

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage m	Gauge height m	Flow ML/day	Trend	Average flow this week ML/day	Average flow last week ML/day
Khancoban	-	-	3010	F	2290	2580
Jingellic	4.0	1.67	4660	R	4280	5060
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.54	5630	R	4700	4830
Heywoods	5.5	3.51	21880	R	18590	18110
Doctors Point	5.5	3.77	23600	R	20240	19940
Albury	4.3	2.84	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.67	20500	R	20030	20470
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.80	10500	R	9970	10310
Tocumwal	6.4	2.23	9037	R	9080	9500
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.35	3381	F	3650	3640
Stevens Weir (d/s)		1.59	1510	F	1730	1960
Swan Hill	4.5	0.75	2420	R	2510	2970
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.06	3569	S	3710	3760
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.95	3710	R	3560	3470
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.02	7310	R	7260	8280
Rufus Junction	-	3.39	5902	F	6090	7760
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	4780	F	4960	4400
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.31	1070	F	1200	1690
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.04	793	S	910	1260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	463	F	600	470
Edward at Liewah	-	2.30	1750	R	1640	1250
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.34	230	F	260	260
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.62	320	S	240	420
Darling at Bourke	-	4.17	780	S	760	340
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.28	5860	S	5890	6410
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	170	F	320	1060

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4440	5020

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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.09
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.06	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.65
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.38	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.22
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.09	0.67	366
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.21	0.20	314

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.81	All closed

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