

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 17 October 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :brc

19 October, 2001



Widespread rain fell across the Basin with totals of up to 50 mm in the northern and western slopes of the Great Dividing Range. Falls of up to 100 mm in the Upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens catchments produced small rises in streamflow reaching the Murray, but was sufficient to generate a small volume of flow above requirement downstream of Yarrawonga Weir.

Inflows to upper Murray storages have increased following the rain. Dartmouth Reservoir storage increased by 40 GL to 3 470 GL (89% capacity), while Hume Reservoir storage increased by 70 GL to 2 086 GL (69% capacity). Release from Hume was reduced from 10 000 to 2 100 ML/day in response to reduced irrigation demand, and increased inflows from tributaries downstream. Current indications are that release from Hume will be increased next week.

As advised last week, harmony transfers from Dartmouth to Hume commenced on 17 October. However, as inflows to Hume have recently improved, and also because of increased inflow to the Mitta Mitta River from Snowy Creek and other minor tributary streams upstream of Tallandoon, release from Dartmouth will be increased to 4 000 ML/day at Colemans initially (rather than to 5 000 ML/day announced last week). Flow at Tallandoon is expected to reach about 5 500 ML/day without further rain.

Total irrigation diversion from Lake Mulwala declined from 9 200 ML/day to 5 700 ML/day over the week. Flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta peaked at 13 000 ML/day on 15 October, and is now receding. This small flush, combined with the sudden reduction in irrigation demand, required an increase in release from Yarrawonga Weir to a peak of 12 800 ML/day late this week. This increase in flow is currently expected to be fully re-regulated further downstream. Without further rain, release from Yarrawonga Weir will be reduced to about 7 000 ML/day next week.

At Torrumbarry Weir pool, National Channel diversions were reduced from 3 900 ML/day to 2 700 ML/day as a result of reduced irrigation demand and reduced airspace in Kow Swamp. As a result of this reduction, combined with increased inflows to the Torrumbarry Weir pool, it was necessary to increase release from Torrumbarry Weir from 3 800 to 6 000 ML/day, and it is expected to be maintained near 6 000 ML/day next week. Inflow to Euston Weir has improved as a result of reduced river diversions and reduced river losses, and consequently the water level of Euston Weir pool has recovered from a low of 13 cm below full supply level to near full supply level. Flow downstream of Euston is now expected to increase to about 6 000 ML/day by the end of next week.

The small improvement in flow in the mid-Murray generated from this week's rain will be fully contained within Lake Victoria. In response to this improvement in storage at Lake Victoria, transfers from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria are to be reduced to conserve water in Menindee Lakes, and to preserve sufficient airspace in Lake Victoria for managing rain rejections or tributary inflows that may occur in coming months. Commencing Friday 19 October, flow at Weir 32 will be gradually reduced from 9 000 to 7 500 ML/day. If there is no significant follow-up rainfall in the River Murray catchment upstream of Wentworth, it is likely that flow at Weir 32 will again be increased in late October/early November (refer to Media Release attached).

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 17 October 2001
Reduction in Release from Menindee Lakes



River Murray Water today announced that a small reduction in releases from Menindee Lakes will be made in response to an increase in flow in the River Murray upstream of the Darling Junction.

Since 17 August, water has been transferred from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria to supplement storage in Lake Victoria for use during the peak irrigation season. Following relatively low flows in the River Murray upstream of the Darling Junction, flows at Weir 32 were increased to 9 000 ML/day (channel capacity) on 27 September.

Storage in Lake Victoria is now expected to reach 600 GL (88% capacity) by the end of November without further rainfall. In order to retain sufficient airspace in Lake Victoria to manage surpluses caused by rainfall over the next few months, releases from Menindee Lakes will be temporarily reduced.

The flow at Weir 32 is currently 9 000ML/day (3.28 m gauge height). Commencing Friday 19 October, the flow at Weir 32 will be gradually reduced to 7 500 ML/day (2.74 m). As a result, the water level at Burtundy will recede from the current level of 4.28 m to about 3.78 m by early November.

At this time, it is expected that the flow at Weir 32 will remain at 7 500 ML/day for a period of 1-2 weeks. If there is no significant further rainfall in the River Murray catchment, the flow at Weir 32 will then be increased to channel capacity once again. However if conditions are wet, further reductions at Weir 32 may be necessary. Further advice will be provided if alterations to the flow at Weir 32 are required.

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(Keith Bashford is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

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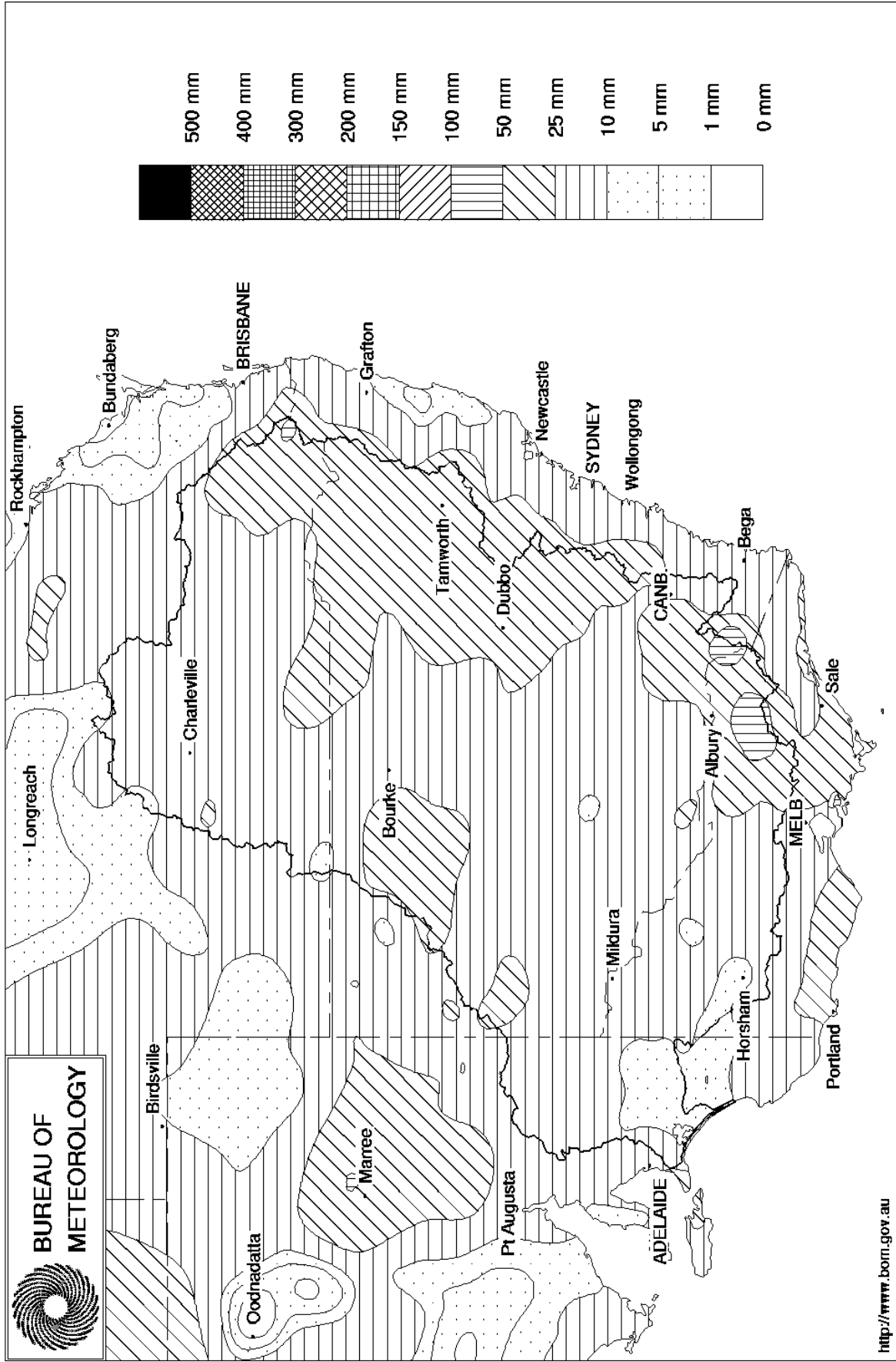
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 17th October 2001
 Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Week ending 17-Oct-2001

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	479.11	3470	89%	80	3390	+40
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	186.74	2086	69%	30	2056	+70
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.14	478	70%	100	378	+8
Menindee		1682 *		1541	92%	480 #	1061	-57
Total		9306		7575	81%	690	6885	+61

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **80%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	519	51%	3	516	-57
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1081	66%	24	1057	-9
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1414	42%	100	1314	+37

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-Oct-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3011	+58	Snowy-Murray	+2	409
Snowy-Murray Component	1378	-	Tooma-Tumut	+13	155
Target Storage	1400		Nett Diversion	-11.5	254
			Murray 1 Release	+20	613

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	41.1	298.0
Wakool System loss	0.5	5.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	2.6
Licensed Pumps	10.3	65.7
Lower Darling	0.4	3.5
TOTAL	52.6	374.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.6	88.6
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.4	180.7
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.7	17.3
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	21.0
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.4	44.9
TOTAL	34.5	352.5

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170
Flow this week	60.6
Flow so far this month	146
Flow last month	228

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	250	241	265
Euston	300	258	275
Red Cliffs	330	350	340
Merbein	340	370	312
Burtundy	400	401	396
Lock 9	410	396	358
L.Victoria	360	369	357
Berri	380	416	416
Waikerie	-	520	503
Morgan	510	510	507
Mannum	480	482	517
Murray Bridge	510	527	564
Meningie	1250	1300	1133
Goolwa Barrages	1250	1456	1587



Week ending 17-Oct-2001

River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
River Murray	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
Khancoban	-	-	4480	F	5980	3820
Jingellic	4.0	2.46	11880	F	13020	8980
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.78	1880	F	1910	1350
Heywoods	5.5	1.53	2130	F	5520	8520
Doctors Point	5.5	2.32	6510	F	9400	11970
Albury	4.3	1.31	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.06	8930	F	12090	13590
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.09	12800	F	11690	10440
Tocumwal	6.4	2.59	11555	R	10380	9590
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.14	5980	R	4710	4380
Stevens Weir (d/s)		1.78	1760	F	1270	478
Swan Hill	4.5	1.00	4010	R	3820	2700
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.26	4194	R	3890	2470
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.03	4110	R	3650	3660
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.25	10930	R	10460	12110
Rufus Junction	-	3.81	8432	R	8290	8120
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	7310	S	7240	7060
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.47	5210	S	4630	4250
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.72	10907	F	9630	5720
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.53	951	R	760	760
Edward at Liewah	-	0.99	500	F	430	350
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.48	459	R	370	270
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.64	340	F	340	440
Darling at Bourke	-	4.12	570	S	570	650
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.28	8440	S	8370	8180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	20	S	20	90

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	21260	15230
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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	+0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.49
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.23
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.28
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+1.01
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.61	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.38
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.34
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.20

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.42	0.66	355
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.14	0.25	363

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.83	4
Mundoo	26 openings	0.78	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.80	5

