

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 5 September 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :BWH:NG

6 September, 2001



Rain was received across all but the north-western portion of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Falls were generally between 1 and 10 mm, however, higher falls of between 10 and 50 mm were recorded in South Australia and the upper Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

Inflow to Hume Reservoir averaged about 14 000 ML/day during the week and is currently at about 13 000 ML/day and receding. Release from Hume has been maintained at the minimum rate of 600 ML/day as flow requirements at Albury and downstream have been met by tributary flows during the week. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 91 GL to 1 792 GL (59% of capacity); this compares with 2 771 GL (91%) at the same time last year). Without further rain, it is expected that Hume release will need to be increased on 8 September to assist in meeting demand as downstream tributary flows recede.

Total Commission active storage is currently 6 586 GL (76% of active capacity) compared with 7 126 GL (83%) at the same time last year.

In response to flow recession in both the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, release from Yarrawonga Weir has been gradually reduced from 9 000 to 5 000 ML/day. Without further rain, the release is expected to be reduced to 4 000 ML/day early next week, then gradually increased to meet increasing demand.

Major diversions from the River Murray to Mulwala Canal, Yarrawonga Main Channel and National Channel increased during the week, and currently total 5 700 ML/day (about one third of combined capacity). Current irrigation orders indicate slightly increased diversion rates next week.

Following the rain of the last two weeks, flow in the River Murray at Euston has increased to 6 500 ML/day, and is forecast to peak at about 7 500 ML/day by 10 September.

Storage in Lake Victoria ceased to decline early in the week due to the arrival of higher flows from both the River Murray and Darling River which are now meeting South Australia's flow requirement. The increased flow in transit in the Murray and Darling will be used to refill Lake Victoria in coming weeks.

Release from Menindee Lakes is to be progressively increased from 3 000 to 9 000 ML/day commencing on 6 September. This increase in release will supplement Murray flows to achieve sufficient storage in Lake Victoria to meet flow requirements in South Australia over the remainder of the irrigation season (*see Media Release attached*). This transfer is being made according to combined operating rules for the two storages with the objective of minimising overall evaporation loss from the system and providing additional dilution flow to South Australia. Release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River will be kept under review according to flows along the Murray, and storage in Lake Victoria – if significant improvements in Murray flows occur, release from Menindee Lakes will be reduced to conserve resources.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 3 September 2001
Increase in Release from Menindee Lakes



River Murray Water announced today that releases from Menindee Lakes will be increased in order to supplement resources in the River Murray.

This increase in release is being made as part of the combined operation of Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria to minimise evaporation losses from the storages. Recent rainfall has produced only a small rise in flows in the River Murray upstream of Wentworth. Hence, transfers from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria will be increased to ensure there is sufficient storage in Lake Victoria to assist in meeting South Australia's water entitlements for the remainder of the irrigation season.

Flow at Weir 32 is currently 3 000 ML/day (2.0 m gauge height). Commencing Thursday 6 September, flow at Weir 32 will be progressively increased. If conditions in the River Murray upstream of Wentworth remain dry, flow at Weir 32 will continue to be increased to 9 000 ML/day (3.3 m gauge height) by Saturday 15 September. This increase would result in the water level at Burtundy increasing from the current level of 1.9 m to reach about 4.3 m by about 25 September.

The requirement for releases 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 Wentworth increases significantly as a result of rain, releases from Menindee Lakes will be reduced to conserve resources. A further media release will be issued if a significant change to the pattern of releases from Menindee Lakes is required. Further advice may be obtained from River Murray Water's Weekly Report, at www.mdbc.gov.au.

River pumpers and other river users are advised to take account of the effects of the changed river levels and conditions.

For further information contact:

Keith Bashford

Media Liaison Officer

Ph: 02 6279 0581

E-mail: keith.bashford@mdbc.gov.au

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

Daniel Connell

Media Liaison Officer

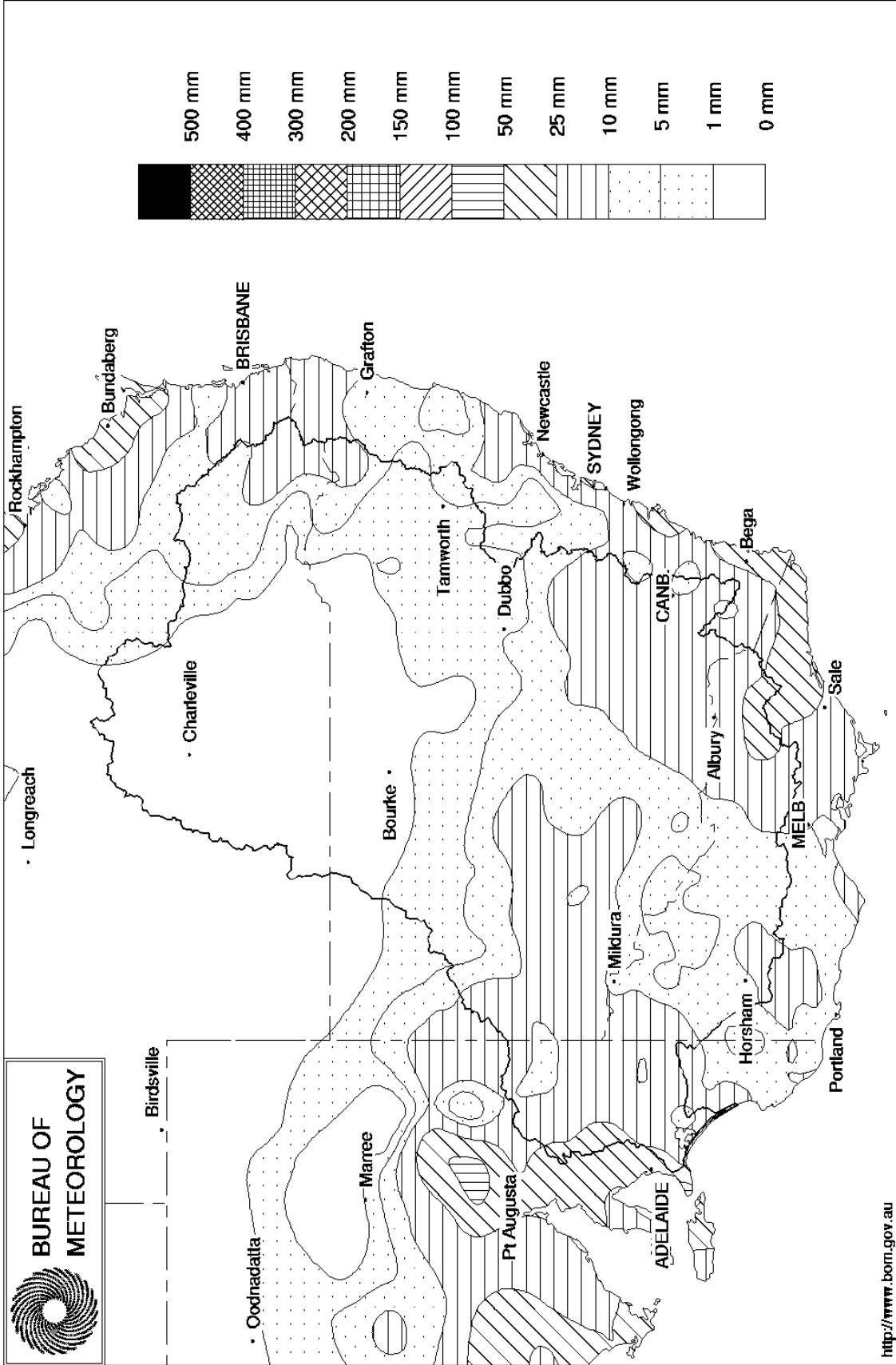
Ph: 02 6279 0129

E-mail: daniel.connell@mdbc.gov.au

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

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 5th September 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Issued: 05/09/2001

Week ending 05-Sep-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	475.79	3270	84%	80	3190	+27
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	184.82	1792	59%	30	1762	+91
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.45	306	45%	100	206	-8
Menindee		1682 *		1909	113%	480 #	1429	-19
Total		9306		7276	78%	690	6586	+91

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 76%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	505	49%	3	502	+37
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1108	68%	24	1084	+42
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1316	39%	100	1216	+43

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-Sep-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2667	+43	Snowy-Murray	+5	397
Snowy-Murray Component	1181	-	Tooma-Tumut	+8	77
Target Storage	1240		Nett Diversion	-3.1	320
			Murray 1 Release	+13	488

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	15.7	63.5
Wakool System loss	0.2	0.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	0.9
Licensed Pumps	3.0	14.3
Lower Darling	0.2	1.3
TOTAL	19.2	80.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	6.8	19.9
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.1	71.3
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.6	4.7
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	15.1
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.5	21.2
TOTAL	16.1	132.2

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135
Flow this week	50.2
Flow so far this month	36
Flow last month	217

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	130	140	271
Euston	260	230	292
Red Cliffs	420	440	348
Merbein	400	340	294
Burtundy	390	379	385
Lock 9	360	343	341
L.Victoria	350	348	351
Berri	410	413	414
Waikerie	-	-	553
Morgan	490	501	521
Mannum	550	536	549
Murray Bridge	560	570	584
Meningie	1190	1110	1124
Goolwa Barrages	1140	1126	1893



A Business Unit of MDBC

Week ending 05-Sep-2001

River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	3200	F	3650	4160
Jingellic	4.0	2.31	10250	F	10770	13710
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.68	1530	R	1450	2020
Heywoods	5.5	1.27	600	S	600	1740
Doctors Point	5.5	1.94	3460	R	3150	4860
Albury	4.3	0.98	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.11	3510	F	3530	6820
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.04	4970	F	7120	11180
Tocumwal	6.4	1.74	5805	F	7610	9240
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.14	5980	F	7290	4290
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.69	387	F	884	263
Swan Hill	4.5	1.49	7300	R	6170	3240
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.01	6916	R	5340	3270
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.51	6790	R	5100	3520
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.12	7760	R	6400	3970
Rufus Junction	-	3.51	6558	S	6510	6660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	6770	R	6560	6230
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.14	2870	R	2470	3200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.51	5146	S	5200	9750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.36	699	F	860	1170
Edward at Liewah	-	0.88	420	R	400	540
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	292	R	220	110
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.91	570	R	420	430
Darling at Bourke	-	4.20	960	F	1140	1860
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.91	3060	R	2940	1580
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.28	190	F	240	300

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	16180	20160
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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	+0.18	+1.19
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.07	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.23
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.84
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.48	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.36
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.15	+0.10	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.12	+0.34
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.11	+0.22	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.14	+0.15

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.09	1.11	1010
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.60	746

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.84	6
Mundoo	26 openings	0.84	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.85	15

