

## REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 14 August 2002

*Our Ref: MDBC:269 :djc:bwh*

16 August, 2002



Dry conditions continued throughout most areas of the Murray-Darling Basin, however, some falls were recorded fall in southern areas of the Basin with the highest falls between 10 and 25 mm occurring about the ranges.

The rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoirs has recently been increased from 7 500 to 8 500 ML/day (*see Media Release attached*). Storage in Dartmouth continued to decline this week by 41 GL to 3 059 GL or 78 % of capacity.

Despite ongoing transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir, storage in Hume Reservoir increased by only 7 GL to 944 GL (31 % of capacity) because unregulated catchment inflow to Hume remains low, and release has been increased from 12 200 to 14 600 ML/day.

Refilling of Lake Mulwala has effectively been completed with the lake now at the lower level of its normal operating range. Combined diversion from Lake Mulwala to NSW and Victorian irrigation systems has increased from 1 500 to 4 700 ML/day (35% of capacity) with advance orders currently totalling 8 400 ML/day (61% of capacity), however, a significant portion of the flow to Mulwala Canal is to be subsequently diverted to the Edward River to augment Murray flow further downstream. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been maintained at 10 300 ML/day (near the regulated channel capacity in the Barmah-Millewa Forest) in order to provide for downstream requirements, which currently includes about 1 500 ML/day being transferred from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria, and 4 000 ML/day diversion (at capacity) to National Channel for the Torrumbarry Irrigation system.

Given the continuing dry conditions along the Murray, commencing next week, release from Yarrawonga Weir will be increased to about 12 000 ML/day in order to increase the rate of transfer to Lake Victoria (*see Media Release attached*). Whilst that flow rate is greater than the usual regulated flow channel capacity of the Barmah-Millewa Forest, most of the additional flow will be diverted through a forest regulator to the Gulf Creek system in the Barmah forest so that additional water can be transferred around the Barmah 'choke'. This operation is being undertaken in consultation with Victorian and New South Wales forest agencies. The timing and magnitude of this increased flow is similar to that undertaken in 1994 when this type of operation was last implemented whilst there was no Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes.

Refilling of the Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River has now been completed to current operational requirements. As a result, diversion via the Wakool Main Canal commenced during the week for the purposes of refilling channels within the Wakool Irrigation District. Diversions from the Edward River to the Wakool River, Yallakool Creek and Colligen Creek systems also commenced during the week. Water is being escaped from Mulwala Canal to the Edward River, and release from Stevens Weir has been increased from 1 000 to 1 700 ML/day, with increases to regulated channel capacity (2 900 ML/day) planned for the coming fortnight to provide additional transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

DAVID DOLE  
General Manager

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**Monday, 12 August 2002**



## **Increase in Rate of Transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir**

River Murray Water announced today that release from Dartmouth Reservoir will be again be increased to further supplement storage in Hume Reservoir to provide for system requirements along the River Murray during the 2002/2003 irrigation season.

With relatively dry conditions continuing in recent weeks, inflows along the River Murray and tributaries have remained low for this time of year. Consequently, it is now necessary to increase the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth to Hume to ensure sufficient storage is available in Hume to meet requirements over the 2002/03 season, including requirements for transfer of water from Hume to Lake Victoria. These transfers of water are underway at this early stage of the irrigation season in recognition of the limits of channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River, and in the mid Murray at the Barmah-Millewa Forest. This is also in response to the dry conditions experienced in recent months together with there being no Murray-Darling Basin Commission storage currently available in Menindee Lakes.

Commencing at 8:00 am on Wednesday 14 August, flow at Colemans will be gradually increased from 7 500 ML/day (2.5 m gauge height) to about 8 500 ML/day (2.7 m gauge height) without further significant rain. Further downstream along the Mitta Mitta valley, flow at Tallandoon will rise from the current rate of 8 400 ML/day (2.9 m gauge height) to about 9 400 ML/day (3.1 m gauge height) by midday Thursday 15 August. If conditions remain dry, further increases in release from Dartmouth to rates approaching channel capacity downstream are expected. Inflow from tributaries of the Mitta Mitta River between Dartmouth and Tallandoon will be closely monitored, and release from Dartmouth will be adjusted with the objective of maintaining river flow at or below channel capacity.

Under continuing dry conditions, high flow rates in the Mitta Mitta River are expected to continue. However, if there is a significant improvement in inflow to Hume Reservoir, or in tributary flows downstream, release from Dartmouth will be reviewed.

River Murray Water will continue to closely monitor inflow conditions and flow requirements along the River Murray. A further media release will be issued when there is a significant change in the release program.

*For further information contact:*

Bryan Harper

Manager Production

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday, 15 August 2002

## Transfer of Water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria to Increase

River Murray Water announced today that the rate of transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria will increase from tomorrow, 16 August. This operation is part of an ongoing program to achieve an appropriate distribution of stored water between upper Murray and lower Murray storages so that the requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met throughout the 2002/03 season if dry conditions continue.

Inflows to the River Murray system have remained low since March 2002. Storage in Menindee Lakes remains low, and inflows from the Darling River upstream remain low owing to very dry conditions. There is currently no Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes to supplement flow in the River Murray, and the existing New South Wales reserve in the lakes is being used to meet regional water supply requirements. The Victorian Murray irrigation season recently commenced, and demand for irrigation water in Victoria has been very high. With low tributary flows to the Murray, and recent low rates of transfer from Hume Reservoir, storage in Lake Victoria has gradually receded from 438 GL to 416 GL (61% capacity) over the last few weeks. Short range weather forecasts show little likelihood of a change in conditions over the next few days, so release from Hume Dam is now being increased in order to transfer additional resources to Lake Victoria.

Commencing about Monday 19 August, release from Yarrawonga Weir will be increased from 10 300 to 12 000 ML/day. This rate is greater than the channel capacity of the River Murray through the Barmah-Millewa Forest, so the additional flow will be redirected to bypass the Barmah 'choke' by opening of regulators on selected flood runners in the Barmah Forest. This operation is proceeding in consultation with forest agencies of Victoria and New South Wales, and is very similar to what occurred in 1994, the last time a major transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria was undertaken. The timing of this flow coincides with the timing that flow would usually enter these systems under natural conditions. If conditions remain dry, it is likely that flow at Yarrawonga Weir will be further increased to the range of 13 000 to 14 000 ML/day. In addition, transfer to Lake Victoria is also being achieved via transfer of water along the Edward/Wakool River system at to assist with bypassing the Barmah choke.

There is a significant chance that some of the water being transferred from Hume may spill from Lake Victoria as a result of future heavy rain in tributary catchments downstream of Hume. However, dry conditions in recent weeks have reduced this chance to about 40%. The rate of transfer to Lake Victoria will be reduced if there is a significant increase in tributary inflows, particularly from the Kiewa, Ovens Rivers, Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers.

*For further information, contact:*

**Alison Hicks,**

Media Liaison Officer,

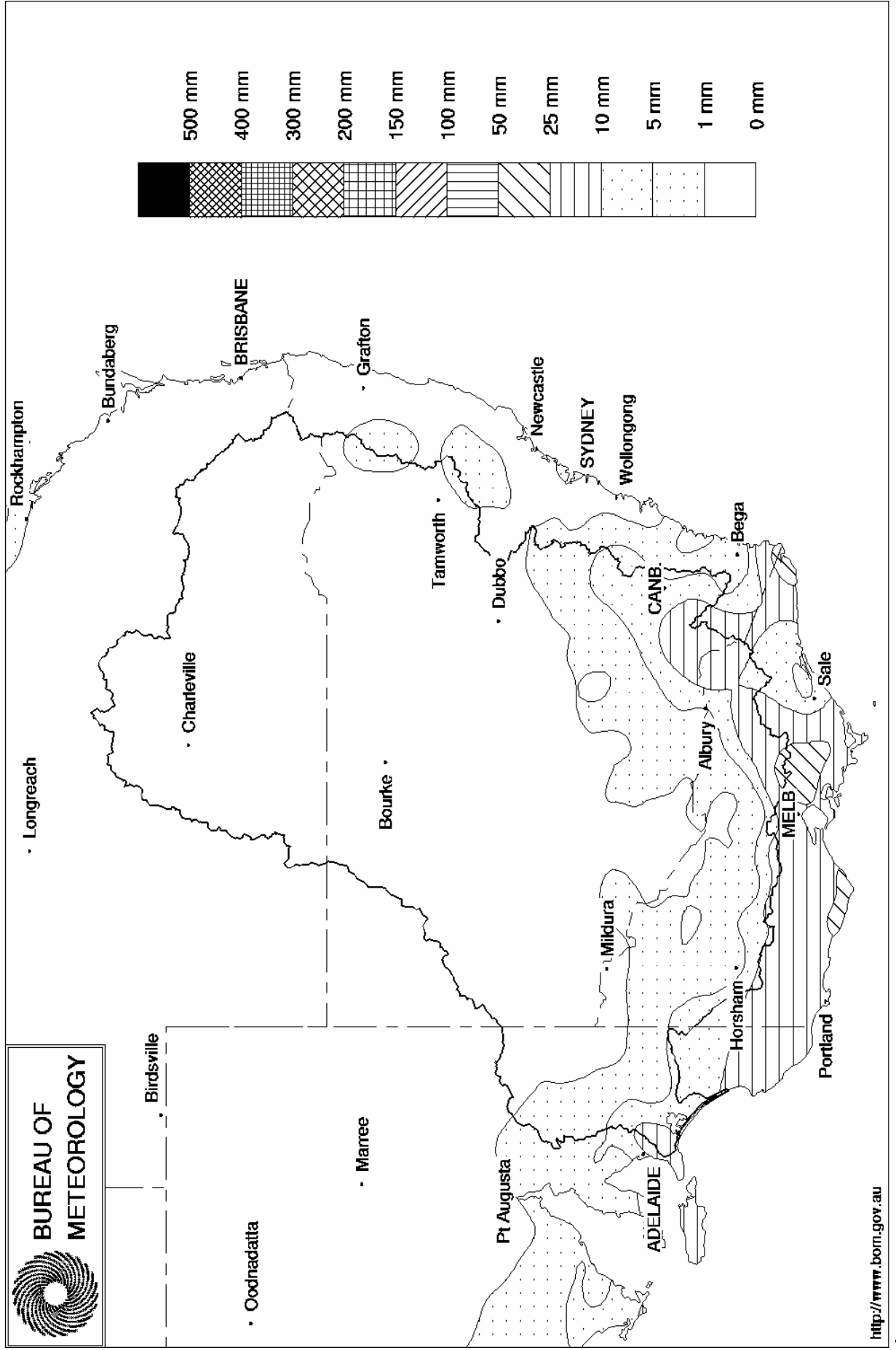
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(Alison Hicks is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th August 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



## Week ending Wednesday 14 Aug 2002

### Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	472.16	3 059	78%	80	2 979	-41
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.08	944	31%	30	914	+7
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.55	417	61%	100	317	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		370	22%	640 #	0	-4
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 306</b>		<b>4 789</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>4 209</b>	<b>-49</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **50%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	302	29%	3	299	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	558	34%	24	534	-28
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	818	24%	100	718	+2

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-Aug-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversions	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 884	+37	Snowy-Murray	+7	158
Snowy-Murray Component	1 332	-	Tooma-Tumut	+9	82
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-1.6	76
			Murray 1 Release	+16	244

### Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	17.5	19.3
Wakool System loss	0.1	2.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	1.1
Licensed Pumps	5.1	11.7
Lower Darling	4.1	23.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26.9</b>	<b>58.1</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.6	6
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.6	93
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	3
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	2
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.0	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>116</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	28.3	
Flow so far this month	56	
Flow last month	109	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	110	117	177
Euston	230	203	194
Red Cliffs	220	220	211
Merbein	210	210	211
Burtundy	830	837	835
Lock 9	240	244	255
Lake Victoria	370	362	355
Berri	430	444	456
Waikerie	-	-	- 9
Morgan	630	637	657
Mannum	670	666	660
Murray Bridge	710	716	716
Meningie	1 410	1 420	1 421
Goolwa Barrages	4 520	4 619	4 664



**River Levels and Flows**

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 170	F	3 290	1 850
Jingellic	4.0	2.06	208.58	8 010	F	7 210	6 800
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.93	219.82	8 290	F	8 400	7 160
Heywoods	5.5	2.94	156.57	14 610	R	13 670	12 150
Doctors Point	5.5	3.13	151.60	15 500	R	14 230	12 760
Albury	4.3	2.14	149.58	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.00	129.02	15 400	F	14 790	13 340
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 300	S	10 270	9 630
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 160	R	10 040	8 780
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.36	79.91	3 450	F	3 640	3 400
Swan Hill	4.5	0.78	63.70	2 990	F	3 300	2 440
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.90	51.02	3 480	R	3 320	2 180
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.00	42.84	4 360	R	4 090	2 990
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.85	3 100	F	2 650	2 470
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.89	27.65	4 080	R	2 920	2 610
Rufus Junction	-	2.95	18.38	3 660	F	3 660	3 490
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 010	R	3 480	3 410
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.45	154.68	1 300	R	1 140	1 040
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.67	146.35	2 396	R	2 440	2 280
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	433	R	430	420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 660	F	1 130	430
Edward at Liewah	-	0.74	56.12	330	F	320	240
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.07	54.56	32	S	40	90
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.89	56.85	560	F	860	1 020
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	F	30	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	190	S	190	190
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	90	S	100	100

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 690	9 360
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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	-0.32	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.62
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.36
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.25	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.08
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.00

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.25	0.92	70.27	687
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.04	0.26	61.56	373

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitechere	322 gates	0.79	All closed

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level

