

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 February 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng

21 February, 2002



Widespread rain fell in the Murray-Darling Basin this week with some heavier falls of between 25 and 100 mm in southern Queensland and in the Murrumbidgee, Lachlan and Macquarie River catchments in New South Wales. However, significant additional rain will be required in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales to produce any appreciable inflows to Menindee Lakes.

Streamflows in the upper Murray have again shown little response to the rain and, generally, continue to recede. Following an increase in release from Dartmouth Reservoir during the week for a short duration for the purposes of hydro-electric generation, flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Tallandoon peaked at 2 500 ML/day but has since decreased to 1 000 ML/day.

Storage in Hume Reservoir fell by 50 GL to currently 1 233 GL (41% of capacity). Release from Hume Dam reached 17 500 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga early in the week before being reduced to 12 000 ML/day in response to diminished irrigation demand following rain. Flow at Albury has since been increased to 14 000 ML/day and, without further rain, is expected to be increased next week.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala decreased from 9 000 to 5 000 ML/day (35% of capacity) after rain during the week, but has since been increased to 6 700 ML/day. Rain currently falling on the New South Wales irrigation areas may further reduce demands next week. Following the partial rain rejection of irrigation orders, the increased flows were largely stored by surcharging Lake Mulwala, but a small increase in flow downstream of Yarrawonga to 10 000 ML/day was necessary late in the week. There was no unseasonal flooding of the Barmah-Millewa Forest as a result of that rain rejection event. Water level of Lake Mulwala will be lowered to near full supply level next week and, without further rain, release from the weir will be reduced to 9 000 ML/day.

At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion to National Channel was reduced from 3 400 to 2 600 ML/day in response to rain, however, subsequent warmer conditions have produced a subsequent increase to 3 300 ML/day. Release from the weir peaked at 5 500 ML/day during the week and is now 4 000 ML/day and expected to remain near this rate next week if conditions remain dry. The river height at Swan Hill is currently peaking at about 1.1m (local gauge height) and is expected to fall to about 0.8 m by the end of next week if warm dry conditions prevail.

Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River has risen to 1 500 ML/day in response to rain in the Murrumbidgee catchment late in January. It is anticipated that the Murrumbidgee flow passing Balranald will recede to about 200 ML/day next week, if conditions are dry.

Flow downstream of Euston Weir continues to rise in response to the rain, and is expected to peak at about 7 400 ML/day early next week. Maintenance work on the Euston Lock chamber has been delayed because of increased river flows (*see Media Release attached*) and the Lock will now be closed to boat traffic until about 9 March 2002.

Release from Menindee Lakes has been gradually reduced to 1 300 ML/day, and will be reduced to 350 ML/day by the end of February. Flow to South Australia is currently 7 000 ML/day.

DAVID DOLE  
General Manager

# MEDIA RELEASE

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**Thursday, 21 February 2002**  
**Delay to Maintenance Work at Euston Weir**



River Murray Water announced today that maintenance work scheduled for the navigation Lock this week has been temporarily delayed, and closure of the Lock will be extended, due to recent increases in flow in the River Murray.

Following recent rain, inflow to Euston Weir pool is expected to peak at about 7 200 ML/day within the next two days. This flow rate and river level is too high to safely complete the maintenance works in the Lock chamber.

The Lock chamber is now expected to remain unavailable until Friday 9 March. However, as there is a possibility that the works will be completed earlier than the allocated time, those wishing to use the Lock are advised to contact the Lockmaster in advance to obtain an update on the availability of the Lock.

Despite the delay, it will still be necessary to temporarily keep the weir pool lowered to maintain some 'airspace' to store higher than average river flows. This operation is required to enable downstream flow to be temporarily reduced to prevent flooding of the work site and allow the works to proceed.

The weir pool level (currently 25 cm below full supply level (FSL)) will be temporarily drawn down again to 30 cm below FSL by 24 February. Flow downstream will then be temporarily reduced to about 4 000 ML/day for about 8 hours on 25 February to enable placement of a sandbag wall in the Lock chamber; and if necessary, this operation will be repeated on 26 February.

The weir pool level will begin to rise again on 24 February, and is expected to be refilled to full supply level by about 1 March.

River pumpers and other river users are advised to take account of these changes when planning their activities.

A further media release will be issued if there is any significant change in circumstances and operational plans.

For further information contact:

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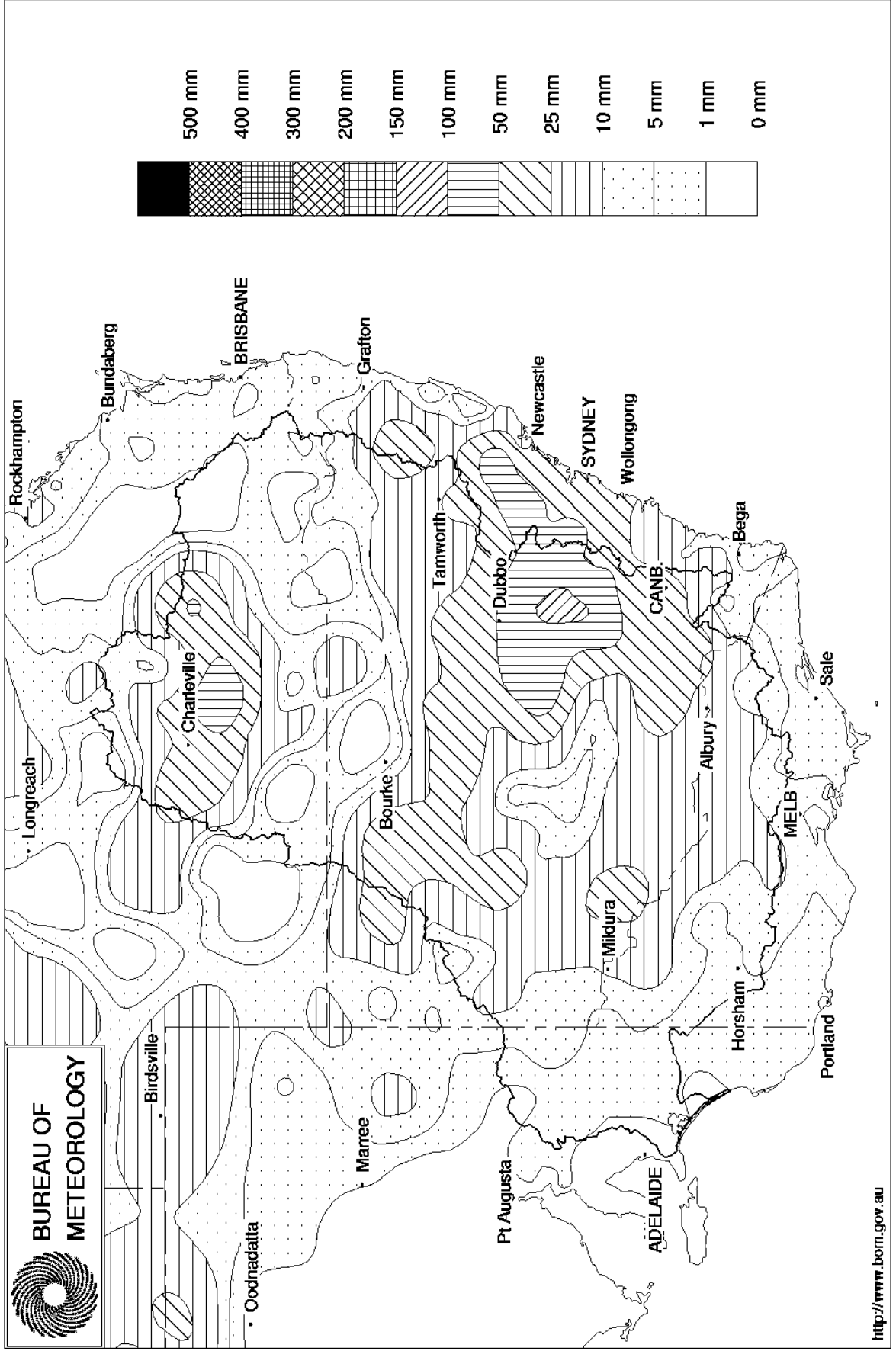
Or

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Lock 15 – Euston Weir  
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th February 2002  
 Product of the National Climate Centre



## Week ending Wednesday 20 Feb 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 for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	476.97	3 340	86%	80	3 260	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	180.63	1 233	41%	30	1 203	-50
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.86	448	66%	100	348	-25
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		539	32%	480 #	59	-23
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 306</b>		<b>5 560</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>4 870</b>	<b>-99</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **57%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		264	26%	3	261	+19
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		397	24%	24	373	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		998	29%	100	898	-29

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Feb-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2001
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 047	-15	Snowy-Murray	+23	669
Snowy-Murray Component	1 361	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	221
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	22.9	449
			Murray 1 Release	+28	968

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

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2001		This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	31.7	1 126.7	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.7	370
Wakool System loss	0.1	25.9	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.9	579
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	22.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.0	123
Licensed Pumps	13.3	260.6	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.1	54
Lower Darling	8.2	92.0	Licensed pumps - SRW	6.0	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54.2</b>	<b>1 527.3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42.7</b>	<b>1 264</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.7	
Flow so far this month	141	
Flow last month	220	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	90	98	203
Euston	170	172	232
Red Cliffs	260	270	302
Merbein	280	260	294
Burtundy	630	620	465
Lock 9	450	459	408
Lake Victoria	450	457	392
Berri	500	564	460
Waikerie	600	600	546
Morgan	600	600	541
Mannum	610	605	531
Murray Bridge	660	654	566
Meningie	1 500	1 450	1 217
Goolwa Barrages	1 570	1 536	1 422



Week ending Wednesday 20 Feb 2002

### 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	-	-	-	3 810	F	4 220	4 320
Jingellic	4.0	1.73	208.25	5 120	F	6 170	6 990
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.49	218.38	960	S	1 350	1 100
Heywoods	5.5	2.89	156.52	13 220	R	14 240	14 510
Doctors Point	5.5	3.00	151.47	13 800	R	14 740	15 130
Albury	4.3	1.99	149.43	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.79	128.81	13 900	F	16 670	17 070
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.67	116.71	9 510	F	9 190	9 650
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	9 770	R	8 670	9 650
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.55	80.10	4 050	R	4 790	4 890
Swan Hill	4.5	1.08	64.00	4 790	S	4 740	3 370
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.81	51.93	6 950	S	6 640	4 870
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.50	43.34	6 730	R	6 040	4 330
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.89	4 660	F	3 970	3 650
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.02	27.78	6 740	F	5 550	5 510
Rufus Junction	-	3.48	17.67	6 390	F	6 580	6 510
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 960	F	4 000	4 170
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.74	153.97	280	F	440	450
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.76	145.44	318	F	310	400
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.28	92.70	572	R	550	610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 330	S	1 350	2 000
Edward at Liewah	-	2.36	57.74	1 820	F	1 810	1 610
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.66	55.15	875	R	830	800
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.75	57.71	1 520	F	870	230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.81	-	0	F	20	70
Darling at Bourke	-	4.05	-	310	R	160	70
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.35	-	1 990	F	2 210	2 780

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 560	5 380
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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	+0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.16	+1.17
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.25	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.09	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.68
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.38	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.20
No. 9 Kulline	27.40	+0.09	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.15	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	+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	-0.05	1.12	70.47	1030
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.03	0.27	61.57	383

### Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.50	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.51	All closed

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

