

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 3 July 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

5 July, 2002



Rainfall was restricted to the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with falls of between 25 and 50 mm recorded in the ranges. However, this had little impact on tributary streamflows and inflows to upper Murray storages.

Transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir continued this week at a rate of 5 000 ML/day, but will be increased to an average of 6 500 ML/day next week in order to further supplement storage in Hume in preparation for the coming irrigation season. A cyclic flow pattern of two weeks duration will be introduced in the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Dam aimed at providing environmental benefits to the river in a manner similar to the pattern undertaken in late 2001 (*refer to attached Media Release*). Storage in Dartmouth has declined by 27 GL to 3 256 GL (86% of capacity).

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 73 GL to 596 GL (20 % of capacity), and about half of this increase was due to transfer of water from Dartmouth. Release from Hume is being maintained at the minimum rate of 600 ML/day to conserve resources for use later in the season.

The weir gates at Yarrawonga Weir are scheduled to be lowered on Tuesday 9 July so the downstream flow can be regulated to allow commencement of refilling of Lake Mulwala (*refer to attached Media Release*). Without further rain, release from Yarrawonga Weir is expected to average about 4 000 ML/day next week. The Lake water level is to be raised to about 0.3 m below normal operating level by mid August to provide a level suitable for commencement of gravity irrigation diversions if there is an early start to channel filling, particularly for Yarrawonga Main Channel. If flows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers are insufficient to achieve the required level in Lake Mulwala in coming weeks, as well as meeting flow requirements downstream of Yarrawonga, release from Hume Reservoir will need to be increased above minimum rates in order to assist with refilling of Lake Mulwala, and in meeting downstream flow requirements.

Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River has increased from 300 to 700 ML/day, and is expected to peak at about 2 000 ML/day next week as a result of rain in mid to late June.

Flow on the Darling River at Bourke has been steady at about 300 ML/day. Further downstream, inflow to Menindee Lakes has gradually declined over the last two weeks to a very low rate of about 50 ML/day. Storage in Menindee Lakes is currently 393 GL (23% of nominal full supply level) and falling very slowly. Release to the lower Darling River at Weir 32 is continuing at 100 ML/day.

Release from Lake Victoria is currently being managed to maintain a steady low flow of 3 000 ML/day to South Australia to assist with the conduct of a salinity survey in progress between Lock 7 and Lock 1. At the completion of the survey early next week, flow to South Australia will be increased slightly above the July entitlement rate of 3 500 ML/day in order to deliver the total July entitlement volume by the end of the month.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 4 July 2002



Increase in Rate of Transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir

River Murray Water announced today that transfer rates from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir will be further increased in preparation for the 2002/2003 irrigation season.

Inflows to Hume Reservoir have remained relatively low over recent weeks, and despite recent rain and transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir, storage in Hume is now 20% of capacity. This is the third lowest volume on record stored in Hume at this time of year, and the lowest since 1998. Inflows to Menindee Lakes on the Darling River, and Lake Victoria on the River Murray near the South Australian border, have also remained low. If there is no significant improvement in flows in tributaries of the River Murray and the Darling River system in coming months, most of the flow requirements of the Murray in 2002/03 will need to be supplied from upper Murray storages.

Increased rates of transfer are now being implemented with the aim of minimising the average release rate over the season to minimise impacts on the river channel, however, under very dry conditions high flow rates near channel capacity may be necessary. In addition, the opportunity will be taken to introduce a cyclic pattern of variation in river level which is expected to provide environmental benefits for the river, in a manner similar to that undertaken in late 2001.

The average release from Dartmouth will be increased from 5 000 to 6 500 ML/day, with a two weekly cycle of variation around 6 500 ML/day. Commencing at 8:00 am on Monday 8 July, flow at Colemans will be increased from 5 000 ML/day (2.2 m gauge height) to 7 500 ML/day (2.5 m gauge height) by 10 July, and then gradually reduced to 5 500 ML/day (2.3 m) by 22 July. Further downstream along the Mitta Mitta River, flow at Tallandoon (currently 5 700 ML/day or 2.6 m gauge height) is expected to increase to about 8 300 ML/day (about 2.9 m gauge height) by 12 July, then gradually fall to about 6 300 ML/day (2.6 m) over about 12 days. Of course, if there is a significant rise in flow in tributaries downstream of Dartmouth, the flow cycling pattern may need to be changed with the aim of preventing flow at exceeding channel capacity.

River Murray Water is continuing to closely monitor inflow conditions and storage in Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria. If dry conditions occur over coming months, the release from Dartmouth is expected to be further increased to rates approaching channel capacity at Tallandoon. Under an extended period of dry conditions, high transfer rates would be required to continue into early 2003. If, however, there is a significant improvement in unregulated inflows to Hume or the mid Murray, there may be a subsequent reduction in the rate of release from Dartmouth Reservoir.

A further media release will be issued when there is a significant change in the release program.

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Manager Production

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Media Release

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Lake Mulwala Refilling to Commence 9 July

Goulburn-Murray Water and River Murray Water announced today that the refilling of Lake Mulwala will commence on 9 July.

The remedial works on the upstream side of Yarrawonga Weir have been progressing according to schedule, and the work is substantially completed. It is now necessary to commence refilling Lake Mulwala in preparation for the coming irrigation season.

If conditions are dry during July and early August, the water level in Lake Mulwala can be expected to gradually rise to about 1.2 m below normal operating level by 31 July. The water level in the Lake would continue to rise to about 0.3 m below normal operating level by mid August, which is sufficient to meet the likely demand for irrigation water at the opening of the irrigation season.

However, if there is rainfall in the catchment upstream, inflows to Lake Mulwala will increase, and River Murray Water will store water in Lake Mulwala above the target levels described above.

Restricted Access to the Lake

Access to Lake Mulwala has been restricted since 6 May to protect identified endangered and vulnerable species and populations of aquatic life in the Lake. **At this stage, Lake Mulwala is expected to remain closed to fishing and boating until 15 August 2002 as announced by NSW and Victorian fisheries authorities and NSW Waterways.** A separate announcement will be made if this situation changes as a result of Lake Mulwala refilling earlier than forecast.

Interference with habitat, including removal of trees, stumps and fallen logs and aquatic weeds is prohibited.

Fisheries, Waterways and Goulburn-Murray Water Officers will continue to patrol the area over coming weeks to ensure compliance with the closure conditions.

Landholders are reminded that no works may be undertaken on the foreshore or lakebed without the express written permission of Goulburn-Murray Water in Victoria, or a Planning Permit from the Shire of Corowa in NSW.

Any enquiries in relation to the drawdown should be directed to Jason Dagger, Community Relations Officer, Yarrawonga Weir Remedial Works on telephone 1800 111 202 or 0417 590 616.

- E N D S -

Media Contact: Jason Dagger

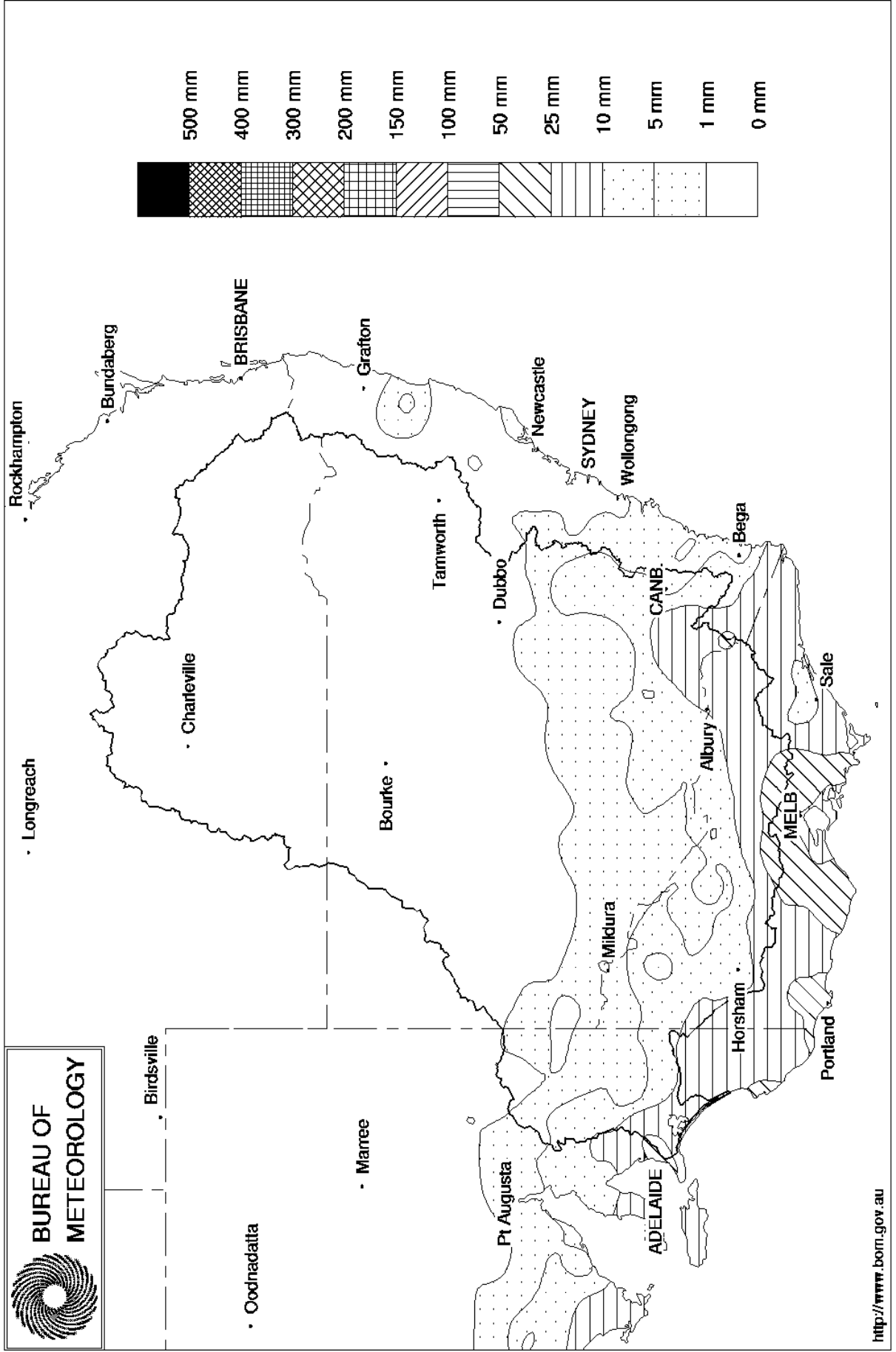
Position: Community Relations Officer, Yarrawonga Weir Remedial Works
Telephone: 1800 111 202 or 0417 590 616

Date released: 28 June 2002
Author: Bruce Campbell, River Murray Water
Authorised by: David Jeffery, GMW; Bryan Harper, RMW

G-MW Doc Ref: 800073 G-MW File Ref: 2000/2130/1

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 3rd July 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 03 Jul 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	475.55	3 256	83%	80	3 176	-27
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.44	596	20%	30	566	+73
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.32	393	58%	100	293	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		395	23%	640 #	0	-1
Total		9 306		4 639	50%	850	4 035	+47

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **48%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		259	25%	3	256	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		446	27%	24	422	+63
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		718	21%	100	618	+18

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 02-Jul-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 849	-16	Snowy-Murray	+12	79
Snowy-Murray Component	1 366	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	44
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	7.3	35
			Murray 1 Release	+22	137

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.1
Licensed Pumps	1.6	.7
Lower Darling	0.7	.3
TOTAL	2.4	1.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.3	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	1
TOTAL	2.0	1

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5	
Flow this week	21.2	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	9	
Flow last month	90	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	200	156	182
Euston	210	195	204
Red Cliffs	200	180	269
Merbein	170	170	259
Burtundy	800	792	569
Lock 9	240	234	369
Lake Victoria	390	378	408
Berri	510	531	486
Waikerie	650	650	582
Morgan	680	677	599
Mannum	630	635	566
Murray Bridge	680	690	615
Meningie	-	-	1 268
Goolwa Barrages	4 330	5 999	1 836



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	-	-	-	2 560	F	2 750	2 910
Jingellic	4.0	1.71	208.23	4 970	F	5 290	5 990
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.54	219.43	5 630	F	5 740	5 450
Heywoods	5.5	1.20	154.83	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.69	150.16	1 950	R	1 780	2 000
Albury	4.3	0.81	148.25	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.70	126.72	1 650	F	1 830	2 590
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.83	115.87	4 170	R	3 690	5 430
Tocumwal	6.4	1.24	105.08	3 740	R	3 970	5 810
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.57	80.12	4 270	F	5 210	4 440
Swan Hill	4.5	1.15	64.07	5 320	F	5 590	2 880
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.70	51.82	6 470	R	5 480	3 910
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.50	43.34	7 050	R	5 180	4 640
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.84	3 680	F	3 300	4 210
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.91	27.67	3 770	R	3 650	4 710
Rufus Junction	-	2.74	18.42	2 550	S	2 510	2 450
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 420	S	2 470	2 510
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.49	154.72	1 380	R	1 360	1 590
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.28	145.96	1 349	F	1 420	1 700
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	463	R	450	620
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	220	F	250	240
Edward at Liewah	-	1.07	56.45	560	R	560	940
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.26	54.75	134	S	140	180
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.03	56.99	690	R	450	350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	90	S	90	80
Darling at Bourke	-	4.04	-	280	S	300	270
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	110	S	120	150

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 550	10 060
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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	-5.58	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+0.43
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.28
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.27	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.11
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.07	+0.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.15

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.37	1.94	71.29	2740
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.08	1.33	62.63	1670

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.65	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.68	All closed

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

