

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 July 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng/bwh

26 July, 2002



Rain was confined to the southern portions of the Murray-Darling Basin with falls generally between 1 and 10 mm. Some heavier falls of up to 20 mm were recorded in the upper Murray, Kiewa, Ovens and Goulburn River catchments, however, these produced little or no response in streamflows.

Combined storage in Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs increased by 32 GL this week and storage in Hume is now 882 GL or 29% of capacity. Release from Hume Dam has been increased to meet diversion requirements for channel and storage filling in the Torrumbarry Irrigation System, and also to assist with the refilling of Lake Mulwala. Accordingly, flow at Albury/Wodonga has been increased from 1 800 to 8 200 ML/day over the week.

If conditions remain dry, release from Hume will be further increased to achieve a flow at Albury/Wodonga of about 12 000 ML/day by the end of next week in order to commence a transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria (*see Media Release attached*). This transfer is required to achieve an appropriate balance in water storage between upper and lower Murray storages. With no Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes, and currently 63% of capacity in Lake Victoria, the transfer from Hume is required to achieve sufficient storage in Lake Victoria so that the requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met from available water resources over the remainder of the 2002/03 irrigation season if dry conditions continue.

The transfer to Lake Victoria is commencing at this early stage of the season in view of the limits of channel capacity through the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The commencement date is similar to that in 1994 – the last occasion when this mode of operation was required. If dry conditions persist, flow through the Barmah-Millewa Forest at rates slightly above channel capacity may be required to transfer sufficient water to Lake Victoria prior to the peak of the irrigation season. However, over coming months the release rate from Hume and rate of transfer to Lake Victoria will be reviewed and reduced to conserve resources if there is a significant increase in flow in downstream tributaries, or if there is a substantial increase in inflow to Menindee Lakes. Major transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume is continuing in order to provide an appropriate balance of storage between those two storages, and to assist with the transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

Refilling of Lake Mulwala is continuing according to schedule, and the water level increased by about 0.4 m this week. Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased from 4 000 to 4 500 ML/day to meet minor increases in downstream requirements during the week. Commencing Friday 26 July, release from Yarrawonga Weir will be gradually increased to about 8 000 ML/day by about 2 August (without further significant rain) as part of the transfer of resources to Lake Victoria. If conditions remain dry, the rate of transfer to Lake Victoria is expected to be further increased in August.

Diversion to National Channel from the Torrumbarry Weir pool commenced on 19 July and is now continuing at a rate of about 2 000 ML/day for purposes of filling channels and storages. Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir declined from 4 500 to 2 000 ML/day, and is forecast to gradually rise to about 3 000 ML/day by early August. Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River averaged about 1 400 ML/day, and is forecast to remain near this rate until early August.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 26 July 2002

Commencement of Transfer of Water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria



River Murray Water announced today that transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria commenced today with the objective of achieving a suitable balance in stored water between upper Murray and lower Murray storages throughout the 2002/03 irrigation season.

Currently, there is no Murray-Darling Basin Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes, and a substantial increase in inflow to Menindee would be required to make some storage available to the MDBC. In addition, conditions in the upper Murray and tributary catchments have been dry since early March - in the upper Murray in this period, inflow has been equivalent to the driest year in three over the long term (about a 65% chance of exceedance).

Transfer to Lake Victoria is currently required so that the distribution of stored water throughout the River Murray system can meet the requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales throughout the 2002/03 season if dry conditions continue.

Currently there is a high chance (about 75%) that tributary inflows over the next few months will be sufficient to assist in filling Lake Victoria. Under such wetter conditions, transfers from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria will be reduced to conserve resources. However, if conditions remain dry, transfers will need to continue until late 2002. Under those conditions, it may be necessary to increase the rate of transfer rate to above channel capacity downstream of Yarrawonga Weir as was undertaken in 1994 - the last occasion when there was no Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes.

Commencing today, release from Yarrawonga Weir will be gradually increased from the current release of 4 500 ML/day (0.9 m gauge height) to about 8 000 ML/day (1.5 m) by about 2 August 2002. If conditions remain dry, a subsequent further increases to about 10 000 ML/day (1.8 m) will be made. To achieve the increased flows, release from Hume Reservoir (currently 9 000 ML/day or 1.5 m at Albury/Wodonga gauge) will also be gradually increased over the next week to about 12 000 ML/day (1.8 m) by about 30 July, if conditions remain dry. This increase in release is also taking into account the need to continue to refill Lake Mulwala prior to the commencement of the irrigation season.

The need for, and the rate of, transfer of water to Lake Victoria will be continually reviewed according to tributary flows and storage in Lake Victoria, and release from Hume will be adjusted as necessary 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

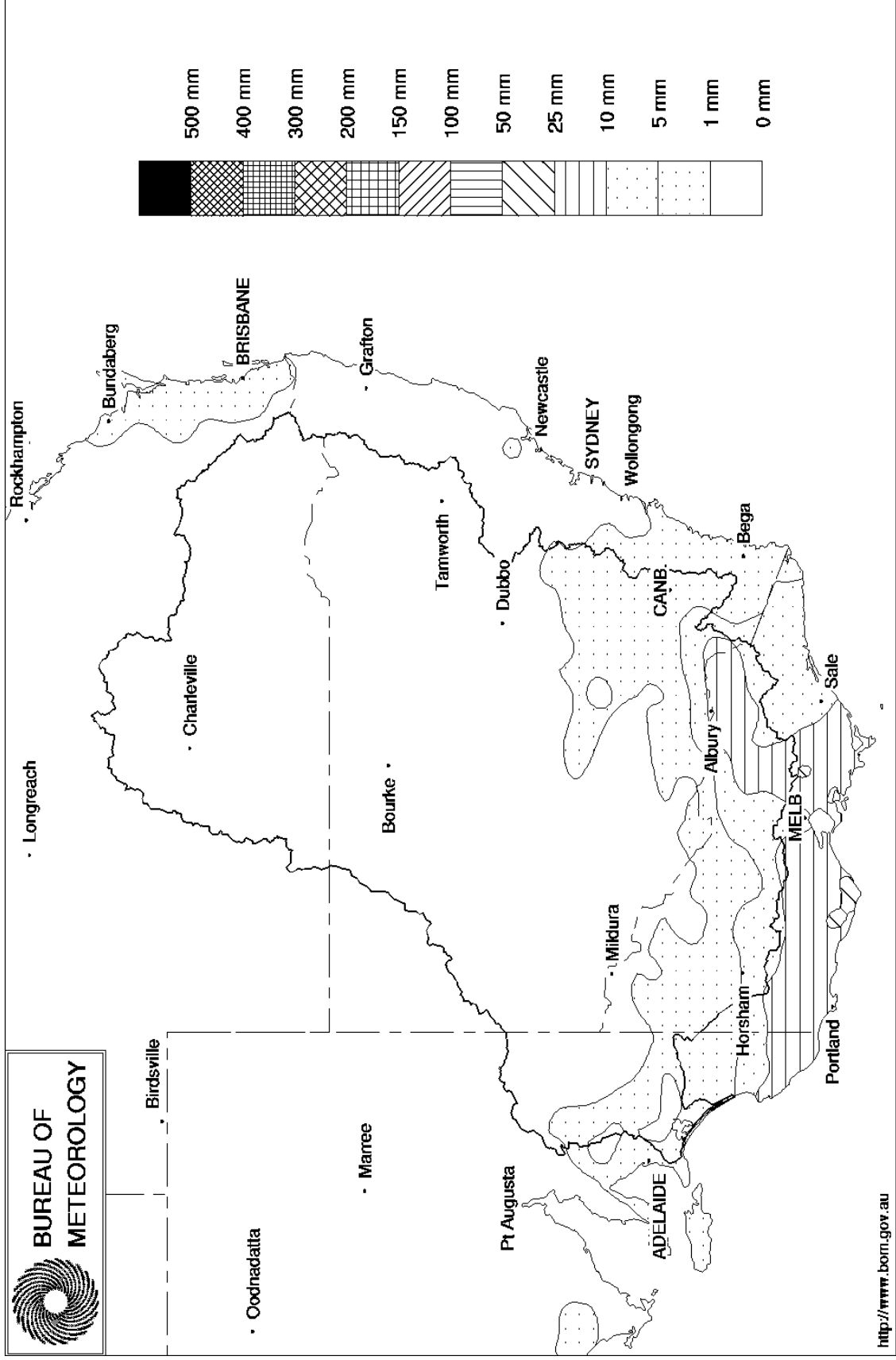
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(Alison Hicks is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th July 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



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 | 474.05 | 3 168 | 81% | 80 | 3 088 | -35 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 177.49 | 882 | 29% | 30 | 852 | +67 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 680 | 24.63 | 425 | 62% | 100 | 325 | +6 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 682 * | | 382 | 23% | 640 # | 0 | -4 |
| Total | | 9 306 | | 4 857 | 52% | 850 | 4 264 | +34 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

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

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 285 | 28% | 3 | 282 | +5 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | 570 | 35% | 24 | 546 | +35 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | 790 | 23% | 100 | 690 | +9 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Jul-2002

| Storage (GL) | Current storage | Weekly change | Diversion | This week | From 1 May 2002 |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 2 849 | -12 | Snowy-Murray | +19 | 120 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 1 336 | - | Tooma-Tumut | +5 | 62 |
| Target Storage | 1 170 | | Nett Diversion | 13.5 | 58 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +21 | 190 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2002 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | .0 | - 4.6 |
| Wakool System loss | 0.6 | 1.6 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 0.2 | .4 |
| Licensed Pumps | 0.9 | 3.4 |
| Lower Darling | 3.6 | 11.8 |
| TOTAL | 5.2 | 12.6 |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2002 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | .0 | |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 0.0 | |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 1.0 | 2 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.0 | 1 |
| Licensed pumps - SRW | 1.9 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 3.0 | 9 |

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | | |
|------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 108.5 | (3 600 ML/day) |
| Flow this week | 25.0 | |
| Flow so far this month | 84 | |
| Flow last month | 90 | |

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2001 |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 240 | 188 | 183 |
| Euston | 180 | 203 | 204 |
| Red Cliffs | 190 | 180 | 264 |
| Merbein | 150 | 180 | 255 |
| Burtundy | 830 | 830 | 584 |
| Lock 9 | 250 | 252 | 362 |
| Lake Victoria | 310 | 375 | 406 |
| Berri | 450 | 465 | 486 |
| Waikerie | 670 | 670 | 590 |
| Morgan | 680 | 675 | 603 |
| Mannum | 650 | 650 | 570 |
| Murray Bridge | 700 | 701 | 620 |
| Meningie | 1 440 | 1 390 | 1 271 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 4 800 | 5 471 | 2 067 |



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 | - | - | - | 4 640 | F | 3 550 | 2 530 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 2.00 | 208.52 | 7 440 | R | 6 370 | 6 630 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 2.97 | 219.86 | 8 580 | R | 7 030 | 7 950 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 2.22 | 155.85 | 6 990 | R | 3 360 | 600 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 2.50 | 150.97 | 8 250 | R | 4 630 | 1 940 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 1.46 | 148.90 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 1.59 | 127.61 | 6 080 | R | 3 260 | 2 260 |
| Yarrawonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 0.89 | 115.93 | 4 480 | R | 4 260 | 4 260 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 1.32 | 105.16 | 4 150 | R | 3 920 | 4 350 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 0.98 | 79.53 | 2 110 | R | 2 640 | 4 530 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 0.68 | 63.60 | 2 300 | F | 3 800 | 4 060 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 2.13 | 51.25 | 4 290 | F | 4 710 | 4 610 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 1.34 | 43.18 | 6 150 | F | 6 220 | 5 720 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | 30.90 | 4 830 | F | 4 530 | 4 810 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.93 | 27.69 | 5 260 | R | 4 900 | 5 520 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 2.87 | 18.50 | 3 240 | R | 3 080 | 3 020 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | - | - | 2 660 | F | 2 790 | 2 640 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 1.57 | 154.80 | 1 530 | R | 1 340 | 1 520 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 8.54 | 146.22 | 2 028 | F | 2 100 | 3 070 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.16 | 92.58 | 383 | R | 400 | 490 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 220 | F | 220 | 280 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 1.00 | 56.38 | 500 | F | 520 | 530 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.25 | 54.74 | 125 | S | 130 | 150 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 1.72 | 57.68 | 1 480 | R | 1 390 | 1 450 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.19 | - | 40 | S | 50 | 110 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.01 | - | 190 | S | 190 | 190 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.69 | - | 90 | S | 100 | 90 |

| | | |
|---|-------|--------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 6 170 | 10 360 |
|---|-------|--------|

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 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Yarrawonga | 124.90 | -2.78 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.12 | +0.56 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.00 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.06 | +0.00 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | -0.01 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.04 | +0.08 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.03 | +0.10 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.02 | +0.32 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.01 | +0.29 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.04 | +0.12 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.04 | +0.07 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.03 | +0.08 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.08 | +0.13 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.02 | -0.05 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | | | local (m) | (m AHD) | |
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -0.02 | 1.15 | 70.5 | 1090 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | +0.18 | 1.15 | 62.45 | 1420 |

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | Openings | Level | Status |
|----------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.76 | All closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | - | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed |
| Tauwicheere | 322 gates | 0.74 | All closed |

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

