

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 1 May 2002

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng

2 May, 2002



Light falls of rain of up to 20 mm were recorded across the upper catchment of the River Murray and along the New South Wales – Queensland border, but in both regions this produced little or no increase in streamflows. Dry and mild conditions across the major irrigation areas has led to irrigation demand being steady at major irrigation offtakes, and in some cases has led to a slight increase in demand.

Storage in Hume Reservoir was drawn down by 33 GL to 280 GL or 9% of capacity. Release from Hume averaged about 7 000 ML/day this week, but is forecast to be increased early next week if conditions remain dry.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala increased during the week in response to the dry conditions and the impending closure of diversions to Mulwala Canal which cease next week. The water level in Lake Mulwala is now about 124.55 m AHD, or 35 cm below nominal Full Supply Level, and is near the lower limit of operational levels for this time of year. Drawdown of the Lake to permit remedial works will commence on or before 15 May depending on irrigation demand at Yarrawonga Main Channel (*see Media Release attached*).

Reduced demand in the mid-Murray has permitted a reduction in release from Yarrawonga Weir from 4 800 to 3 700 ML/day. Release is expected to be further reduced next week, however, will subsequently be increased in order to achieve the draw down of Lake Mulwala.

On the Edward River, the level of Stevens Weir pool has been reduced toward the lower limit of operational levels for this time of year. The annual drawdown of Stevens Weir pool is scheduled to commence on about 6 May, and is likely to be completed by the end of May.

Diversion to National Channel is near steady at about 1 900 ML/day, and is expected to gradually decline between now and the cessation of diversion on or before mid May depending on weather conditions. Release from Torrumbarry Weir has been reduced from 2 800 to 2 400 ML/day, and is expected to be reduced further to about 2 000 ML/day next week. The river height at Swan Hill is currently 0.74 m and is forecast to fall to near the target minimum level of 0.6 m by mid May if conditions remain dry.

River Murray flow in the Sunraysia region is continuing to recede with 4 000 ML/day currently passing Euston Weir, and 4 200 ML/day passing Mildura Weir. Flow at these locations is forecast to gradually decline to about 2 500 ML/day by mid May if conditions remain dry.

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently steady at 291 GL (43% of capacity), and flow to South Australia has been reduced to the May entitlement of 3 000 ML/day.

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General Manager



Media Release

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Lake Mulwala drawdown to commence within a fortnight

Goulburn-Murray Water and River Murray Water plan to commence the drawdown of Lake Mulwala as soon as conditions allow.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is to be temporarily drawn down at the end of this irrigation season to allow completion of remedial works on the upstream side of Yarrowonga Weir.

The drawdown will commence as soon as practicable, but will be dictated by the end of irrigation demand at the Yarrowonga Main Channel. Due to the unpredictable nature of weather conditions and irrigation demand, it is not possible to give a precise date of the commencement of the drawdown at this time. Based on current weather patterns and irrigation demand, it is likely to be closer to 15 May. However, should there be a change in conditions the drawdown will commence earlier. A further media release will be provided immediately prior to the drawdown commencing.

Whilst conditions have been relatively dry since mid-April, demand for irrigation water via the Yarrowonga Main Channel has remained at relatively low rates. Hence, as a water conservation measure, River Murray Water has been able to adjust inflows to Lake Mulwala to achieve pool levels at the lower limit of the normal operating range.

As a result of this operation, the water level in Lake Mulwala reached 124.55 m, or 35 cm below nominal Full Supply Level, on 1 May. The water level in Lake Mulwala is expected to remain within about 5 cm above or below this level until irrigation demand at the Yarrowonga Main Channel reduces as a result of rainfall or the end of the irrigation season. The drawdown of Lake Mulwala will then commence.

Refilling of the Lake will commence sometime in July, but it may not return to normal operating levels until mid to late August 2002. A media release will be issued to provide notification of the time of refilling in late June or early July.

Restricted access to the Lake

To protect identified endangered and vulnerable species and populations of aquatic life in the Lake, access to the Lakebed will be restricted whilst Lake Mulwala is drawn down. **Both NSW and Victorian Fisheries have closed the Lake to fishing from 6 May 2002 until 15 August 2002. The Lake has also been closed to all boating during this period.**

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

Fisheries, Waterways and Goulburn-Murray Water Officers will be patrolling the area during the drawdown period to ensure compliance with the closure conditions.

In addition 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, Yarrowonga Weir Remedial Works on telephone 03 5833 5565 or 0417 590 616.

- E N D S -

Media Contact: Jason Dagger

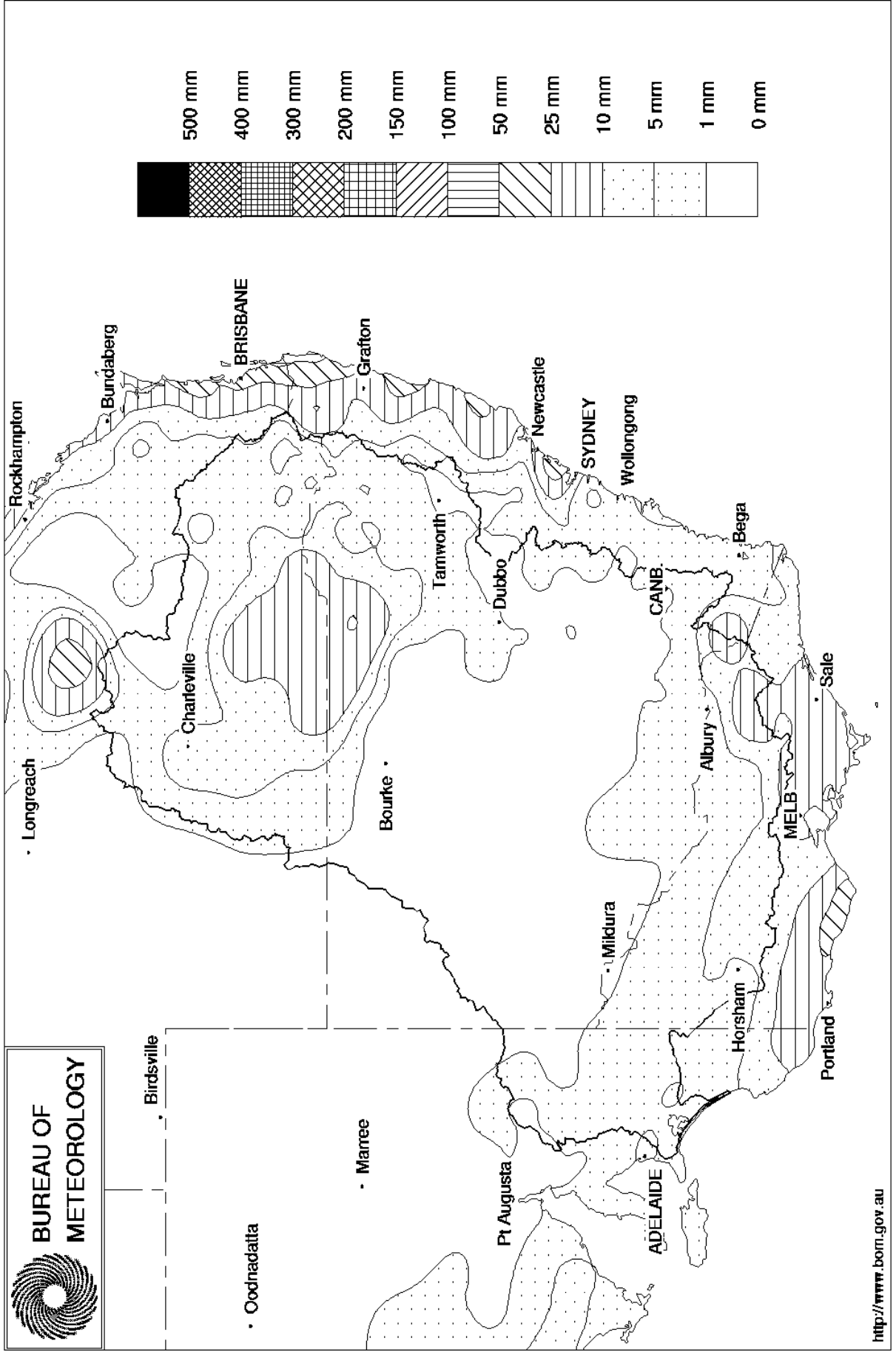
Position: Community Relations Officer, Yarrowonga Weir Remedial Works
Telephone: 03 5833 5565 or 0417 590 616

Date released: 01 May 2002

Author: Bruce Campbell, River Murray Water
Authorised by: David Jeffery, Murray Headworks Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st May 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 01 May 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	476.49	3 312	85%	80	3 232	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.11	280	9%	30	250	-33
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.30	291	43%	100	191	-4
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		427	25%	640 #	0	-6
Total		9 306		4 310	46%	850	3 674	-45

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **43%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		240	23%	3	237	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		229	14%	24	205	+11
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		684	20%	100	584	-12

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 30-Apr-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 899	-5	Snowy-Murray	+1	
Snowy-Murray Component	1 331	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	-4.4	
			Murray 1 Release	+1	

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	23.6	1 520.6
Wakool System loss	3.0	40.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	28.3
Licensed Pumps	9.4	409.7
Lower Darling	2.0	120.9
TOTAL	38.4	2 120.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	9.4	522
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.7	817
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.3	150
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	70
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.8	176
TOTAL	26.0	1 735

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(4 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	28.7	
Flow so far this month	3	
Flow last month	133	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	100	106	182
Euston	170	157	210
Red Cliffs	200	190	279
Merbein	160	160	274
Burtundy	810	807	514
Lock 9	260	263	395
Lake Victoria	420	408	407
Berri	530	537	476
Waikerie	640	640	561
Morgan	640	648	563
Mannum	620	623	552
Murray Bridge	660	743	600
Meningie	1 410	-	1 223
Goolwa Barrages	1 400	1 396	1 449



River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	450	F	460	450
Jingellic	4.0	1.18	207.70	1 130	F	1 270	1 330
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	830	F	1 110	900
Heywoods	5.5	2.18	155.81	5 850	F	6 510	5 760
Doctors Point	5.5	2.29	150.76	6 230	R	6 950	6 190
Albury	4.3	1.28	148.72	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.89	127.91	7 860	F	7 790	8 470
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.83	115.87	3 670	F	4 460	5 270
Tocumwal	6.4	1.41	105.25	4 450	F	4 800	5 710
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.06	79.61	2 430	R	2 650	2 930
Swan Hill	4.5	0.74	63.66	2 530	F	2 600	3 050
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.92	51.04	3 620	S	4 050	5 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.92	42.76	3 970	F	4 720	6 170
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.83	4 240	F	4 760	5 950
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	3 770	R	4 600	5 660
Rufus Junction	-	2.82	17.66	2 840	F	3 720	3 660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 210	F	2 760	3 280
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.73	153.96	270	F	280	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	360	F	370	370
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	399	S	410	470
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	210	F	220	260
Edward at Liewah	-	1.40	56.78	820	F	1 010	1 840
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.48	54.97	459	F	520	620
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.65	56.61	340	R	360	420
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.29	-	210	S	190	270
Darling at Bourke	-	4.11	-	530	F	630	380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.78	-	280	S	300	330

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 540	2 370
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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	-0.35	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.52
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.28
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.23

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.50	0.7	70.05	398
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.13	0.18	61.48	296

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.58	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.59	All closed



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