

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 22 May 2002

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng:bwh

23 May, 2002



Rain blanketed the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin with falls of up to 60 mm in the upper Murray, reducing northwards to light falls in central New South Wales.

Colder conditions led to increased electricity demand during the week and has resulted in increased generation at Dartmouth Dam and in the Snowy Mountains Scheme. These releases, combined with minor rises in natural stream flows, have increased inflows to Hume Reservoir from about 2 500 to about 6 500 ML/day. As a result, storage in Hume Reservoir rose by 24 GL to 261 GL (8.6% of capacity).

The drawdown of Lake Mulwala is well underway with the level being drawn down by 1.4 m to 123.0 m (1.9 m below Full Supply Level) this week. The lake level is expected to be lowered to about 4.9 m below full supply level by the end of next week. To facilitate the drawdown, release from Yarrawonga Weir was steadily increased initially to 10 400 ML/day, but following minor increases in flows in the ovens River the release was further increased to 15 000 ML/day in order to achieve the initial target lake level for commencement of remedial works by late May. It is expected that, without further rain, the release will be reduced gradually to about 5 000 ML/day next week.

Combined flow through the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes has been increased from about 400 to 2 000 ML/day so that some of the water drained from Lake Mulwala will be diverted to the Edward River in order to minimise overbank flow in the Barmah-Millewa Forest. This transfer of water along the Edward River and then to the River Murray will later be stored in Lake Victoria to conserve water resources for subsequent use. Drawdown of Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River is continuing, and the pool level now about 3 m below Full Supply Level, and is expected to be fully drawn down by the end of May.

Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has been increased from 2 300 to 6 800 ML/day, and is expected to peak in excess of 8 000 ML/day next week as the increased flow from Lake Mulwala drawdown arrives. Torrumbarry flow is then expected to gradually recede into June and remain at low levels unless significant flows occur in tributaries downstream of Hume Dam. Boat operators are advised to note that, whilst flow in this river reach may currently permit passage at Torrumbarry Weir, flows of this magnitude are not again expected until tributary inflows increase.

Release from Euston Weir has begun to be increased and is currently 3 600 ML/day. It is expected that release will continue to rise to beyond 8 000 ML/day by early June with the arrival of water from the drawdown of Lake Mulwala, and then gradually recede without further rain.

Temporary removal of Mildura Weir for maintenance purposes will now commence on Saturday 25 May (*see Media Release attached*). Higher River Murray flows expected at this time will assist in limiting any rise in downstream river salinity produced as a result of the temporary removal of Mildura Weir. In addition, it is anticipated that the some of the flow in transit upstream will assist in refilling the weir pool thereby reducing the duration of drawdown and inconvenience to river users.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 20 May 2002

Mildura Weir Removal to Commence on Saturday 25 May 2002



River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today that the temporary removal of Mildura Weir will commence on Saturday 25 May.

The weir is to be removed to allow some existing weir trestles to be removed for overhaul, and to be replaced by newly manufactured trestles. The proposed schedule for withdrawal and re-instatement is currently as follows:

Date	Action
25 May 2002	Commence removal of weir bars and trestles, and commence gradual lowering of weir pool
5 June 2002	Expected date of commencement of refilling of weir pool
approx 12 June 2002	Expected completion of refilling of weir pool to near full supply level. However, refilling may take longer than this if flows are very low.

The above schedule will be adhered to as far as possible, however some minor variations in timing may be required.

The weir pool level will be lowered by about 3.6 m below the normal full supply level. If river flow at the time is relatively low, this may lead to temporary but significant increases in river salinity at and downstream of Mildura as a result of increased saline input from the water table adjacent to the weir pool. River operation at the time will be directed toward minimising any increases in river salinity that may occur.

Limited availability of Lock passage will be provided as far as is possible within the constraints of work requirements, however, boat operators should plan on Lock passage being unavailable for most of the period 25 May to 12 June inclusive. **In addition, the Lock will be periodically closed from 22-24 May to allow the last of the new weir trestles to be transported across the Lock to Lock Island.** As usual, boat operators are advised to contact the Senior Reservoir Officer in advance to check availability and to arrange a suitable time for a Lockage. Boat operators are advised that navigation upstream of the weir will be more difficult than usual as a result of the lower water levels as the weir is removed.

Due to Occupational Health and Safety requirements, public access to the Recreation Park and Lock Island will be restricted during transport of the new trestles across the Lock chamber. The Recreation Park and Lock Island will also be closed for the duration of the drawdown.

Any inconvenience is regretted, however, the purpose of the weir withdrawal is to ensure the continued serviceability of the works.

For further information contact:

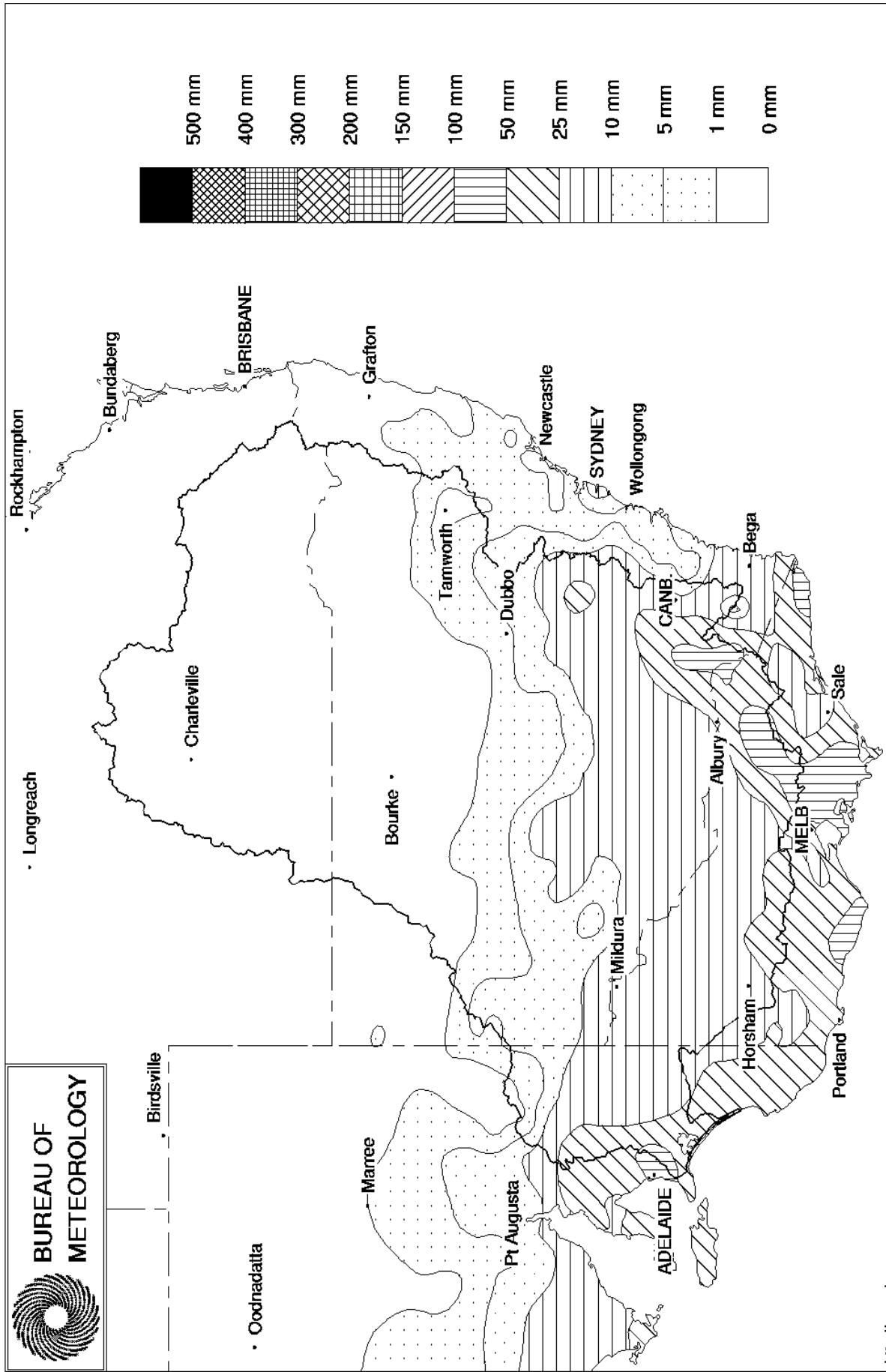
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Note: These contacts are *not* to be quoted as spokesperson

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 22nd May 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Week ending Wednesday 22 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	476.38	3 305	85%	80	3 225	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.76	261	9%	30	231	+24
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.18	280	41%	100	180	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		412	25%	640 #	0	-5
Total		9 306		4 258	46%	850	3 636	+18

* 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	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		224	14%	24	200	+26
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		668	20%	100	568	-3

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 21-May-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 826	-25	Snowy-Murray	+12	25
Snowy-Murray Component	1 320	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	9.5	21
			Murray 1 Release	+13	29

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- 2.8	1 531.5
Wakool System loss	0.7	44.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	29.3
Licensed Pumps	5.5	430.1
Lower Darling	0.2	123.5
TOTAL	3.6	2 159.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	547
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	1.2	842
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	154
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	7.3	78
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.8	182
TOTAL	10.4	1 803

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	20.4	(2 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	66	
Flow last month	133	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	270	287	182
Euston	150	148	207
Red Cliffs	280	260	276
Merbein	210	210	268
Burtundy	830	831	537
Lock 9	230	227	384
Lake Victoria	480	466	408
Berri	520	504	479
Waikerie	N/A	660	569
Morgan	N/A	N/A	586
Mannum	620	624	557
Murray Bridge	690	701	606
Meningie	N/A	N/A	1 238
Goolwa Barrages	4 280	4 627	1 522



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	2 930	870
Jingellic	4.0	1.70	208.22	4 900	R	3 730	1 480
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.04	218.93	2 920	F	1 580	830
Heywoods	5.5	1.25	154.88	630	F	980	4 370
Doctors Point	5.5	1.51	149.98	1 090	F	1 320	4 700
Albury	4.3	0.68	148.12	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.72	126.74	1 730	F	2 180	5 820
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.34	117.38	15 000	R	10 550	3 770
Tocumwal	6.4	2.33	106.17	10 040	R	8 060	3 700
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.32	80.87	6 790	R	4 330	1 950
Swan Hill	4.5	1.02	63.94	4 500	R	3 400	1 870
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.27	51.39	4 790	R	3 560	2 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.84	42.68	3 580	R	2 930	2 610
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.76	2 360	F	2 190	2 090
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.78	27.54	2 430	S	2 510	1 670
Rufus Junction	-	2.70	17.86	2 190	S	2 290	2 520
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 160	R	2 520	1 590
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.93	154.16	520	F	390	230
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.08	145.76	887	R	560	330
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.36	92.78	699	R	570	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 650	F	1 130	570
Edward at Liewah	-	1.54	56.92	940	R	790	610
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.37	54.86	276	F	290	290
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.63	56.59	330	R	300	280
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	130	S	140	180
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	220	S	220	240
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	230	S	230	210

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 980	1 600
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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	-1.90	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.39
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	-0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.32
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.06	+0.14	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.18

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.21	0.73	70.08	433
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.01	0.35	61.65	469

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.62	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.61	All closed

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

