

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 23 April 2003

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng:bwh

24 April, 2003



Rainfall

After the promising rain in the previous week, virtually no further rain was recorded this week across the Murray-Darling Basin. Tributary inflows, whilst slowly receding after the rain last week, are higher than have been observed in recent months. Combined inflow to the River Murray from the Kiewa, Ovens, Goulburn, Campaspe, Loddon and Murrumbidgee Rivers currently totals about 1 200 ML/day compared with a total of about 700 ML/day observed in early April.

System Operation

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir is steady at 29% of capacity with release being maintained at 600 ML/day. The total volume of water released from Dartmouth Reservoir since 1 May 2002 to 23 April 2003 (almost 12 months) has been 2 521 GL, which is 64% of the capacity of Dartmouth, or 29% of the total active capacity of Commission storage for the River Murray system. This volume of release was necessary to assist in supplying requirements for South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales throughout the 2002/03 drought season while there was no Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes. This volume included short periods of minimum riparian flow for the Mitta Mitta River, and short periods of Dartmouth power station entitlement release.

Storage in Hume Reservoir is continuing to rise slowly due to the combined effects of release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme at Murray 1 power station, and declining irrigation demand along the Murray. Release, as measured at Albury/Wodonga, averaged about 4 800 ML/day this week (compared with 6 600 ML/day last week) as a result of reduced irrigation demand. It is expected that irrigation demand, and subsequent release from Hume Dam, will increase early next week before beginning to taper off in early May as the end of the irrigation season approaches.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced from 4 800 to 4 200 ML/day in response to reduced irrigation demand, and further minor reductions in release are expected to be made next week.

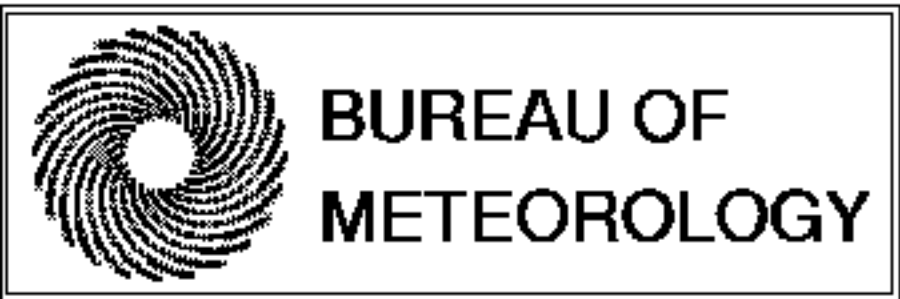
River users are reminded that Mildura Weir pool is scheduled to be drawn down for weir maintenance purposes commencing mid May. Further details on the scheduled weir maintenance and lock refurbishment and the impacts on pool levels and boating traffic will be provided via a Media Release next week.

Flow to South Australia is being maintained at the April entitlement rate of 4 500 ML/day. Storage in Lake Victoria continues to be gradually drawn down to assist in meeting flow to South Australia, and is currently at about 277 GL (41% of capacity and 23.15 m AHD). River salinities in South Australia are generally beginning to slowly rise as a result of flow being reduced from the March entitlement of 6 000 ML/day to the April entitlement of 4 000 ML/day. River salinities in South Australia are forecast to slowly rise over coming weeks, and salinity levels in winter and spring will be dependent on rainfall and Murray tributary inflows over that period. The level of Lake Alexandrina remains steady at about 0.4 m AHD or about 0.35 m below nominal full supply level.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd April 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

Week ending Wednesday 23 Apr 2003

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	428.01	1 133	29%	80	1 053	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.82	214	7%	30	184	+18
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.06	277	41%	100	177	-33
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		108	6%	640 #	0	-0
Total		9 306		1 731	19%	850	1 414	-17

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **17%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	48	5%	3	45	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	60	4%	24	36	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	298	9%	100	198	-11

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-Apr-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 204	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+36	908
Snowy-Murray Component	975	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	205
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	35.9	703
			Murray 1 Release	+37	1 128

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	9.8	512.3
Wakool System loss	1.2	52.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	28.1
Licensed Pumps	2.1	193.5
Lower Darling	0.8	120.2
TOTAL	14.2	906.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	5.5	463
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.1	783
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.4	150
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	69
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.4	177
TOTAL	17.6	1 643

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	31.4	
Flow so far this month	103	
Flow last month	186	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	70	70	80
Euston	110	110	120
Red Cliffs	190	150	130
Merbein	180	180	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 380	1 380	1 160
Lock 9	150	140	170
Lake Victoria	280	280	290
Berri	290	280	320
Waikerie	340	340	400
Morgan	370	380	480
Mannum	390	390	560
Murray Bridge	440	450	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 170	1 170	1 160
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 400	1 310	1 170
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 740	1 760	1 630
Goolwa Barrages	3 690	3 970	3 260



Week ending Wednesday 23 Apr 2003

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	-	-	-	6 250	R	5 980	6 140
Jingellic	4.0	1.92	208.44	6 710	F	7 440	6 530
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	218.28	720	S	760	1 180
Heywoods	5.5	1.84	155.47	4 200	R	4 160	6 770
Doctors Point	5.5	2.04	150.51	4 140	F	4 810	6 620
Albury	4.3	1.07	148.51	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.64	127.66	6 370	F	5 410	8 740
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.82	115.86	4 120	F	4 400	5 150
Tocumwal	6.4	1.30	105.14	4 230	F	4 360	5 400
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.24	79.79	3 060	F	3 440	3 400
Swan Hill	4.5	0.85	63.77	3 370	F	3 330	2 750
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.00	51.12	3 780	R	3 500	3 100
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.91	42.75	3 920	R	3 390	3 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.90	3 420	F	2 920	2 870
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.99	27.75	2 670	R	2 080	2 120
Rufus Junction	-	3.04	19.97	4 150	R	4 130	4 250
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 270	S	3 270	3 250
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.67	153.90	200	S	350	150
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.69	145.37	256	F	410	370
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.28	92.70	572	F	790	520
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	170	F	190	290
Edward at Liewah	-	0.64	56.02	270	R	270	280
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.45	54.94	373	S	360	310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	173	F	210	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.40	-	470	F	550	620
Darling at Bourke	-	4.20	-	960	R	870	810
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	90	S	90	100

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 010	1 000
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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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.74
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.35	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.21	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.35

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.92	0.6	69.95	296
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.01	0.16	61.46	278

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.42	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.40	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.41	All closed

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

