

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 May 2003

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng

23 May, 2003



Tributaries respond to further rain

Further promising falls of rain were recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin this week. The upper Murray received falls of between 25 and 100 mm producing the most significant stream rises since September 2002 – and in some cases since October 2001. Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir reached about 2 500 ML/day pushing the volume in storage up by 7 GL – the first real rise in Dartmouth Storage since October 2001.

Streamflows in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers are currently rising and have permitted the reduction in release from Hume Dam to the minimum requirement of 600 ML/day. Flow in the River Murray at Albury/Wodonga increased from 1200 to 1600 ML/day in response to Kiewa River inflows and is expected to peak at about 2000 ML/day early next week without further rain.

Inflow from the Ovens River increased from 200 to 1600 ML/day and will peak at about 1750 ML/day early next week. Further downstream, inflow from the Goulburn River has reached 1000 ML/day for the first time since October 2001.

Mildura Weir Update

Mildura Weir pool continues to be drawn down for maintenance purposes. It is expected that replacement of trestles will be completed and refilling will commence by about Monday 26 May. To assist the refilling process, and to help maintain an adequate flow downstream of Mildura Weir, Euston Weir will be temporarily drawn upon next week (*see Media Release attached*).

River flows to reflect natural variability

With the closure of the season for the gravity-fed irrigation systems, irrigation demand has reduced substantially. This reduction in diversion, coupled with reduced losses and increasing tributary inflows, will now permit the River Murray between Albury/Wodonga and Mildura to be managed in a manner that will reflect the natural variability of the river, as determined by the rainfall events that occur.

Whilst the headwater storages of the Murray, Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers will begin the capture the bulk of the winter/spring inflows, tributary inflows from other streams, such as the Ovens River, will continue to enter the River Murray with a relatively natural pattern of variability. River Murray Water will now focus the operation of the weirs of the River Murray with the intention of passing as much of the natural variability downstream as is possible for environmental purposes. In the Edward/Wakool system all regulating structures have now effectively been removed from operation so that flow responses downstream of Yarrawonga Weir will also be reflected in flows in the Edward River.

This mode of operation will continue until as long as is possible within the constraints of the maximising resource availability for the 2003-2004 irrigation season.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 21 May 2003

Temporary Fluctuation of Euston Weir Pool Level



River Murray Water wishes to advise that the level of Euston Weir pool will temporarily fall to about 0.3 m below full supply level over coming days as additional water is released to assist the refilling of the Mildura Weir pool.

Mildura Weir pool is currently drawn down to allow the replacement of weir trestles. As river flows at Mildura are currently quite low additional release will be made from Euston Weir in the near future. This will assist the refilling of Mildura Weir and help maintain an adequate passing downstream of Mildura Weir.

Release from Euston is likely to be in the range 4 000 to 5 000 ML/day over the next week and will for a short time result in the pool level of Euston Weir falling – by about 0.3 m. The level of Euston Weir pool is forecast to return to near full supply level by the end of May.

For further information contact:

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(Lawrie Kirk is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Ray McMaster

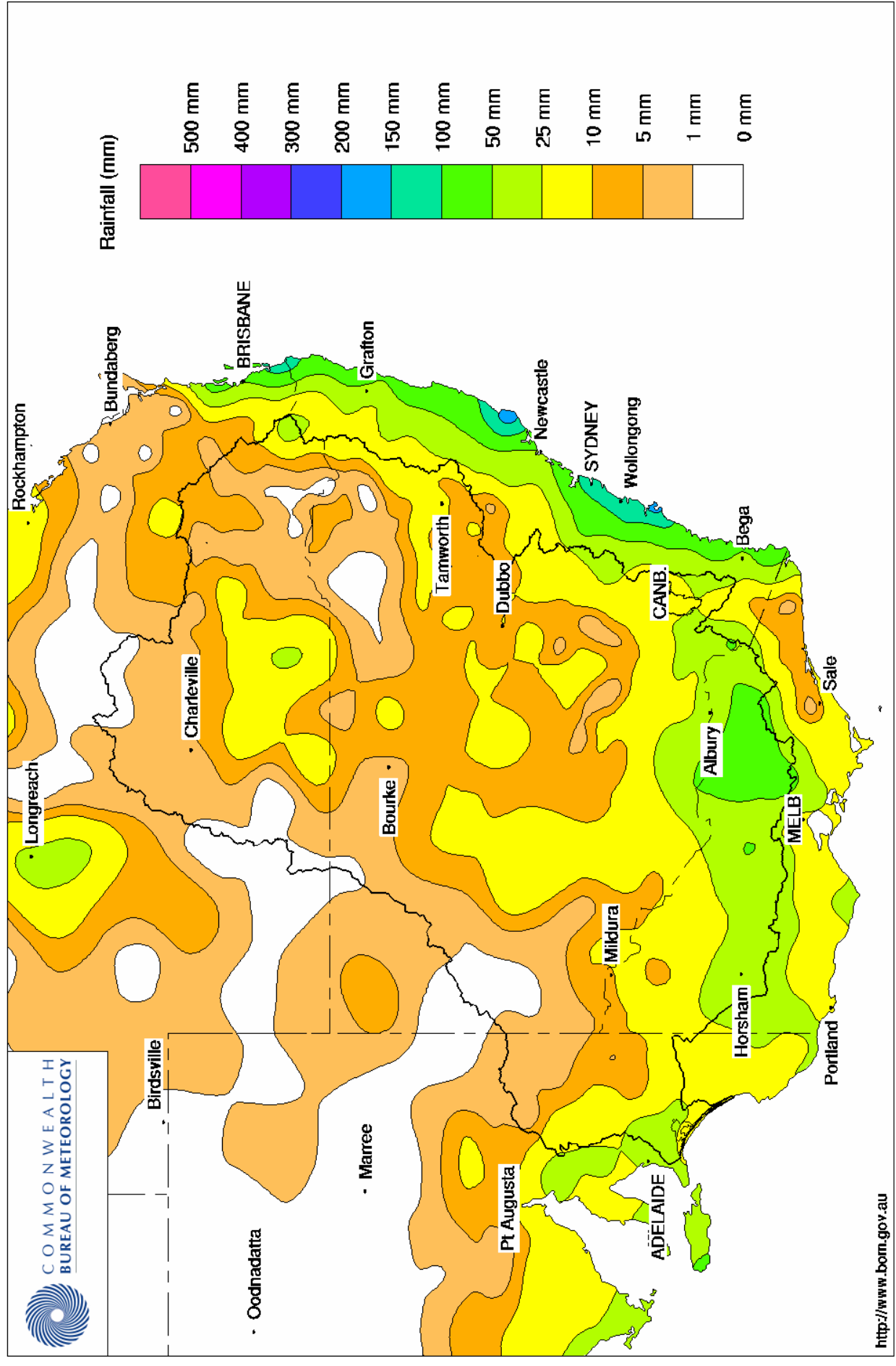
Lockmaster

Lock 15 – Euston Weir

Phone: 03 5026 4005

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st May 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 21 May 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	428.13	1 137	29%	80	1 057	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.28	290	10%	30	260	+39
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.15	277	41%	100	177	+18
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		118	7%	640 #	0	+2
Total		9 306		1 822	20%	850	1 494	+66

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **18%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	53	5%	3	50	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	53	3%	24	29	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	294	9%	100	194	+5

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-May-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 999	-56	Snowy-Murray	+37	83
Snowy-Murray Component	857	-26	Tooma-Tumut	+2	5
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	34.5	78
			Murray 1 Release	+37	84

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- 1.2	522.9
Wakool System loss	1.4	55.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	29.3
Licensed Pumps	1.6	200.8
Lower Darling	0.7	122.7
TOTAL	2.7	931.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	483
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	797
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	156
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.8	73
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.4	188
TOTAL	5.2	1 696

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	20.4	(2 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	63	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	150	150	80
Euston	140	140	120
Red Cliffs	330	200	140
Merbein	180	160	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 470	1 450	1 180
Lock 9	190	190	170
Lake Victoria	260	270	290
Berri	340	340	320
Waikerie	440	430	400
Morgan	430	420	470
Mannum	440	440	550
Murray Bridge	520	490	620
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 160	1 160	1 160
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	950	960	1 160
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 550	1 560	1 630
Goolwa Barrages	5 640	3 260	3 260



Week ending Wednesday 21 May 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	-	-	-	5 610	F	5 990	5 470
Jingellic	4.0	2.07	208.59	8 110	R	6 740	5 410
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.32	218.21	580	F	460	490
Heywoods	5.5	1.32	154.95	1 060	F	1 120	1 900
Doctors Point	5.5	1.62	150.09	1 590	R	1 290	2 130
Albury	4.3	0.75	148.19	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.82	126.84	2 160	R	1 720	2 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.37	115.41	1 820	S	1 830	1 890
Tocumwal	6.4	0.82	104.66	1 880	F	2 040	2 160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.27	79.82	3 130	F	2 760	1 780
Swan Hill	4.5	0.85	63.77	3 370	S	2 700	2 350
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.99	51.11	3 750	R	2 990	3 210
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.76	42.60	3 190	R	3 050	3 680
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	3 890	F	4 530	3 820
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	3 860	F	5 150	3 340
Rufus Junction	-	2.72	19.65	2 440	F	2 530	2 700
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 820	R	2 410	1 870
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.08	154.31	730	R	300	190
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.32	146.00	1 621	R	430	190
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.56	92.98	999	R	650	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	310	S	460	830
Edward at Liewah	-	1.44	56.82	860	R	570	370
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.42	54.91	325	F	350	300
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.50	56.46	198	S	210	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.30	-	230	F	230	260
Darling at Bourke	-	4.21	-	1 020	F	1 030	1 380
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	60	F	100	140

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 640	170
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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	-0.26	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+0.36
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	-6.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-2.35	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.32
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.07	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.03	-0.08	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.05	+0.04	No. 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.27

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.86	0.43	69.78	162
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.40	0.3	61.6	415

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

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

