

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 1 September 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs; jm; taj
Trim Ref :04/10097DO

3 September, 2004



Rainfall and Runoff

Heavy rain fell in the Hume catchment this week (up to 100 mm – see attached rain map) temporarily boosting streamflow. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 94 GL this week, however some of this rise was from the water being transferred from Dartmouth Reservoir. Flow at Jingellic reached minor flood level on Tuesday evening (31 August), and will produce further rises in storage in Hume Reservoir next week. The total volume of runoff from this event will not be very large due to its “flashy” nature (ie. the rise and fall in streamflow was rapid).

About 50 mm of rain fell in the Lower Darling area raising storage in Menindee Lakes by about 4 GL. Similarly, rain over the Lower Lakes near the Murray Mouth raised the lake level by about 0.01 m, representing about 10 GL.

Despite this widespread rain, the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir was increased slightly this week, to ensure that the combined water requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met throughout the rest of the season.

System Operation

The Barrages were gradually closed during the week, in order to conserve water for the future. However, the new rock ramp fishway in the Tauwitchere Barrage will continue operating for some time. Monitoring has revealed significant numbers of small and large fish using the fishway.

The capacity of Lake Victoria has been revised following resurveying of the lake (about 3GL less at full supply level). The introduction of this revision will not significantly alter water availability to the States.

Seasonal Outlook

Analysis of River Murray System inflows shows that a dry winter, with low runoff, is generally followed by low system inflows for the remainder of the season, as follows:

- Inflows above the median level (ie. those that occur 10 years out of every 20 on average), will be reached much less frequently (about 3 years out of 20) following a dry winter; and
- Inflows below the level experienced in a bad drought (1 year out of every 10 on average), will occur more frequently (about 3 years out of 10) following a dry winter.

The relationship between dry winters and subsequent inflows has been observed over the last three years for the River Murray system. The inflows from June to August this year again indicate a high probability of receiving less than average inflows over the remainder of the season.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 31 August 2004

Increase in Release from Dartmouth Reservoir



Trim Ref : 04/10096DO

River Murray Water (RMW) announced today that the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir would be increased to further supplement storage in Hume in preparation for the coming irrigation and water supply season.

RMW General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said the increase is needed because of the low storage volume in Hume Reservoir.

“Storage in Hume is currently 26% of capacity, which is well below average for this time of year”, Mr Dreverman said. He added that this is despite the recent rain and subsequent small rise in storage level in Hume. In addition, the early demand on Dartmouth is significant this season because there is currently no Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes.

“A substantial volume of water is likely to be transferred from Dartmouth to Hume to meet downstream requirements over the remainder of 2004-05”. Under very dry conditions, the volume required to be transferred may be up to about 1 800 GL, whereas under median conditions, the volume would be much less at about 600 GL. Under dry conditions, storage in Dartmouth and Hume would be drawn down to low levels by the end of the season.

Because of limited channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River, it is often necessary to transfer water to Hume well in advance of periods of high water use along the River Murray.

This is to ensure that the combined requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met throughout the irrigation season.

Mr Dreverman said the release from Dartmouth was currently at about 4 500 ML/day or about 2.15 m on the Colemans gauge in the Mitta Mitta River.

Beginning on the morning of Thursday 2 September, release is to be increased to about 5 500 ML/day (2.3 m gauge height) by noon on 2 September. Further downstream at Tallandoon, it is expected that the river level (currently about 2.7 m) will initially rise to about 2.8 m gauge height, and then vary between about 2.75 and 2.85 m gauge height.

However, greater variation in river level at Tallandoon might occur in response to significant rain and increased flows in tributaries of the Mitta Mitta River.

“In coming weeks, if conditions indicate that a prolonged period of transfer is required, it is expected that release from Dartmouth will be varied to mimic to some extent the variability of river levels seen under natural conditions,” Mr Dreverman said.

“This mode of operation aims at providing environmental benefits including reduced impact on stream banks of the Mitta Mitta River.”

The rate of transfer will continue to be kept under close review by River Murray Water in the light of conditions across the River Murray System. If there is a return to dry conditions, the rate of transfer would need to be further increased. However, significant improvements in inflow conditions across the River Murray System would reduce the volume of transfer required.

River Murray Water will provide further updates throughout the season on the program of release from Dartmouth Reservoir, particularly when significant changes are required.

For further information contact:

Lawrie Kirk

Manager Communication

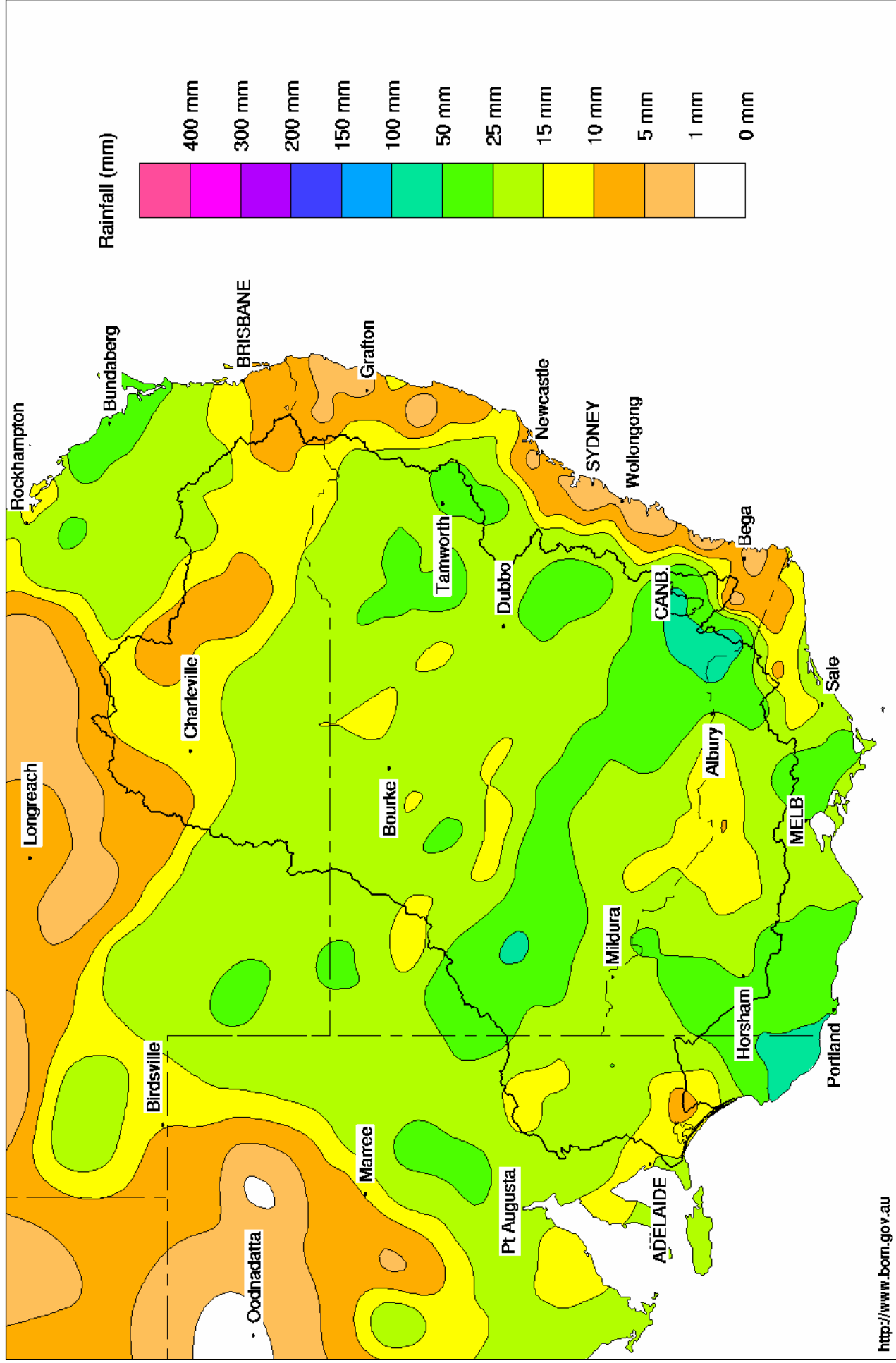
Phone: 02 6279 0100

E-mail: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au

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

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st September 2004

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	448.61	1 887	48%	80	1 807	-12
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.80	812	27%	30	782	+94
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.84	552	82%	100	452	+28
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		316	20%	640 #	0	+2
Total		9 224		3 568	39%	850	3 042	+112

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **36%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Note: The Lake Victoria capacity has changed from 680 GL to 677 GL (at full supply level) following a resurvey of the lake.

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	371	36%	3	368	-12
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	294	18%	24	270	+0
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 109	33%	100	1 009	+31

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 31-Aug-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 995	+65	Snowy-Murray	+5	239
Snowy-Murray Component	840	+28	Tooma-Tumut	+10	77
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-4.6	162
			Murray 1 Release	+19	311

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	5.5	35.4
Wakool System loss	1.0	5.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	1.5
Licensed Pumps	3.5	14.1
Lower Darling	0.2	1.0
TOTAL	10.5	57.6

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.2	9
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.3	50
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.4	5
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.8	19
TOTAL	29.2	84

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	28.5	(4 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	4	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	100	120	110
Euston	140	120	100
Red Cliffs	70	70	60
Merbein	80	80	60
Burtundy (Darling)	380	370	360
Lock 9	110	110	120
Lake Victoria	180	150	190
Berri	270	270	300
Waikerie	-	480	480
Morgan	530	510	480
Mannum	560	540	510
Murray Bridge	490	490	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 250	1 220	1 030
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 090	920	1 020
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 710	1 960	1 990
Goolwa Barrages	1 660	1 640	2 370

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	-	-	-	9 020	F	5 840	3 400
Jingellic	4.0	3.28	209.80	21 390	R	9 740	7 780
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.64	219.53	6 300	F	6 180	6 240
Heywoods	5.5	1.29	154.92	920	F	1 510	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.03	150.50	4 220	F	3 620	2 340
Albury	4.3	1.07	148.51	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.47	127.49	4 960	R	3 160	2 840
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.33	116.37	7 040	S	7 360	10 210
Tocumwal	6.4	1.83	105.67	7 500	F	8 390	11 270
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.48	80.03	3 900	F	5 420	6 420
Swan Hill	4.5	1.19	64.11	5 580	F	5 670	6 110
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.22	52.34	9 050	R	8 740	9 930
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.75	43.59	8 520	R	8 420	9 960
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.08	8 720	F	9 300	13 500
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.06	27.82	8 010	S	8 250	9 520
Rufus Junction	-	3.06	19.99	4 130	R	3 630	3 550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 560	R	2 670	2 720
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.43	155.66	3 960	R	2 330	2 000
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.73	147.41	6 059	R	4 890	6 660
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.23	92.65	490	F	520	780
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 890	F	1 890	2 790
Edward at Liewah	-	2.86	58.24	2 490	F	2 590	2 600
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.60	55.09	700	S	680	490
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	224	F	220	150
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	40	S	30	20
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	92	S	80	80
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	26	R	20	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	13 320	11 960
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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	-0.12	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.76
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.10	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.28	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.47
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.42	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.13

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.82	0.47	69.82	189
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.49	0.11	61.41	236

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.90	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.88	All closed

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

