

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 February 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs

13 February, 2004



Rainfall

Rainfall was restricted mostly to the southern regions of the Basin with maximum totals for the week of up to 10 mm.

Darling flows

Floodwaters moving down the Darling River system are currently peaking between Walgett and Brewarrina, with a peak flow of about 25 000 ML/day expected to reach Brewarrina in the next few days. Floodwaters should arrive at Bourke within a week and Wilcannia by the end of the month. The total volume now expected to flow past Walgett is over 500 GL with about 350 to 400 GL predicted to reach the Menindee Lakes. The salinity of the floodwater is low (e.g. 160 EC at Bourke on 5 February).

The NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources has advised that predicted inflows to Menindee Lakes were sufficient to allow flow to the Lower Darling River to be increased. A release of 300 ML/day is now being made in order to provide for water supplies along the Lower Darling River. More substantial releases to the Lower Darling may be made by NSW in the coming weeks as inflows to the Menindee Lakes increase further and the salinity of the lakes reduces (see attached Media Release).

Upper Murray flow and storages

On Monday 6 February Southern Hydro and River Murray Water announced that releases from Dartmouth Reservoir would be increased specifically for electricity generation purposes as a result of increased electricity demand. In response flow at Colemans had risen to 1 800 ML/day by Tuesday morning and 3 000 ML/day by Thursday. The duration of the increased flow cannot be advised at this time as it is dependent on Southern Hydro's electricity generation plans.

Despite the increase in release from Dartmouth Reservoir, the volume in storage has remained at approximately 48%. Releases from Hume Reservoir ranged from 16 000 to 18 500 ML/day to meet downstream requirements including ongoing transfer of resources to Lake Victoria. The storage volume of Hume Reservoir subsequently decreased to 42% of storage capacity (1 276 GL). It will continue to fall, while hot and dry weather continues, to a low level at the end of the irrigation season.

Mid and lower Murray

Discharge from Yarrawonga Weir for the week remained steady at 10 300 ML/day and combined diversions for Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel from Lake Mulwala averaged 7 000 ML/day. Inflow to the Murray from the Goulburn River is approximately 1 000 ML/day and is expected to remain near this rate for at least the next week. Levels in Lake Victoria are currently at 24.4 m AHD (metres above mean sea level) representing a lake volume of approximately 400 GL (59% of storage capacity). If conditions stay dry, the lake will continue to fall to low levels by the end of the season.

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**Media Release - Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources
Murray Regional Office**

Deniliquin: 6 February 2004

FLOWS IN THE LOWER DARLING TO INCREASE

Flows in the Barwon-Darling River upstream of Menindee will provide sufficient water to allow flows to the Lower Darling River downstream of Menindee to be increased immediately.

Regional Director of the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR), David Harriss, said the current releases will be increased to 300 megalitres per day to provide for stock and domestic supplies.

“This water is saline and has a salinity greater than 2,000EC. The Department is managing flows so that the chance of more saline water impacting on relatively fresh water in the Ellerslie area is minimised” Mr Harriss said.

When the water quality improves in Lake Wetherell from the forecast inflows, more substantial releases will be made to the Lower Darling from the Menindee Lakes in the coming weeks. These higher flows will improve water quality and river health, reducing salinity as well as providing for fish passage.

Mr Harriss said that an Information Paper providing detail of water management will be distributed in the coming weeks. In the meantime, advice is available from the Department’s Buronga Office on 03 50219400 or from the State Water Office at Menindee on 08 80914204.

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FLOW ADVICE



Monday, 9 February 2004



Increase in Release from Dartmouth Reservoir for Electricity Generation

Southern Hydro and River Murray Water announced today that release from Dartmouth Reservoir is being increased specifically for electricity generation purposes as a result of increased electricity demand.

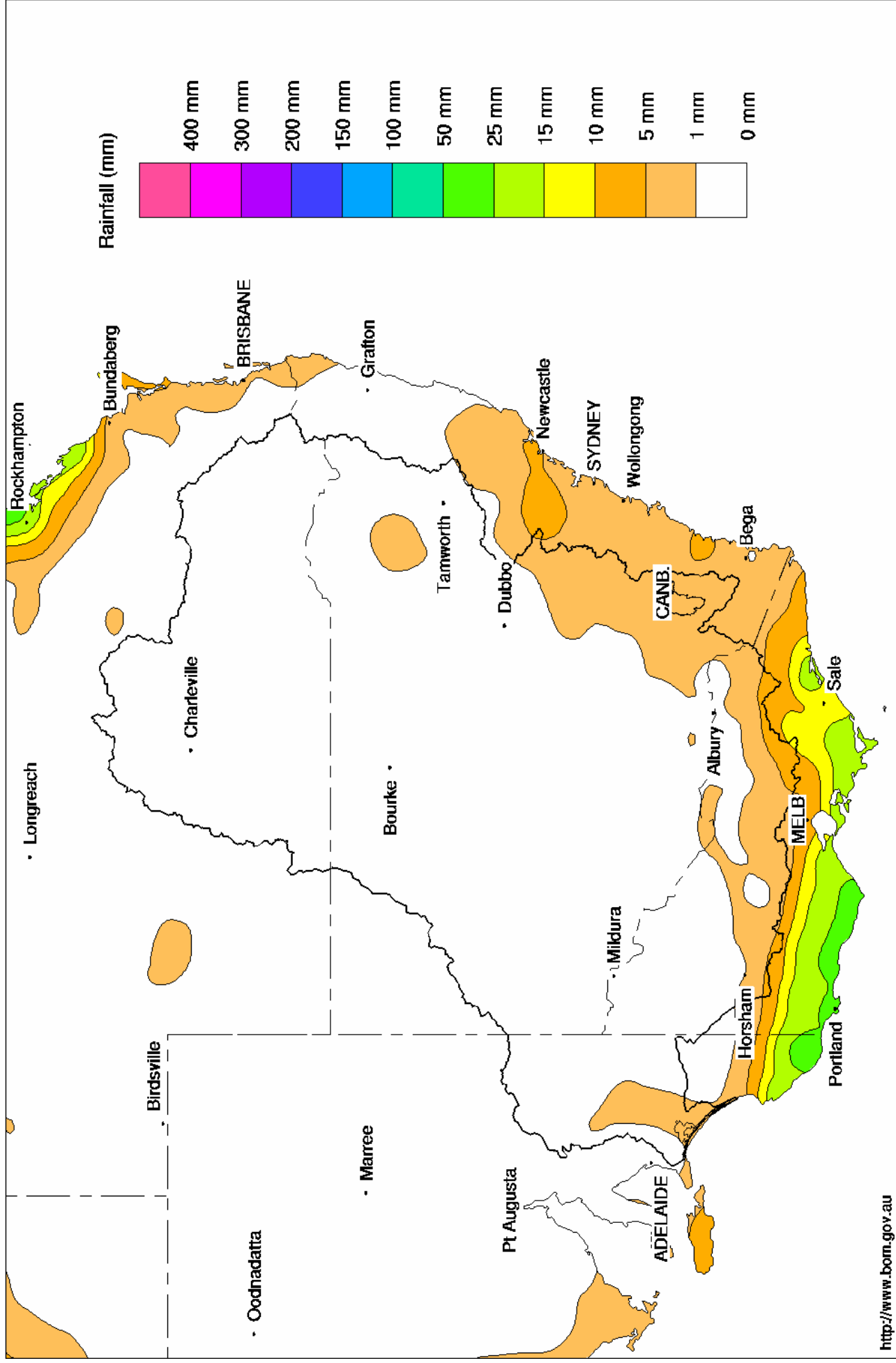
Commencing at 9 a.m. today, Southern Hydro started to gradually increase flows at Colemans from about 400 ML/day (1.1 m gauge height). Flow will continue to be gradually increased to about 2 000 ML/day (1.7 m gauge height) by mid afternoon.

Further downstream in the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Tallandoon is currently about 700 ML/day (1.4 m gauge height) and is expected to increase to about 2 300 ML/day (1.97 m gauge height) by late this evening. If, however, there is significant rainfall in the Mitta Mitta Valley between Dartmouth Dam and Tallandoon, this flow may rise further.

The duration of the increased flow cannot be advised at this time as it is dependent on Southern Hydro's electricity generation plans.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th February 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	448.15	1 868	48%	80	1 788	-5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	181.10	1 290	42%	30	1 260	-102
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.42	403	59%	100	303	-30
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		74	5%	640 #	0	+16
Total		9 227		3 635	39%	850	3 351	-120

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **40%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		453	44%	3	450	-12
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		508	31%	24	484	-52
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 136	33%	100	1 036	-56

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Feb-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 863	+0	Snowy-Murray	+7	571
Snowy-Murray Component	1 093	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	256
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	4.9	315
			Murray 1 Release	+15	892

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	25.7	510.8
Wakool System loss	3.7	22.2
Western Murray Irrig.	1.5	19.5
Licensed Pumps	10.0	145.0
Lower Darling	0.4	7.6
TOTAL	41.4	705.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	14.2	224
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.4	392
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.8	107
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	21
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.8	144
TOTAL	45.8	888

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	
Flow this week	48.8	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	75	
Flow last month	224	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	90	80	110
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	130
Merbein	150	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	4 000	3 960	2 280
Lock 9	160	160	170
Lake Victoria	230	230	230
Berri	260	260	270
Waikerie	-	340	390
Morgan	360	360	420
Mannum	430	440	440
Murray Bridge	470	470	490
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 220	1 190	1 110
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	1 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	1 560
Goolwa Barrages	2 000	1 970	2 190

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	-	-	-	2 380	F	2 500	1 290
Jingellic	4.0	1.52	208.04	3 510	F	3 070	2 240
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.90	218.79	2 340	R	1 150	840
Heywoods	5.5	3.22	156.85	18 230	R	17 520	16 900
Doctors Point	5.5	3.39	151.86	19 000	R	17 860	17 090
Albury	4.3	2.45	149.89	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.34	129.36	18 000	S	18 270	17 990
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.80	116.84	10 300	S	10 300	10 300
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 690	S	10 770	10 820
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.09	80.64	6 070	S	6 020	5 520
Swan Hill	4.5	1.16	64.08	5 390	R	5 100	4 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.75	51.87	7 000	R	6 900	7 040
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.34	43.18	6 150	R	6 180	6 310
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	4 890	F	4 630	5 270
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.83	27.59	3 640	R	3 650	4 410
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 450	F	6 590	6 560
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 770	F	4 130	4 400
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.12	154.35	780	R	620	390
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.81	145.49	416	S	470	640
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.58	93.00	1 032	R	1 020	900
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 380	F	2 370	2 180
Edward at Liewah	-	2.49	57.87	1 930	R	1 920	2 060
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.43	54.92	359	S	400	590
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.54	56.50	221	R	210	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.32	-	270	R	760	12 820
Darling at Bourke	-	6.90	-	20 338	R	16 990	9 650
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.34	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 700	2 460
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.14
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.10	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.19	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.00

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.91	0.87	70.22	615
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.90	0.2	61.5	314

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.65	All closed

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

