

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 September 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/ng
Trim Ref :04/10534DO

17 September, 2004



Rainfall and Inflows

Widespread rain fell across the Basin for the week ending 15 September - up to 100mm was recorded in the Upper Murray and tributary catchments, as well as in the north-east of the Basin.

This rain fell on a wet catchment following on from the good falls the previous week, and resulted in many cases in the best stream flow responses seen since August last year. Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume peaked at about 18 300 ML/day and 27 000 ML/day respectively, resulting in an increase in storage in both Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs of 262 GL this week. Inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers peaked near 11 500 ML/day and 38 000 ML/day respectively, and inflows to the Murray from the Goulburn River reached about 9 600 ML/day.

Good rainfall over the northern parts of the Basin over the past couple of weeks has resulted in some stream flow responses in the Barwon-Darling and Gwydir Rivers, however very little inflow to Menindee Lakes in expected as a result. The Darling River at Wilcannia has ceased to flow due to the generally dry conditions in recent times and high losses upstream on the Darling.

Seasonal Outlook

Despite the recent good rainfalls, the Bureau of Meteorology's most recent "El-Nino Wrap-Up" (dated 15 September 2004) states that in a recent survey of computer models, a 6 to 5 majority suggested warming of the central to eastern Pacific to a level consistent with El Niño. Further, it indicates that there is an increased risk of areas of below average rainfall and above average temperatures persisting in parts of eastern Australia, even in the absence of a clearly defined El Niño event.

System Operation

Release from Hume Reservoir has been maintained at the minimum riparian flow as tributary inflows downstream have been more than sufficient to meet downstream needs.

Release from Yarrawonga was increased to 35 000 ML/day during the week, to pass downstream the combined inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. Regulators along the river banks further downstream have been opened to allow water to pass through the Barmah-Millewa Forest and the Weraï Forest. Victoria is diverting some of this water into the Gunbower Forest.

It is anticipated that the inflows resulting from the recent rains will be sufficient to fill Lake Victoria. Consequently NSW has announced a period of supplementary water access for irrigation.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

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	449.86	1 941	50%	80	1 861	+71
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.98	1 155	38%	30	1 125	+191
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.18	579	86%	100	479	+18
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		310	19%	640 #	0	-3
Total		9 224		3 985	43%	850	3 465	+278

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 41%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	385	38%	3	382	+15
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	404	25%	24	380	+41
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 261	37%	100	1 161	+124

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Sep-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 135	+81	Snowy-Murray	+4	244
Snowy-Murray Component	899	+36	Tooma-Tumut	+20	114
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-15.6	129
			Murray 1 Release	+27	357

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	7.6	49.1
Wakool System loss	-0.5	5.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	1.8
Licensed Pumps	3.6	21.3
Lower Darling	0.2	1.3
TOTAL	11.2	79.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.9	15
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.2	81
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.0	7
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.5	26
TOTAL	11.8	130

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 700 ML/day)
Flow this week	33.2	
Flow so far this month	69	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	80	90	110
Euston	150	150	120
Red Cliffs	200	150	80
Merbein	140	120	80
Burtundy (Darling)	430	430	380
Lock 9	130	130	120
Lake Victoria	190	190	190
Berri	260	260	290
Waikerie	410	420	460
Morgan	440	470	480
Mannum	540	550	530
Murray Bridge	540	530	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 210	1 240	1 090
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	920	1 030
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 000	2 000	2 030
Goolwa Barrages	1 670	1 680	2 150

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	-	-	-	4 120	R	6 470	5 010
Jingellic	4.0	2.66	209.18	14 080	F	17 840	12 670
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.57	219.46	5 830	R	6 130	7 070
Heywoods	5.5	1.21	154.84	600	S	600	1 160
Doctors Point	5.5	2.33	150.80	6 830	F	8 790	3 760
Albury	4.3	1.33	148.77	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.20	128.22	9 360	F	9 000	3 580
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.33	119.37	35 000	F	22 560	7 850
Tocumwal	6.4	4.36	108.20	29 380	R	15 480	7 690
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.43	81.98	11 260	R	7 210	2 630
Swan Hill	4.5	1.29	64.21	6 250	R	4 560	3 760
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.88	52.00	7 540	R	5 950	7 810
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.27	43.11	5 780	R	5 680	8 370
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.89	5 320	F	6 840	8 770
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	4 970	S	6 320	7 960
Rufus Junction	-	3.04	19.97	4 020	F	4 020	4 090
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 800	F	3 860	3 760
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.54	155.77	6 310	F	8 580	3 200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.87	149.55	24 813	F	27 740	4 250
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	5.08	96.50	9 610	R	4 430	530
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 660	F	2 430	1 540
Edward at Liewah	-	2.26	57.64	1 640	F	1 720	2 080
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.48	54.97	451	F	480	600
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	253	R	220	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	170	R	80	40
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	72	S	70	80
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	48	F	50	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	38 360	21 020
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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	+0.08	+0.75
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.09	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.46
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.24	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+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	-1.32	0.8	70.15	520
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.21	0.38	61.68	504

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.90	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.92	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.90	4

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

