

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 April 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/bwh
Trim Ref : 04/4699DO

22 April, 2004



Rainfall

Very dry catchment conditions are persisting, with only very light rain (generally up to 5 mm) being recorded along the River Murray, mainly in the Victorian part of the Murray-Darling Basin, with little or no effect on streamflows.

The latest Bureau of Meteorology outlook for rainfall for the southern part of the Basin for the three month period May to July 2004 inclusive indicates a neutral outlook with neither wet or dry conditions favoured (or about a 50% chance of rainfall greater than median for that period - see chart attached).

River Murray

Release from Hume Reservoir has been maintained near 10 000 ML/day over the week as an increase in diversion to Mulwala Canal has been largely offset by a reduction in diversion to National Channel. However, a gradual reduction in Hume release is expected to be made next week as diversion to Mulwala Canal is expected to cease on 1 May.

Storage in Hume has been further drawn down to 293 GL or 10% of capacity (which compares with 211 GL or 7% at the same time last year). Under continuing dry conditions, Hume storage can be expected to fall to low levels in coming weeks.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been further reduced from 6 000 to 5 500 ML/day in response to reduced demand particularly at National Channel feeding the Torrumbarry Irrigation System. Storage in Lake Victoria is continuing to be drawn down to assist in meeting flow requirements for South Australia, and to assist in conserving resources in the upper Murray storages to maximise water availability for all three States next irrigation season.

Darling River System

Inflow to Menindee Lakes peaked at about 9 000 ML/day early in the week, and is now receding quickly and is expected to fall to low rates by early May. As a result, storage in the lakes (currently 345 GL, or 22% of capacity) is expected remain near the current level in the near future.

Salinity

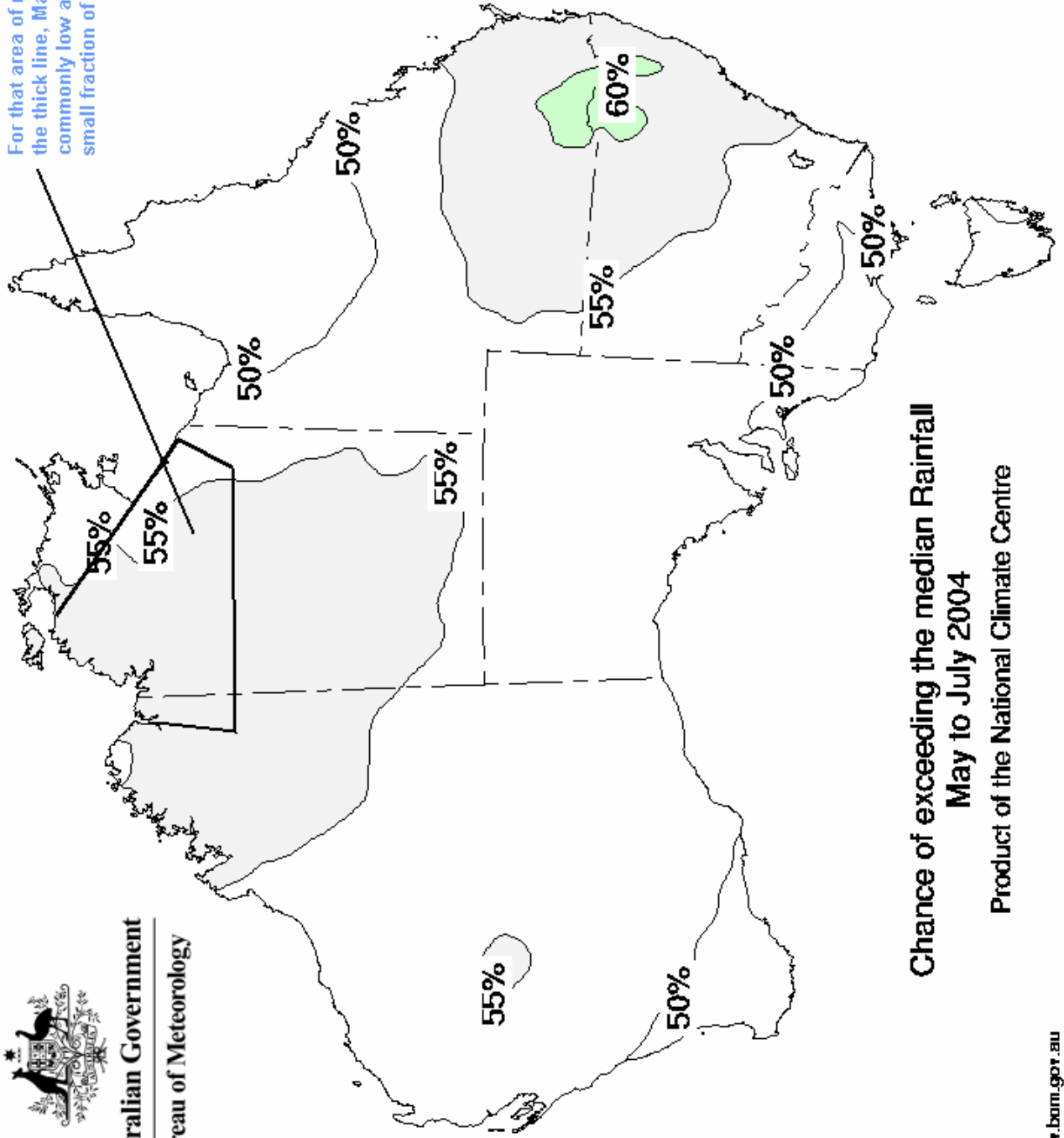
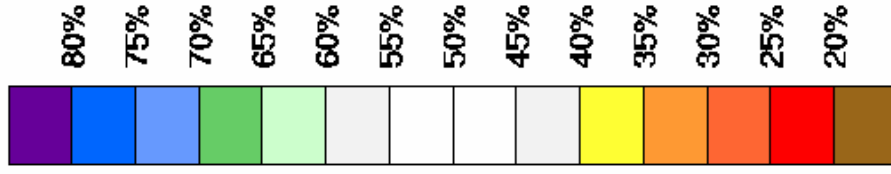
The recent salinity spike which emanated from the lower Darling River is continuing to slowly move along the River Murray, but with diminishing impact as it progresses. The initial peak arising from that event reached Lock 3 at a level of about 420 EC on 21 April. This is significantly less than expected from preliminary forecasts made in March, and is largely due to the various operational measures undertaken at river structures from Euston Weir to Lake Victoria to assist in mitigating river salinity downstream of the Darling River. The most significant of those measures was the impoundment of a significant proportion of the peak salt load in Lake Victoria. Despite this, salinity in Lake Victoria after a period of mixing is now steady at 290 EC which is only 50 EC higher than the level before the Darling River salinity spike reached the River Murray.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager



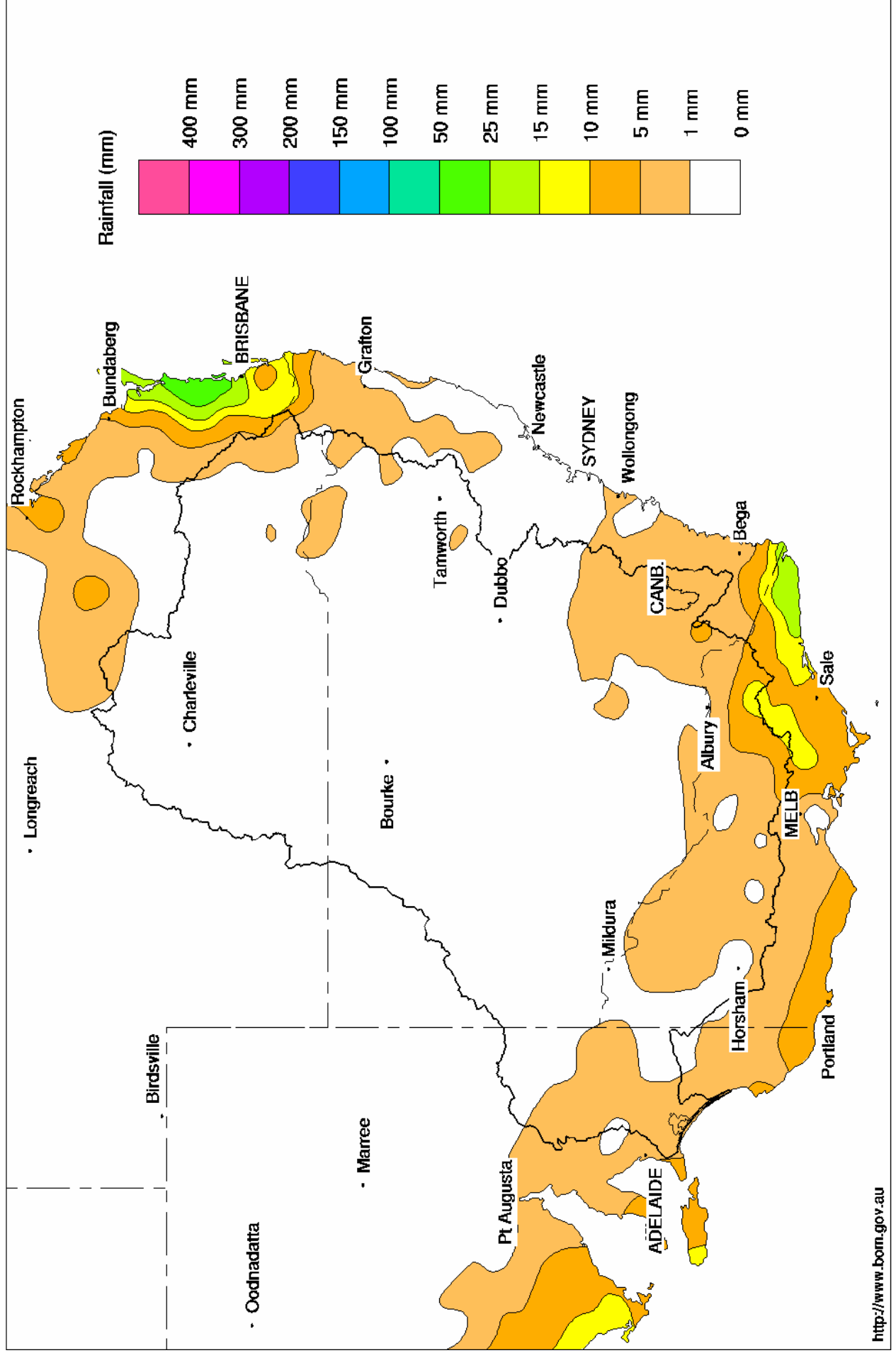
Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

For that area of northern Australia within the thick line, May to July rainfall is commonly low and contributes only a small fraction of the annual total.



Chance of exceeding the median Rainfall
May to July 2004
Product of the National Climate Centre

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st April 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	447.25	1 830	47%	80	1 750	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.33	293	10%	30	263	-53
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.64	229	34%	100	129	-20
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		345	22%	640 #	0	+46
Total		9 227		2 698	29%	850	2 142	-29

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **26%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	413	40%	3	410	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	188	12%	24	164	-28
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	656	19%	100	556	-36

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Apr-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 824	-1	Snowy-Murray	+9	673
Snowy-Murray Component	989	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	268
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	8.2	405
			Murray 1 Release	+16	1 009

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	26.7	828.7
Wakool System loss	1.5	49.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	28.2
Licensed Pumps	13.5	261.2
Lower Darling	0.2	14.8
TOTAL	42.4	1 182.6

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	10.8	348
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	12.9	556
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	148
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	44
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.9	188
TOTAL	30.9	1 283

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 200 ML/day)
Flow this week	29.2	
Flow so far this month	97	
Flow last month	191	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	100	100	100
Euston	110	110	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	130
Merbein	150	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	380	370	2 120
Lock 9	170	170	180
Lake Victoria	290	290	240
Berri	350	330	270
Waikerie	-	320	370
Morgan	370	370	400
Mannum	-	420	440
Murray Bridge	470	470	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 220	1 200	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	810	1 060
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	2 450	1 710
Goolwa Barrages	1 860	1 910	2 110



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	-	-	-	2 220	F	2 570	1 380
Jingellic	4.0	1.43	207.95	2 850	F	2 730	1 380
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.31	218.20	560	S	590	720
Heywoods	5.5	2.56	156.19	10 290	S	9 880	11 650
Doctors Point	5.5	2.67	151.14	10 000	S	9 590	11 830
Albury	4.3	1.67	149.11	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.42	128.44	11 300	R	10 970	13 830
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.15	116.19	5 940	F	6 190	8 050
Tocumwal	6.4	1.65	105.49	6 330	S	6 770	8 810
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.54	80.09	4 160	F	4 730	5 010
Swan Hill	4.5	0.96	63.88	4 120	F	4 340	3 730
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.20	51.32	4 810	F	4 740	4 140
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.00	42.84	4 360	S	4 160	3 770
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.86	3 290	F	3 070	3 080
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.80	27.56	2 940	R	2 810	2 850
Rufus Junction	-	2.97	19.90	3 600	S	3 520	3 410
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 100	F	3 610	3 900
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.63	153.86	150	F	170	470
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.75	145.43	331	F	310	260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	383	R	380	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	150	F	150	440
Edward at Liewah	-	1.07	56.45	540	R	400	570
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.48	54.97	451	S	410	300
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.56	56.52	276	R	280	260
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.26	-	150	F	300	240
Darling at Bourke	-	4.26	-	1 354	S	1 590	7 920
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.77	-	225	S	250	330

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	140	630
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.17	+0.65
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.07	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.02	+0.18	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.25

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.11	0.74	70.09	445
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.61	0.18	61.48	296

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.62	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.61	All closed

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

