

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 22 December 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs,jm  
Trim Ref : 04/13016DO

23 December, 2004



This week saw a return to hot and dry conditions. Up to 50 mm fell in localised areas in the north of the Basin, however the majority of the catchment received little or no rain. Maximum daily temperatures have also been increasing steadily, and are at about average levels for December.

### ***Darling River System***

Minor to moderate flood warnings remain current for the Lower Gwydir, Namoi and Barwon-Darling River Systems following the widespread rainfall in recent weeks. The flow in the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil peaked on 18 December at 46 000 ML/day causing minor to moderate flooding. Further downstream, the flow in the Barwon at Brewarrina has increased to 11 000 ML/day (on 22 December), and is expected to steadily increase to about 30 000 ML/day in early January (Bureau of Meteorology estimate).

Travel times for flood events in the Barwon-Darling system are long and this event is not expected to reach Menindee Lakes until February 2005. Losses are expected to be very high given the previous drought conditions, but can be highly variable, making it very difficult to estimate inflows to Menindee Lakes. Preliminary estimates indicate that the increase in storage in the Lakes will not be sufficient for them to revert to MDBC control (this occurs when the storage reaches 640 GL). As a result, without further rain, this event is unlikely to affect flows in the River Murray System.

### ***System Operation***

During the past week, the release from Hume Reservoir has been increased from 6 000 ML/day to about 15 000 ML/day, to meet increasing demands and to continue to transfer water to Lake Victoria. The flow downstream of Yarrowonga has also been increased to 10 000 ML/day, following a temporary reduction to 8 500 ML/day in response to rain in early December. Unless there is significant rainfall, which leads to a reduction in demand or an increase in tributary inflows, the flow downstream of Yarrowonga is expected to be maintained at about 10 000 ML/day over the Christmas week and into the beginning of the New Year.

In the mid Murray, the flow has been steadily receding following a short rise after the recent rainfall. This rise is currently passing through Euston (at about 14 000 ML/day), following which flows are expected to slowly recede to about 4 000 ML/day if conditions remain dry. The recent rains have also increased flows in the Loddon River and will soon flush a small volume of saline water into the mid Murray in the coming weeks. This water will be highly diluted by the flows in the Murray, and consequently will not significantly impact on salinity levels downstream.

### ***Reminder: Second call for proposals for water recovery***

The MDBC is now calling for further project proposals to undertake feasibility assessments for infrastructure projects that would deliver water savings (see attached media release for details).

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

**The Commission, River Murray Water and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish you a safe and happy festive season.**

*Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued for the week ending 29 December 2004. The next report will cover the two week period ending 5 January 2005.*

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# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, December 17, 2004

## **Second opportunity for river communities to benefit**

The second opportunity for communities to submit ideas on possible water recovery projects under The Living Murray has been announced by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

Catchment management authorities, industry, irrigation and community groups are again being asked to propose cost-effective infrastructure improvement projects that can be further investigated and developed for future recovery of water for the environment, according to Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik.

“MDBC is calling for organisations to identify feasibility studies for possible future water recovery projects that they believe should be undertaken in the southern part of the Basin that will each result in an average annual increase of flows in the rivers of at least two gigalitres but cost \$2000/ML or less to deliver,” Dr Craik said.

“Types of infrastructure improvement projects that would deliver water savings include installation of pipelines, lining of sections of irrigation channels, and installation of more precise flow measurement systems.

“We expect that the funding of the feasibility study for each project will generally be about \$100,000 or less, but special cases would be considered” she said.

Developed in consultation with state agencies, successful projects this round would be additional to four already approved feasibility projects from the first call for proposals in August under the Living Murray’s \$1.2m *Development of Infrastructure Projects Program*. About \$640,000 of funding remains in this program for this round of projects.

“It’s very important for Basin communities to grasp these opportunities to develop proposals for future investment in their regions,” Dr Craik said.

Organisations considering submitting a second round proposal should download the prospectus, background leaflet and short application from the MDBC website. Proposals will be accepted until 12 noon on February 17, 2005.

**For previously funded projects and to view the prospectus and application forms:**

[http://www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au/implementing/water\\_recovery.html](http://www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au/implementing/water_recovery.html)

**Further information on The Living Murray initiative:** [www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au)

**For general MDBC information:** [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)

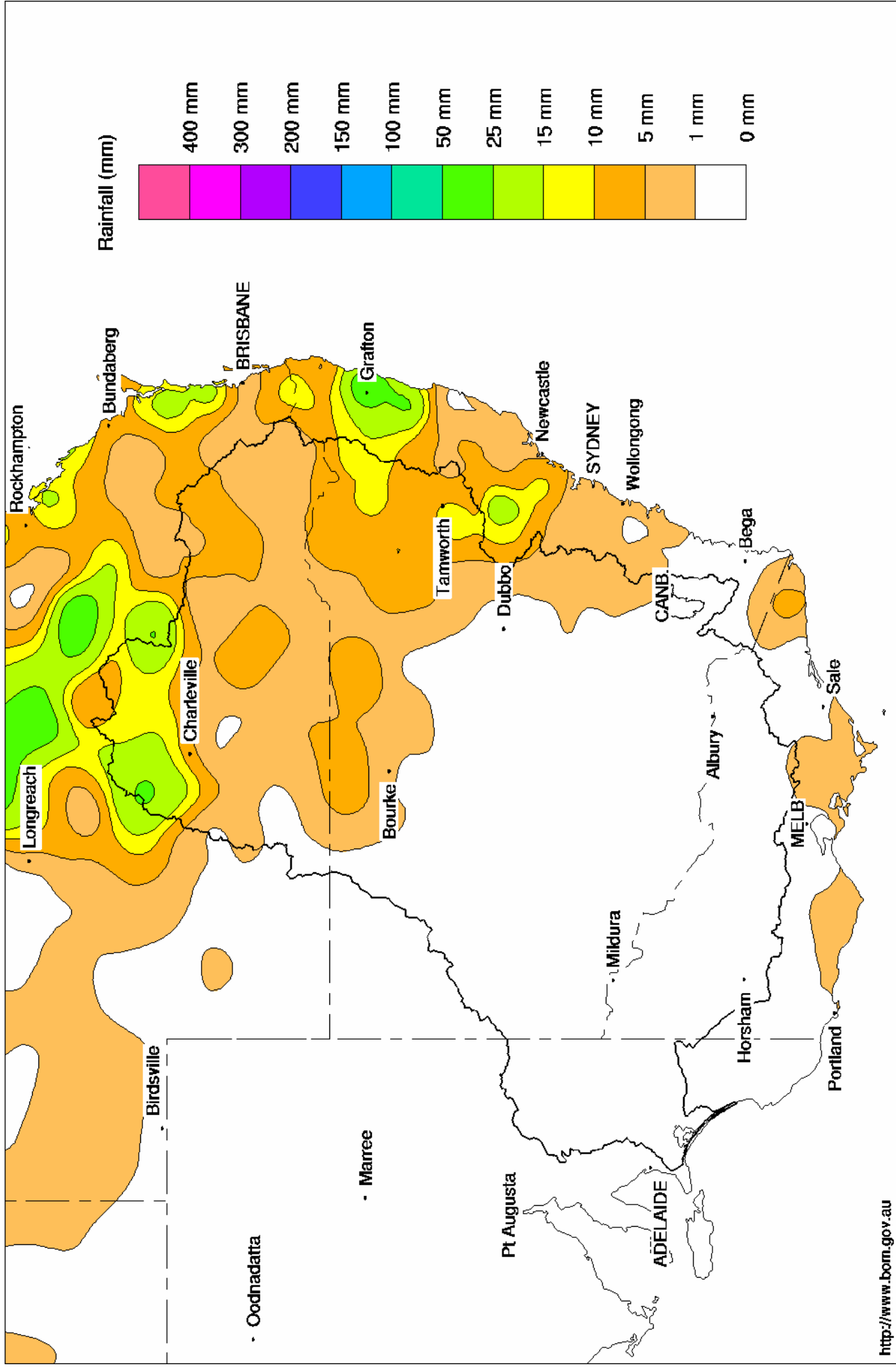
**For general enquiries on the Development of Infrastructure Projects Program: contact Leanne Wilkinson, (02) 6279 0516, [Leanne.Wilkinson@mdbc.gov.au](mailto:Leanne.Wilkinson@mdbc.gov.au)**

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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 22nd December 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	445.22	1 746	45%	80	1 666	-7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	183.56	1 613	53%	30	1 583	-15
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.82	655	97%	100	555	-15
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		223	14%	640 #	0	-8
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 224</b>		<b>4 237</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>3 804</b>	<b>-44</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **45%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	257	25%	3	254	+19
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	447	27%	24	423	-32
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 454	43%	100	1 354	-9

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 21-Dec-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 685	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+2	339
Snowy-Murray Component	1 218	-	Tooma-Tumut	+4	228
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	-1.9	111
			Murray 1 Release	+12	662

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	9.6	338.0
Wakool System loss	-1.9	2.4
Western Murray Irrig.	1.4	13.1
Licensed Pumps	4.3	122.7
Lower Darling	1.1	11.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>487.2</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	7.8	146
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.7	272
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	8.4	69
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	13
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.9	133
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>632</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	217	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.5	
Flow so far this month	156	
Flow last month	193	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	160	120	100
Euston	90	100	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	100
Merbein	130	140	110
Burtundy (Darling)	600	570	460
Lock 9	160	160	140
Lake Victoria	180	180	180
Berri	210	210	250
Waikerie	310	300	400
Morgan	320	320	420
Mannum	430	440	510
Murray Bridge	510	520	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 810	1 400	1 270
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 190	1 180	1 010
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 130	2 100	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 810	1 810	1 830



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	910	F	2 170	2 320
Jingellic	4.0	1.49	208.01	3 290	F	5 330	5 340
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.97	218.86	2 620	F	2 750	4 390
Heywoods	5.5	2.93	156.56	14 760	R	10 190	8 320
Doctors Point	5.5	3.08	151.55	15 000	R	10 910	9 320
Albury	4.3	2.09	149.53	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.79	128.81	13 500	R	10 040	10 790
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.77	116.81	10 100	R	8 820	10 750
Tocumwal	6.4	2.14	105.98	9 230	R	8 870	11 350
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.06	80.61	6 000	F	7 890	7 970
Swan Hill	4.5	1.53	64.45	7 820	F	9 260	6 410
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.15	53.27	13 840	F	12 730	9 180
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.51	44.35	14 050	R	11 210	8 150
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.09	8 880	F	7 840	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.04	27.80	8 010	R	6 680	6 620
Rufus Junction	-	3.46	20.39	6 510	R	6 470	6 670
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 570	F	5 360	7 180
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.20	154.43	900	R	1 090	1 360
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.21	145.89	1 326	S	1 790	2 420
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.28	92.70	572	F	800	750
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 030	F	2 400	2 900
Edward at Liewah	-	3.20	58.58	3 000	R	2 920	2 660
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.96	55.45	1 940	R	1 640	1 220
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.00	57.96	1 850	F	1 670	410
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.60	-	1 120	S	2 610	9 260
Darling at Bourke	-	4.46	-	2 970	R	1 410	420
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	111	S	90	30

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 860	8 950
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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	-0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+1.17
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.03	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.29	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.66
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.40	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.03	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.24	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.05	0.97	70.32	765
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.07	62.37	1320

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.83	All closed

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

