

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 26 May 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/ng
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28 May, 2004



Rainfall

Welcome falls of rain blanketed much the Murray-Darling Basin this week with the central Basin and upper River Murray receiving up to 50 mm. The south west of the Basin, however, has again received little or no rain with extremely dry conditions persisting now for many months.

Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs showed little or no response to the rain due to the extremely dry nature of the upper Murray catchments. It is hoped that the catchment will now be more responsive to any further rain. The Kiewa and Ovens catchments did have small responses to the rain, with inflows to the River Murray peaking at about 800 and 1500 ML/day respectively.

Storage Reserves

An instrument failure at Hume Reservoir, detected last week, has revealed that storage in Hume is actually about 18 GL higher than previously registered. In addition to this correction, the storage rose by 19 GL this week (due mostly to releases via Murray 1 power station) so that current storage stands at 244 GL, or 8% of capacity. If dry conditions prevail it is possible that storage in Hume could fall slightly in June. However, it is still likely that further falls of rain will be received over the coming winter/spring months, bringing rises in storage level.

System Operation

Water resources continue to be transferred, at low rates, from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria with the passing flow at Albury/Wodonga averaging 2 900 ML/day – about 1 700 ML/day above the minimum permissible flow. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to 4 500 ML/day and is expected to be kept at this rate until about mid June if conditions remain dry.

Stevens Weir, on the Edward River, has begun being drawn down by NSW State Water for environmental benefit and is expected to be fully drawn down by mid June. The resulting rise in release, to a peak of 800 ML/day, will be observed downstream at Moulamein and Liewah over the coming weeks.

Inflows from the Murrumbidgee River remained steady at about 250 ML/day however are expected to rise next week in response to the lowering of weirpools on the Murrumbidgee. Flow is expected to reach about 500 ML/day for about the first week of June, before returning to normal minimum regulated flows.

Release from Euston Weir was increased from 2 700 to 4 900 ML/day in response to the cessation of diversions to National Channel on 16 May. It is expected that release from Euston will rise further from early June, in response to the drawdown of Stevens Weir and slightly higher flows from the Murrumbidgee, peaking at about 6000 ML/day.

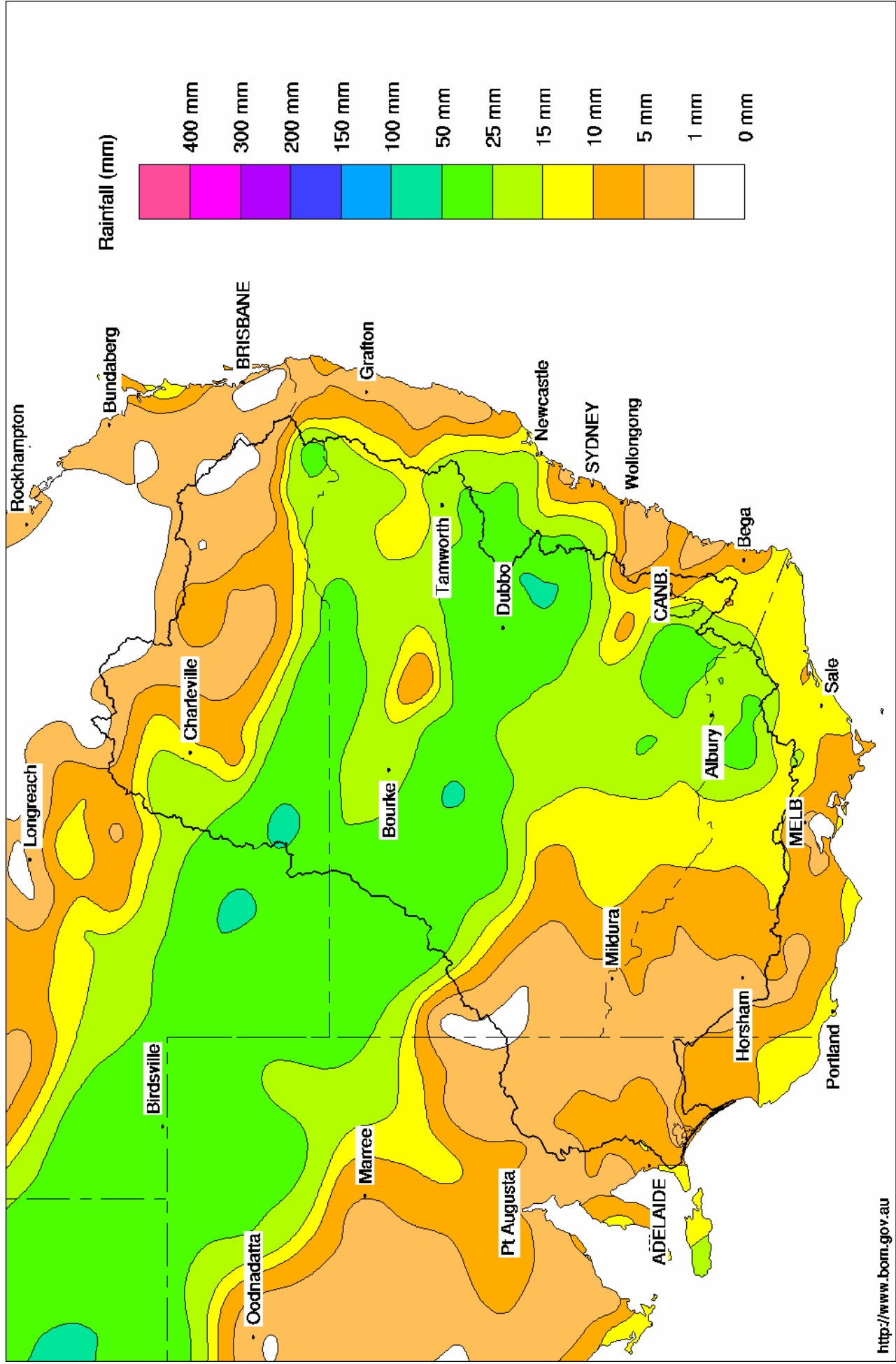
Storage in Menindee Lakes continues to gradually decline as evaporation losses and releases exceed inflows. Further significant rainfall is now required across the upper Darling River to prevent the lakes' continued fall.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

River Murray Water
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th May 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 26 May 2004

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	447.58	1 844	47%	80	1 764	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.43	244	8%	30	214	+19
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.32	200	29%	100	100	-2
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		340	21%	640 #	0	-2
Total		9 227		2 627	28%	850	2 077	+20

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **25%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	400	39%	3	397	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	98	6%	24	74	-16
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	605	18%	100	505	+1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-May-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 806	-4	Snowy-Murray	+17	56
Snowy-Murray Component	924	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	4
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	15.3	52
			Murray 1 Release	+20	61

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- 2	856.9
Wakool System loss	0.7	44.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	29.7
Licensed Pumps	7.8	313.7
Lower Darling	0.2	28.9
TOTAL	8.6	1 274.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	- .1	375
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	600
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	157
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	8.1	56
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.5	201
TOTAL	11.8	1 389

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	18.8	(2 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	76	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	110	120	100
Euston	130	130	120
Red Cliffs	150	140	130
Merbein	150	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	530	500	1 930
Lock 9	180	180	180
Lake Victoria	280	270	240
Berri	310	310	280
Waikerie	450	440	380
Morgan	460	470	400
Mannum	410	410	440
Murray Bridge	470	470	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 060	1 060	1 130
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	1 050
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	2 370	1 790
Goolwa Barrages	1 900	1 850	2 080



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	-	-	-	3 060	F	3 400	2 920
Jingellic	4.0	1.60	208.12	4 040	R	4 250	3 370
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.38	218.27	620	F	490	410
Heywoods	5.5	1.63	155.26	2 320	S	2 250	3 480
Doctors Point	5.5	1.85	150.32	2 890	S	2 900	3 800
Albury	4.3	0.94	148.38	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.09	127.11	3 410	R	3 370	4 860
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.89	115.93	4 480	R	4 090	4 020
Tocumwal	6.4	1.27	105.11	4 170	S	4 130	4 100
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.70	80.25	4 690	F	4 180	2 860
Swan Hill	4.5	0.96	63.88	4 060	R	3 870	2 450
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.18	51.30	4 740	F	4 320	2 900
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.10	42.94	4 880	S	3 700	2 820
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.86	3 250	F	2 660	2 480
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.75	27.51	3 350	R	2 740	2 480
Rufus Junction	-	2.84	19.77	2 810	R	2 390	2 710
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 600	S	2 540	2 340
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.88	154.11	480	R	520	390
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.29	145.97	1 542	R	860	270
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.24	92.66	490	R	560	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	810	F	570	190
Edward at Liewah	-	0.95	56.33	464	F	630	440
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.41	54.90	322	R	270	290
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.54	56.50	261	S	270	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.26	-	150	R	100	110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	243	R	250	330
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.77	-	225	S	250	310

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 920	1 190
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.04	+0.57
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.32
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.11	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.07	-0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.15	+0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.23

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.21	0.61	69.96	305
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.22	0.13	61.43	252

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.58	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.57	All closed



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