

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 28 April 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs:bwh
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29 April, 2004



Rainfall

Falls of up to 50 mm were recorded in north-east Victorian tributaries of the River Murray on 23/24 April, but had only a relatively small and temporary effect on streamflows.

In the northern part of the Basin, falls of up to 50 mm were reported, with one isolated cell of up to 100 mm near Charleville in Queensland. However, these falls are not expected to lead to any significant future increases in inflows to Menindee Lakes.

River Murray

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has been holding steady at 47% in recent weeks. Release from Dartmouth (held at about 400 ML/day since early April) will be reduced to the minimum rate of 200 ML/day commencing 29 April in order to conserve resources for next irrigation season.

With irrigation demand falling, release from Hume Reservoir has been reduced from 10 000 to about 8 000 ML/day, and further reductions to less than 5 000 ML/day are expected next week. With inflow to Hume remaining low, storage has declined to 8% of capacity (compared with 7% at the same time last year). Diversion to Mulwala Canal (currently 4 000 ML/day) is scheduled to cease for this irrigation season on 30 April, however, irrigation demand will subsequently be supplied while the canal is gradually drained.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 6 000 to 5 000 ML/day mainly in response to a gradual reduction in irrigation demand in the Torrumbarry Irrigation System. Flow requirements for the mid Murray will be closely monitored in coming weeks. If dry conditions continue in tributaries downstream of Hume, a part of the release from Hume will continue to be required to assist in maintaining entitlement flow to South Australia whilst storage in Lake Victoria (currently 32% of capacity) remains low.

Darling River System

Flow in the Darling River at Bourke has declined to 800 ML/day. Further downstream, inflow to Menindee Lakes has continued to recede to about 1 000 ML/day, and with the effect of evaporation and minimum release, storage in the lakes levelled out at 349 GL (22% of capacity) late this week.

Salinity

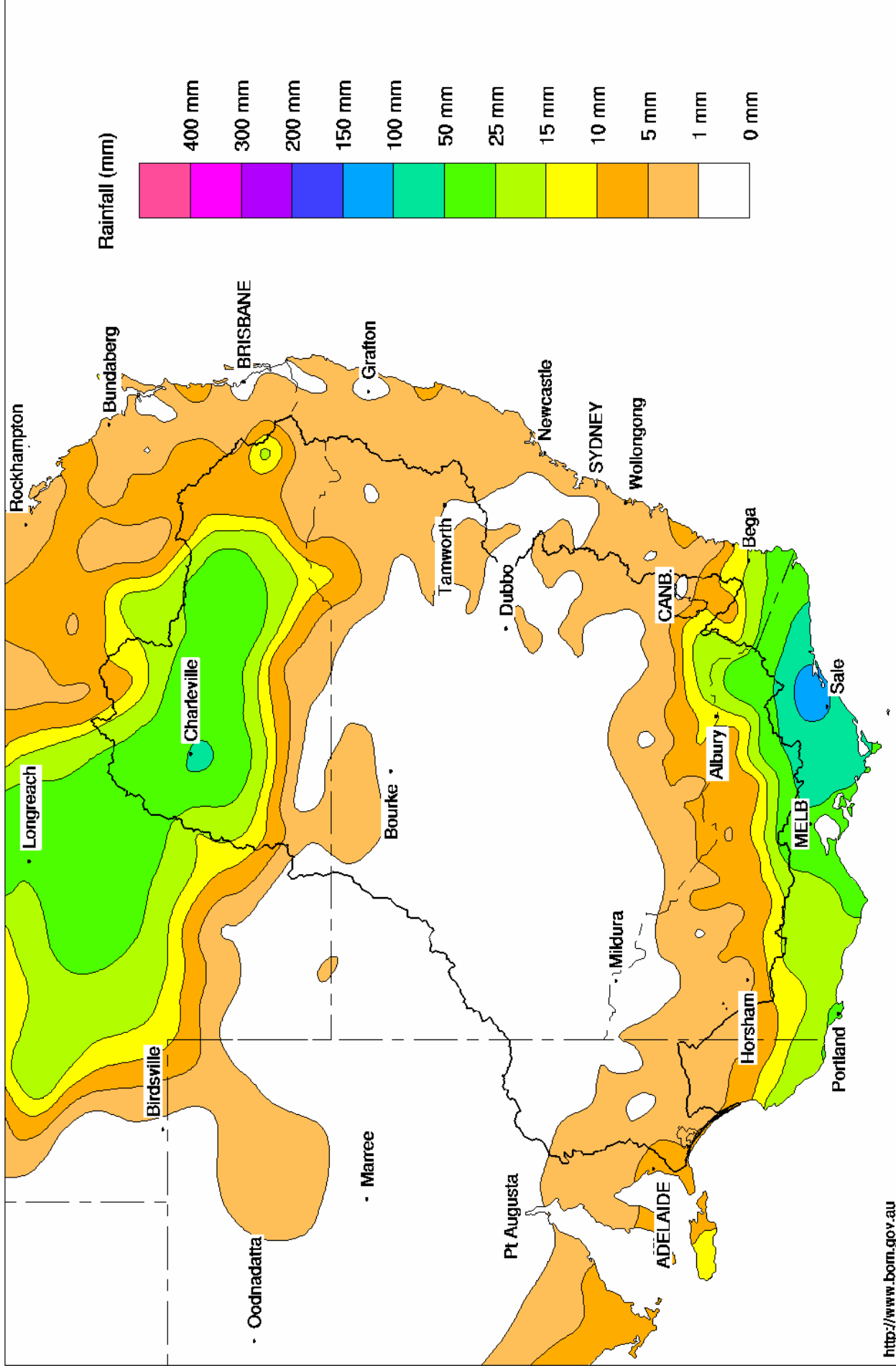
River salinity along the mid Murray remains at low levels as a result of low saline inputs from tributaries – levels currently range from about 100 EC at Swan Hill to 150 EC at Mildura compared with the long term average for April of about 260 and 320 EC respectively.

The initial salinity peak in the River Murray (which arose from the salinity spike in the lower Darling River in March) has further progressed along the Murray and is between Lock 3 and Lock 2 at a level of about 420 EC. This compares with a river salinity of 370 EC at Lock 2 at the same time last year.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th 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	+0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.45	245	8%	30	215	-49
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.52	218	32%	100	118	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		349	22%	640 #	0	+4
Total		9 227		2 642	29%	850	2 083	-56

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 25%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	410	40%	3	407	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	165	10%	24	141	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	634	19%	100	534	-22

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Apr-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 823	-1	Snowy-Murray	+14	687
Snowy-Murray Component	976	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	270
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	12.4	417
			Murray 1 Release	+14	1 023

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	27.7	856.4
Wakool System loss	1.6	51.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	28.6
Licensed Pumps	13.6	274.7
Lower Darling	4.4	19.8
TOTAL	47.8	1 231.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	8.5	357
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.7	571
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.4	151
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	45
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.9	191
TOTAL	30.7	1 315

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 200 ML/day)
Flow this week	29.5	
Flow so far this month	126	
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	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	110	120	130
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	450	410	2 080
Lock 9	170	170	180
Lake Victoria	290	280	240
Berri	390	340	270
Waikerie	-	340	370
Morgan	380	370	400
Mannum	-	420	440
Murray Bridge	470	510	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 100	1 150	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	1 060
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	1 710
Goolwa Barrages	1 800	1 820	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	-	-	-	3 470	F	2 570	2 390
Jingellic	4.0	1.59	208.11	4 040	F	2 900	2 730
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.32	218.21	580	F	630	590
Heywoods	5.5	2.29	155.92	7 880	F	9 880	9 880
Doctors Point	5.5	2.45	150.92	7 760	F	9 630	9 590
Albury	4.3	1.46	148.90	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.28	128.30	10 300	F	11 260	10 970
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.00	116.04	5 080	R	5 320	6 190
Tocumwal	6.4	1.48	105.32	5 310	F	5 700	6 770
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.23	79.78	3 020	R	2 900	4 730
Swan Hill	4.5	0.74	63.66	2 740	R	3 150	4 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.82	50.94	3 470	F	4 260	4 740
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.89	42.73	3 820	F	4 320	4 160
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	3 900	F	3 630	3 070
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	3 450	R	3 360	2 810
Rufus Junction	-	3.01	19.94	3 850	R	3 600	3 520
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 030	S	3 050	3 610
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.78	154.01	370	F	250	170
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.81	145.49	416	F	370	310
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	463	R	430	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	150	F	150	150
Edward at Liewah	-	0.77	56.15	355	F	490	400
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.49	54.98	468	S	470	410
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.56	56.52	276	F	290	280
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	100	F	130	300
Darling at Bourke	-	4.17	-	768	F	1 020	1 590
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.77	-	225	S	240	250

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 030	70
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+0.70
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.11
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-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	-0.02	0.59	69.94	287
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.76	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	0.56	All closed

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

