

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 27 April 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs
Trim Ref : 05/5057

29 April, 2005



Rainfall and inflow

Very dry and unseasonably warm conditions persisted throughout the Basin this week. There was very little rain (*see attached map*) and the Bureau of Meteorology indicate that the maximum daily temperatures were up to 5°C above average for this time of year. Consequently, inflow to the River Murray System remains very low.

Irrigation season draws to a close

The release from Hume Dam was relatively steady this week at about 11 500 ML/day, however this will be significantly reduced over the coming weekend following the announcement by Murray Irrigation Limited (MIL) that they will be closing their water diversion points from the river, the Mulwala Canal and the Wakool Main Canal, on 1 May 2005. In response, the release from Hume Dam is planned to be reduced to about 5 000 ML/day by 2 May 2005 and the release from Yarrowonga Weir has been reduced from 7 000 ML/day to 5 500 ML/day (as at 28 April).

The main Victorian irrigation diversion points, Yarrowonga Main Canal and the National Channel, are planned to be closed on 16 May 2005. Further reductions in the flow downstream of Hume Reservoir and Yarrowonga Weir are planned for the coming weeks to accommodate these reductions in water demand.

The closing of the Wakool Main Canal will allow NSW State Water, in consultation with RMW, to begin lowering Stevens Weir pool prior to the full removal of the weir pool gates (*see attached media release*). The gates of the Gulpa Creek and Edward River offtake regulators, which are located within the Barmah-Millewa Forest, will also be removed as the flow requirement along these streams and the River Murray is reduced. These actions will improve fish migration opportunities between the Edward River system and the River Murray and the lower river levels will promote vegetative growth along the river banks over the winter months.

The release from Torrumbarry Weir is currently at 3 000 ML/day. In response to reduced irrigation diversions further downstream, this will be reduced to about 2 600 ML/day over the coming week unless there is significant rainfall. Further downstream, the flow downstream of Euston Weir is currently 2 900 ML/day and the flow downstream of Wentworth Weir is 2 000 ML/day. These flows may decrease gradually over the coming weeks if dry conditions continue.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Media Release State water

27 April 2005

STEVENS WEIR POOL LOWERING TO START THIS WEEKEND

State Water today announced that the lowering of Stevens Weir pool will start on Sunday 1 May.

South Area Customer Service Manager Lindsay Beck, said the weir pool level will be gradually lowered for the winter period following the completion of irrigation requirements for the 2004-2005 season.

"The lowering of the weir pool is necessary to improve river bank vegetation, fish migration opportunity and water quality to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Edward River system.

"Boat owners and other river users should be aware of snags and other obstructions that may appear while water levels are low," Mr Beck said.

Mr Beck also said that if conditions remain dry over the winter period, the Edward River gauge height at Deniliquin could fall from the present level of 2.14 metres to about 0.45 metres.

"On Wednesday 27 April, diversions from the Murray River into the Edward River and Gulpa Creek were reduced as part of the program to lower the Stevens Weir pool.

"Diversions from the Edward and Gulpa offtakes are progressively being reduced from the previous rates of 1,000ML/day (2.06m gauge height) and 350ML/day per day (2.35m gauge height) to 100 (1.06 gauge height) and 80ML/day (1.50 gauge height) respectively.

"Subject to requirements in the Murray River as advised by River Murray Water, control gates at the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtake regulators will be removed from the water following the completion of the Stevens Weir pool lowering," Mr Beck concluded.

- ENDS -

**Media enquiries and interviews:
Suzie Gaynor 02 6841 2006 or 0428 613 478**

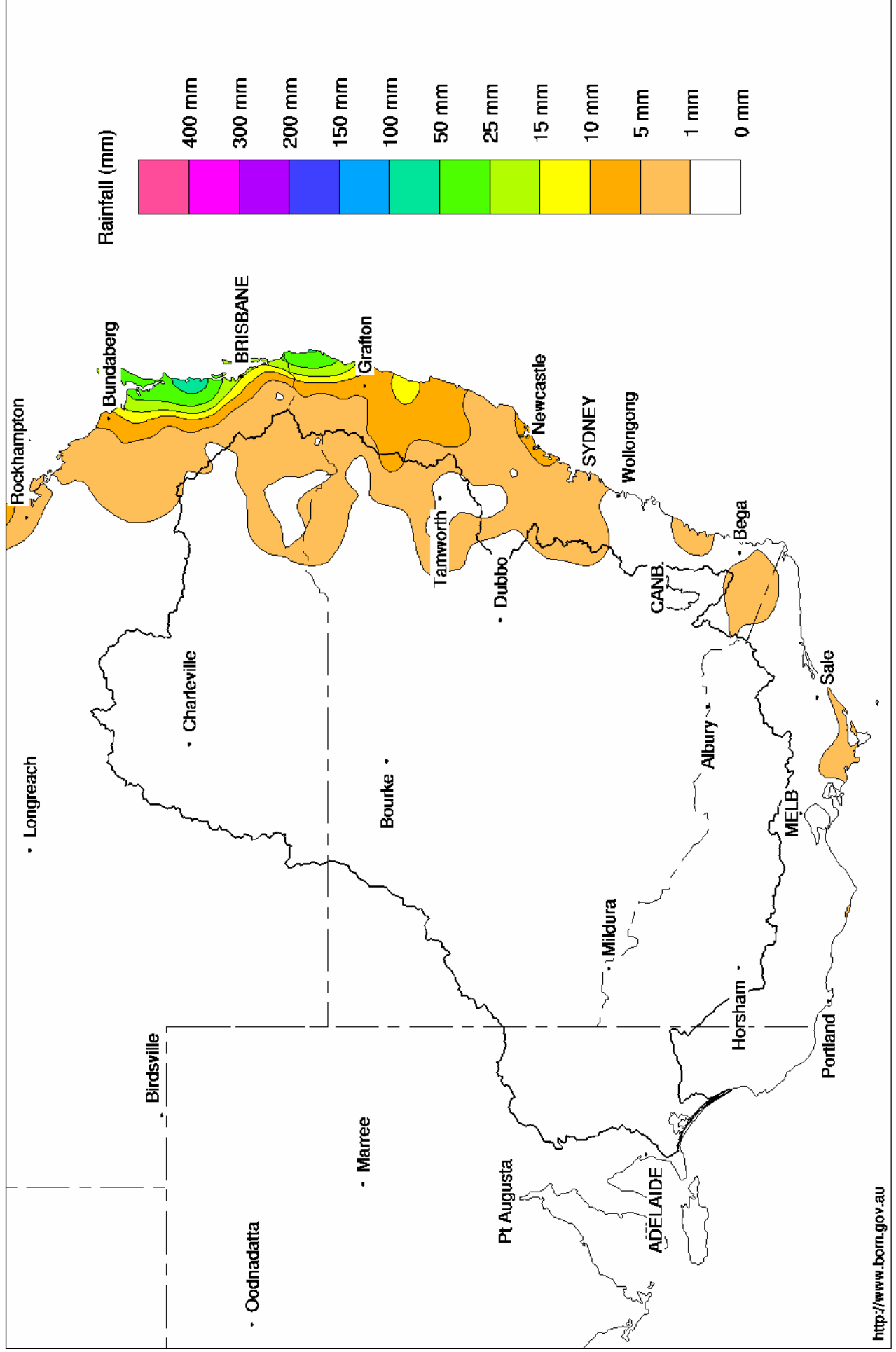
For **Water Delivery Announcements** and State Water Media Releases go to:
http://statewater.com.au/whats_new

For **Available Water Determinations** and DIPNR Media Releases go to:
<http://dipnr.nsw.gov.au/mediarel>

For more information about **storage levels** and **river heights**
go to the *Waterinfo Website* at <http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/>

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 27th April 2005

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) | MDBC Active Storage (GL) | Change in Storage for the week (GL) |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | | | (GL) | % | | | |
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00 | 3 906 | 444.55 | 1 719 | 44% | 80 | 1 639 | -2 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 174.73 | 621 | 20% | 30 | 591 | -54 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 24.80 | 427 | 63% | 100 | 327 | -19 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 360 | 21% | (- -) # | 0 | -6 |
| Total | | 9 352 | | 3 127 | 33% | -- | 2 557 | -81 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **30%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | | 244 | 24% | 3 | 241 | -1 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | | 170 | 10% | 24 | 146 | -27 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | | 933 | 28% | 100 | 833 | -47 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 26-Apr-2005

| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversions (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2004 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 2 147 | -49 | Snowy-Murray | +24 | 718 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 972 | -28 | Tooma-Tumut | +3 | 287 |
| Target Storage | 1 340 | | Nett Diversion | 21.1 | 432 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +29 | 1 087 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2004 |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 34.6 | 828.9 |
| Wakool System loss | 1.5 | 22.1 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 0.6 | 29.6 |
| Licensed Pumps | 13.3 | 292.5 |
| Lower Darling | 1.2 | 29.4 |
| TOTAL | 51.1 | 1 202.5 |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2004 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | 11.2 | 364 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 17.7 | 605 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 3.0 | 153 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.5 | 38 |
| Licensed pumps - SRW | 3.9 | 241 |
| TOTAL | 36.2 | 1 402 |

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 135 | |
| Flow this week | 31.1 | (4 400 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 121 | |
| Flow last month | 188 | |

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2004 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 80 | 80 | 110 |
| Euston | 120 | 120 | 120 |
| Red Cliffs | 170 | 170 | 130 |
| Merbein | 160 | 160 | 130 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 570 | 560 | 540 |
| Lock 9 | 170 | 170 | 140 |
| Lake Victoria | 200 | 200 | 180 |
| Berri | 250 | 250 | 240 |
| Waikerie | - | 340 | 360 |
| Morgan | 350 | 340 | 380 |
| Mannum | 370 | 380 | 460 |
| Murray Bridge | 370 | 370 | 490 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 1 450 | 1 440 | 1 340 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 1 170 | 1 140 | 1 090 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 2 340 | 2 340 | 2 150 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 2 050 | 2 060 | 1 980 |



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 | - | - | - | 5 270 | S | 4 020 | 3 600 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 1.84 | 208.36 | 5 790 | R | 4 070 | 4 970 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.39 | 218.28 | 640 | R | 630 | 690 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 2.77 | 156.40 | 11 530 | S | 11 850 | 9 360 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 2.80 | 151.27 | 11 800 | S | 12 110 | 10 160 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 1.83 | 149.27 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 2.60 | 128.62 | 12 100 | F | 12 310 | 10 430 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 1.16 | 116.20 | 6 000 | F | 6 610 | 6 970 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 1.72 | 105.56 | 6 400 | S | 6 690 | 6 980 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 1.27 | 79.82 | 3 130 | F | 3 270 | 3 680 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 0.76 | 63.68 | 2 920 | S | 3 060 | 3 130 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 1.72 | 50.84 | 3 030 | S | 3 160 | 3 420 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 0.69 | 42.53 | 2 900 | F | 3 000 | 3 110 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | 30.78 | 2 400 | F | 2 360 | 2 600 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.79 | 27.55 | 2 090 | R | 2 090 | 2 490 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 3.06 | 19.99 | 4 130 | F | 3 900 | 3 930 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | - | - | 2 640 | S | 2 610 | 2 730 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 0.84 | 154.07 | 440 | F | 480 | 890 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 8.00 | 145.68 | 790 | R | 790 | 790 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.20 | 92.62 | 433 | S | 470 | 630 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 350 | S | 300 | 300 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 0.68 | 56.06 | 311 | F | 290 | 380 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.44 | 54.93 | 357 | S | 360 | 360 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 0.44 | 56.40 | 178 | S | 180 | 220 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.05 | - | 0 | F | 0 | 10 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 3.96 | - | 32 | S | 40 | 50 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.76 | - | 202 | S | 230 | 300 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 1 460 | 2 450 |
|---|-------|-------|

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 | +0.10 | +0.76 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.00 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.15 | +0.09 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | -0.04 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.08 | +0.10 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.05 | -0.02 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.02 | +0.38 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | -0.02 | +0.15 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.00 | +0.13 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.02 | -0.01 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.02 | +0.05 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.01 | +0.09 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.02 | -0.21 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | | | local (m) | (m AHD) | |
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -1.39 | 0.62 | 69.97 | 315 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | -1.89 | 0.13 | 61.43 | 252 |

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | |
|--|---------|
| | (m AHD) |
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | 0.57 |

Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.60 | All closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.62 | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | 0.60 | All closed |

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