

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 30 August 2000

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :NG:BWH

1 September, 2000



Rainfall of between 10 and 50 mm in the catchments of Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs has maintained good inflows throughout the week. Elsewhere in the Basin, falls of between 10 and 25 mm were recorded across South Australia and much of New South Wales. Northern New South Wales and southern Queensland received lighter falls of up to 10 mm.

Storage in Hume Reservoir has increased by 178 GL over the week to 2 657 GL, which is 87% of capacity, and 380 GL or 2.0 m below full supply level. With storage continuing to rise and assured of filling, pre-releases were initiated on 31 August to maintain 'airspace' for flood mitigation without affecting the availability of water for irrigation and water supply (see attached Media Release). In response to further rain on 31 August, the rate of pre-release is now being progressively increased to about 18 000 ML/day by 4 September. As a result, the level of the River Murray at Albury (currently 1.3 m gauge height on 1 September) will increase to about 2.8 m by 5 September. Further increases in the release rate to the level of channel capacity at Albury (25 000 ML/day or about 3.0 m) can be expected in the near future, particularly if there is further rain.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to 17 500 ML/day during the week, and is likely to be increased to about 30 000 ML/day in response to the increasing rate of pre-release from Hume Reservoir. This rise will augment recent low level watering of the Barmah-Millewa forest. Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtake regulating gates were fully opened during the week to provide a path for fish migration between these streams and the River Murray while river flows remain high.

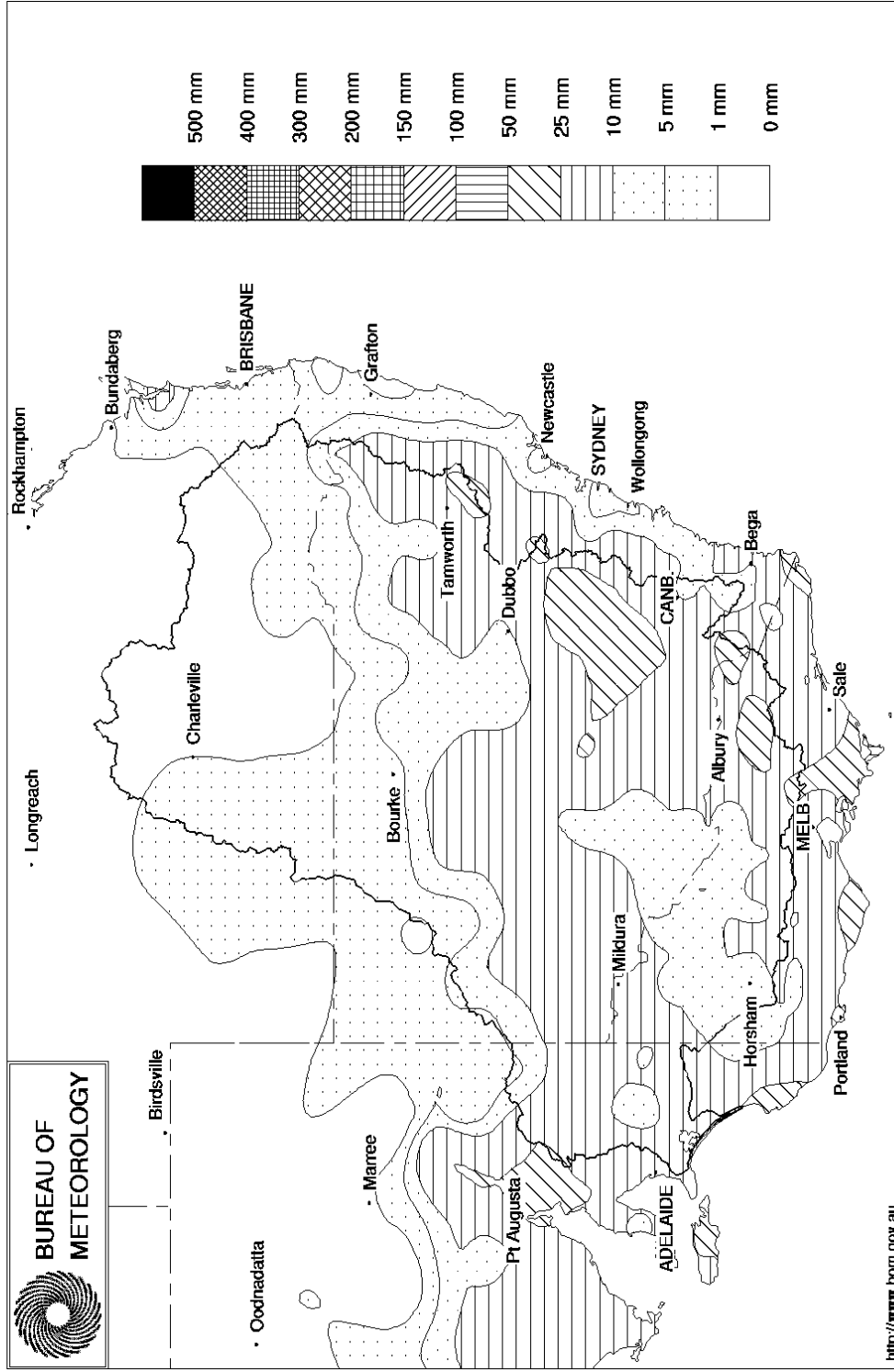
Tributary inflows to the River Murray have generally increased during the week with good inflows arriving from the Ovens, Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers. As a result, flow in the River Murray downstream of Euston Weir is expected to rise above 20 000 ML/day by early to mid September.

Release from Menindee Lakes has remained steady with 1 900 ML/day being released to the Darling Anabranch, and 1 500 ML/day being released from Weir 32 on the lower Darling River. As inflow to the Lakes is now beginning to slowly recede, release to the lower Darling will be gradually reduced to about 800 ML/day next week in order to maintain storage near surcharge capacity.

Drawdown of the water level of Lake Victoria continued slowly during the week, and storage is now at 82% of capacity (559 GL or 1.1 m below Full Supply Level). With considerably more flow now in transit upstream in the River Murray, the Lake level will be further drawn down in coming weeks prior to refilling later in Spring. As a result, flow to South Australia (currently 15 000 ML/day) will be increased to about 23 000 ML/day next week. River Murray Water is liaising with S A Water to develop a flow pattern into South Australia, combined with water surcharged in the lower Lakes, to manipulate a suitable flow pattern from the Barrages aimed at scouring accumulated sand at the Murray Mouth.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 30th August 2000
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending 30-Aug-2000

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	FSL	Full Supply	Level	Storage		Dead storage	Active storage	Change for week
	m AHD	GL	m AHD	GL	%	GL	GL	GL
Dartmouth Reservoir	486	3906	461.08	2465	63%	80	2385	+32
Hume Reservoir	192	3038	190.04	2657	87%	30	2627	+179
Lake Victoria	27	680	25.90	559	82%	100	459	-13
Menindee		1682 *		1996	119%	480 #	1516	-1
Total		9306		7676	82%	690	6986	+197

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **81%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	542	53%	3	539	+30
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1097	67%	24	1073	+43
Eildon Reservoir	3390	959	28%	100	859	+46

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 29-Aug-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2245	-18	Snowy-Murray	+39	458
Snowy-Murray Component	1008	-32	Tooma-Tumut	+7	93
Target Storage	1190		Nett Diversion	32.1	366
			Murray 1 Release	+43	533

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	21.5	58.3
Wakool System loss	0.2	3.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	0.7
Licensed Pumps	3.7	21.6
Lower Darling	13.3	70.0
TOTAL	38.8	154.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.4	3.3
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	16.8	83.4
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	2.0
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	1.0
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	14.1
TOTAL	21.2	103.8

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124
Flow this week	100.8
Flow so far this month	427
Flow last month	211

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	130	149	194
Euston	220	167	212
Red Cliffs	240	270	257
Merbein	210	270	210
Burtundy	440	429	388
Lock 9	360	288	250
L. Victoria	370	371	337
Berri	350	337	331
Waikerie	-	-	374
Morgan	400	388	405
Mannum	310	346	422
Murray Bridge	330	349	393
Meningie	1250	1260	1227
Goolwa Barrages	1050	1073	1041



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage m	Gauge height m	Flow ML/day	Trend	Average flow this week ML/day	Average flow last week ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	6890	F	7730	7500
Jingellic	4.0	2.92	17110	F	18570	21980
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.14	3390	R	2960	3760
Heywoods	5.5	1.36	600	S	620	560
Doctors Point	5.5	2.04	4140	F	4810	5520
Albury	4.3	1.09	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.56	5910	R	5760	8000
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.61	17500	R	15810	20600
Tocumwal	6.4	2.97	15553	R	15900	19580
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.94	13618	R	12090	9950
Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.46	2920	R	2317	699
Swan Hill	4.5	1.98	10860	R	9950	8070
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.03	12600	R	11630	9830
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.76	15700	R	13710	9780
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.47	14370	R	12600	10570
Rufus Junction	-	4.75	15347	R	13900	12180
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	15100	S	14290	14030
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.30	3260	F	3800	4070
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.97	12748	F	11890	12370
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.55	7218	R	4800	3450
Edward at Liewah	-	1.83	1220	F	1520	2040
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.60	715	R	650	490
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.21	5720	R	4780	610
Darling at Bourke	-	4.35	2070	F	2090	2300
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.24	1770	S	1730	1420
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	30	F	60	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	25560	36770
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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	+0.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.16	+2.45
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.75
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.70
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.54	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.03	+1.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.83	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.84
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.82
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.37	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.44

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.09	5.49	14000
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	4.63	7730

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	5
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.83	30

