

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 26 July 2000

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28 July, 2000



Falls of rain of between 50 to 100 mm were received in the upper Murray and Victorian tributary catchments this week. Falls of up to 25 mm occurred in upper catchments of NSW tributaries of the Murray and Darling Rivers. Light falls were recorded in the western portions of the Basin.

Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs peaked at 6 000 and 24 000 ML/day respectively. Significant increases in storage has brought both reservoirs up to 59% of capacity. It is now estimated that the chance of Hume Reservoir spilling this season is about 60%. Further details on the prospects of filling of Hume are given in the attached Media Release.

Tributary inflows to the River Murray have generally increased in response to the additional rainfall. Flow from the Kiewa River peaked at about 4 500 ML/day and is now receding. Flow from the Ovens River reached 12 000 ML/day by week's end, and without further rain is expected to peak in excess of 14 000 ML/day early next week. As a result, flow in the River Murray downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to 15 000 ML/day, and will be increased to 16 000 ML/day early next week. Additional regulators have been opened to allow water to flow into the Barmah-Millewa Forest as part of the natural winter-spring wetting cycle. Further downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, release is currently in excess of 10 000 ML/day, and is expected to remain steady next week as a result of diversion of up to 2 000 ML/day to National Channel to assist in refilling Kow Swamp in preparation for commencement of the irrigation season

Flows in transit in the River Murray are now sufficient to fill Lake Victoria and produce a spill of about 120 GL above downstream requirements. Consequently, the Lake level will be drawn down in August and subsequently refilled on the recession of flow in the Murray. This operation is aimed at minimising the duration of inundation at high Lake levels to assist in the regeneration of lake shore vegetation, and the protection of cultural heritage sites. Accordingly, flow to South Australia was increased to 7 500 ML/day late in the week (compared with the current requirement of 6 500 ML/day which includes 3 000 ML/day additional dilution flow), and further increases will be made next week. However, operation plans may be revised if there are significant changes in flows in the River Murray or Darling River. Further details will be provided in coming weeks.

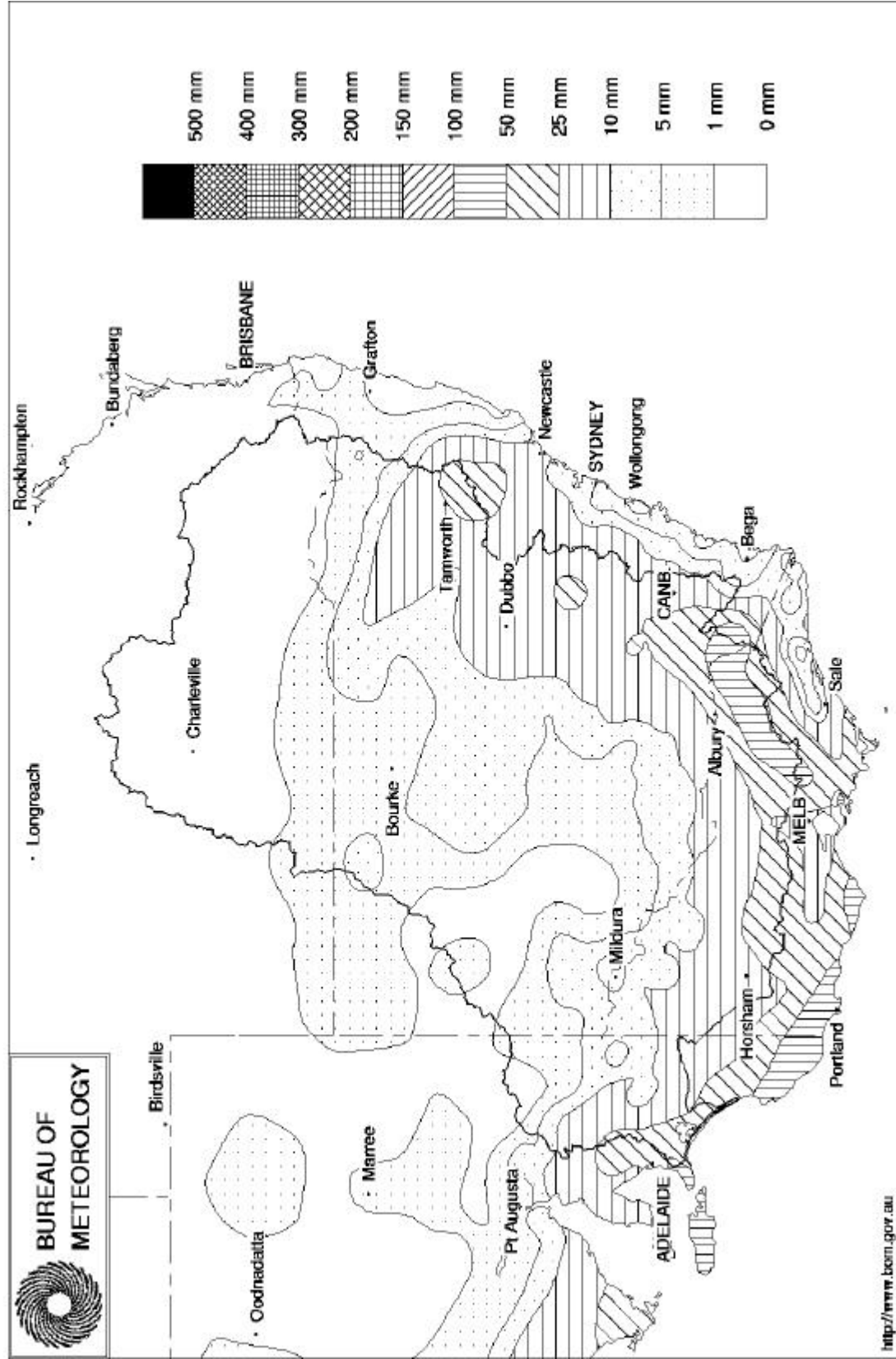
Inflow to Menindee Lakes remains steady at about 4 500 ML/day. Release from the Lakes will be reduced early next week from 3 500 to 1 000 ML/day in early August to maintain storage near surcharge capacity to conserve water resources. Replenishment flows for the Great Anabranch of the Darling River commenced during the week and will continue throughout August and September. Further details of the operational plans for the Lakes can be found in the attached Media Release.

Recipients of the Weekly Report may now receive the report via e-mail. River Murray Water is also reviewing its mail distribution list. All recipients are asked to return the attached form to CONFIRM their requirement for ongoing receipt of the report by either mail or e-mail.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th July 2000

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 26/07/2000

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 27 July 2000



GOOD PROSPECTS FOR FILLING HUME DAM

The prospects for filling Hume Dam look better than any time since late 1996.

The reservoir is presently around 60 percent full and rising. This is double the amount of water held in the dam at the same time last year.

General Manager of River Murray Water, Mr David Dole, said today that the chances of filling this year had now risen to 2 out of 3, and with a wet catchment he was hopeful of good inflows into the spring.

Mr Dole said that excellent progress on remedial works had meant that the dam has been ready to refill since November 1997, but dry seasons had not produced enough runoff.

Further remedial works since that time have been designed to allow the dam to cope not only with its normal loads, but also with extreme conditions such as maximum earthquakes. All of this work has been designed and built to international standards. To ensure that these standards have been achieved River Murray Water regularly has a panel of independent national dam experts review the work. From time to time, this is supplemented by international experts as part of a commitment to the highest possible standards.

One such international panel has just completed a review of the important junction between the concrete and earth dams. "I am pleased to say that the review has further confirmed that the dam was safe to fill and that the remedial works have been well designed, built and managed," said Mr Dole.

Because of the extensive nature of the remedial works, the refilling could be likened to that of a new dam. "We will be conducting intensive monitoring of the dam during this time to confirm the performance of the structure."

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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 26 July 2000

Reduction in Releases from Menindee Lakes



River Murray Water and the Department of Land and Water Conservation announced today that releases from Menindee Lakes at Weir 32 will be reduced in order to conserve water resources.

Storage in Menindee Lakes is currently 99% of surcharge capacity, and flow upstream at Wilcannia is 4 600 ML/d, and steady. Further upstream, flow in the Darling River at Bourke is steady at about 2 600 ML/day.

Releases from Lake Cawndilla to the Great Darling Anabranch commenced on Monday 24 July at a rate of 1 000 ML/day. This flow rate will be maintained until about 3 August to overcome initial losses, and will then be reduced to about 500 ML/day. This Anabranch replenishment flow is likely to continue until about late September.

Commencing Friday 28 July flow at Weir 32 downstream of the Lakes will be gradually decreased from the current flow of about 3 500 ML/day (2.1 m gauge height) to 1 000 ML/day (1.7 m gauge height) by about 6 August. Current indications are that the flow at Weir 32 will be maintained at this rate at least until mid August, however changes to this program may be required, particularly if inflows to the Lakes increase as a result of further rain.

Further downstream, flow at Burtundy (currently 3 300 ML/day, or 2.0 m gauge height) is expected to remain steady until about 4 August before receding to about 900 ML/day by mid August.

Forecast inflows to Menindee Lakes will be reviewed in early August, and any significant changes in releases will be notified by a further media release.

River pumpers and other river users are advised to take account of these flow changes when planning their activities.

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Week ending 26-Jul-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	
Dartmouth Reservoir	486	3906	457.59	2294	59%	80	2214	+32
Hume Reservoir	192	3038	184.79	1788	59%	30	1758	+154
Lake Victoria	27	680	26.12	583	86%	100	483	+37
Menindee		1682 *		1978	118%	480 #	1498	-19
Total		9306		6643	71%	690	5953	+203

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **69%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	426	42%	3	423	+11
Blow ering Reservoir	1631	832	51%	24	808	+33
Eildon Reservoir	3390	749	22%	100	649	+74

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Jul-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2297	-38	Snowy-Murray	+41	296
Snowy-Murray Component	1120	-32	Tooma-Tumut	+4	55
Target Storage	1170		Nett Diversion	37.0	241
			Murray 1 Release	+42	343

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July	Victoria		
			This week	From 1 July	
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	0.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	0.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	0.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	0.2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	0.4
Licensed Pumps	0.7	2.6	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	0.4
Lower Darling	14.2	20.0	Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	5.9
TOTAL	14.9	22.8	TOTAL	1.6	6.7

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5
Flow this week	47.5
Flow so far this month	172
Flow last month	179

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	190	181	220
Euston	170	194	231
Red Cliffs	240	230	312
Merbein	180	180	298
Burtundy	320	323	415
Lock 9	250	275	340
L. Victoria	390	389	394
Berri	370	378	430
Waikerie	430	420	490
Morgan	450	469	551
Mannum	490	493	507
Murray Bridge	450	451	543
Meningie	1170	1260	1257
Goolwa Barrages	3170	2362	1634



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	5190	F	7030	7360
Jingellic	4.0	2.76	15260	F	15400	12300
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.97	2620	R	2330	1580
Heywoods	5.5	1.22	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.97	3650	R	4080	2900
Albury	4.3	1.11	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.20	3960	F	4810	3630
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.34	15000	S	12700	10820
Tocumwal	6.4	2.80	14262	R	11330	11100
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.16	10225	R	9400	9290
Swan Hill	4.5	1.67	8780	F	8980	8310
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.77	11200	F	11110	9910
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.30	12120	R	11680	10200
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.45	13610	R	12810	9640
Rufus Junction	-	3.61	6932	R	6150	6110
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	6880	F	6870	6040
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.33	3340	R	3570	2460
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.86	11861	R	10070	4470
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.14	3738	R	1960	1140
Edward at Liewah	-	2.68	2250	S	2310	2020
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.37	276	S	280	260
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.43	1120	F	880	660
Darling at Bourke	-	4.41	2610	S	2580	2470
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.03	3280	S	3150	1420
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	130	R	110	100

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	20540	12810
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

Murray	FSL (MAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (MAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.17	+1.29
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	+0.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.27
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.44	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.84
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.81	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.31
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.13	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.32
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.37	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.25

Murrumbidgee	FSL (MAHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.00	2.00	2690
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.29	0.09	220

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.92	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.92	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.90	All closed

