

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 October 2000

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng:bwh

6 October, 2000



Further good falls of rain of between 10 and 50 mm were received in the Dartmouth and Hume catchments. Falls of between 10 and 25 mm were recorded in the upper Kiewa and Ovens River catchments in Victoria and also in the Murrumbidgee catchment of New South Wales. Little or no rain was received across the remainder of the Basin.

Early in the week, release from Hume Dam was increased in response to increased inflows. As a result, the level the River Murray at Albury reached 4.1 m (0.2 m below minor flood level) and is now 3.0 m and falling. Commencing on 2 October, progressive reductions in release have been made to conserve resources for future use. Release is currently 20 000 ML/day (still well above downstream requirements as demands are being met by high tributary flows downstream) and will be progressively reduced early next week unless there is further significant rain. Storage in Hume Reservoir is currently 99% of capacity.

Irrigation diversions from the River Murray between Hume and Wentworth currently total about 15 000 ML/day and are being met by flows in transit and tributary inflows. If conditions remain dry, then increasing diversions and diminishing tributary inflows may result in the need to commence irrigation releases from Hume as early as next week.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to a peak of 41 000 ML/day on 3 October in response to the increased release from Hume and a renewed rise in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. The release from Yarrawonga has since been reduced to 38 000 ML/day, and will be further reduced next week as inflows to Lake Mulwala decline.

Further downstream at Torrumbarry Weir, flow is currently peaking at about 28 000 ML/day (as a result of a recent rise in the Goulburn River) and is expected to fall very slowly next week.

The flood peak in the River Murray, resulting from the earlier peak at Yarrawonga in mid September, is now at Euston. Release from Euston Weir is currently about 34 000 ML/day and will be maintained at about this level until about Friday 6 October. The weir pool at Euston will be drawn down by about 0.3 m to augment the flow peak to assist with enhancement of flow in South Australia (*see Media Release attached*).

Early next week, release from Lake Victoria will be increased to augment the River Murray flows in South Australia to provide environmental benefits to floodplain wetlands (further detail is provided in the attached Media Release).

Release from Menindee Lakes has been reduced to near minimum rates this week with about 500 ML/day now passing Weir 32. Release via Cawndilla outlet to the Great Darling Anabranch ceased on 4 October.

Salinity in the River Murray remain low with readings of 180 EC at Euston, 240 EC at Wentworth and 330 EC at Morgan. Salinity in the lower Darling River at Burtundy is currently 440 EC.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 6 October 2000

Environmental Flow Benefits in South Australia

River Murray wetlands in South Australia will receive environmental benefits from a special increase in the rate of water release from Lake Victoria.

Announcing this today, the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, SA Water and the South Australian Department for Water Resources said this operation was aimed at stimulating growth in ecosystems on the floodplain.

Lake Victoria will be operated to increase the flow of the River Murray entering South Australia. Whilst this increased flow is still less than what would have occurred under 'natural' conditions (i.e. without any regulating structures in the River Murray system), it aims to achieve substantial benefits to the floodplain environment which has been dry for four years.

This operation will augment the current small flood passing along the River Murray, and promote inundation of floodplain wetlands, particularly in the Chowilla floodplain which is registered as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.

The levels of the River Murray which will be achieved in South Australia will be well below minor flood levels. South Australian agencies are arranging for environmental monitoring of the floodplain to be undertaken during this event. In addition, monitoring of any impacts on the community and infrastructure will be undertaken. Increased river levels and flows provides increased watering of floodplain wetlands. For example, as flow at Renmark increases from 35 000 to 40 000 ML/day, the extent of wetting of the floodplain increases from about 5% to 8% (or from 880 to 1 400 hectares).

The flood peak in the River Murray is currently at Euston as a result of increased flows in Murray tributaries, and increased releases from Hume Dam, following widespread rain during September.

Over the next few days, River Murray Water and SA Water will arrange for release from Lake Victoria to be increased to enhance the flow to South Australia to the range 40 000 to 45 000 ML/day. The peak flow at Lock 7 near the South Australian border is expected to occur on about 8 October. The objective will also be to increase the duration of the flow peak to maximise wetland inundation, whilst ensuring that Lake Victoria is subsequently filled. After the passing of the flow peak, inflow to Lake Victoria will be managed to secure future water availability to South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales in the River Murray system.

River Murray Water is arranging for weir pools at Euston, Mildura and Wentworth and Locks 9, 8 and 7 to be manipulated to provide additional enhancement of the flow peak in South Australia. SA Water is also arranging to surcharge the upstream pool at Lock 5 to raise the river level to assist with the wetting of the floodplain upstream of Lock 5.

The current flood event is also expected to provide environmental benefit in Victoria upstream of the South Australia border in Lindsay River and Wallpolla Creek, and in the low-lying areas of Lindsay Island and Wallpolla Island. However, watering of these areas is not influenced by the current operation of Lake Victoria.

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

Or

Sue Lefebvre

Manager Operations

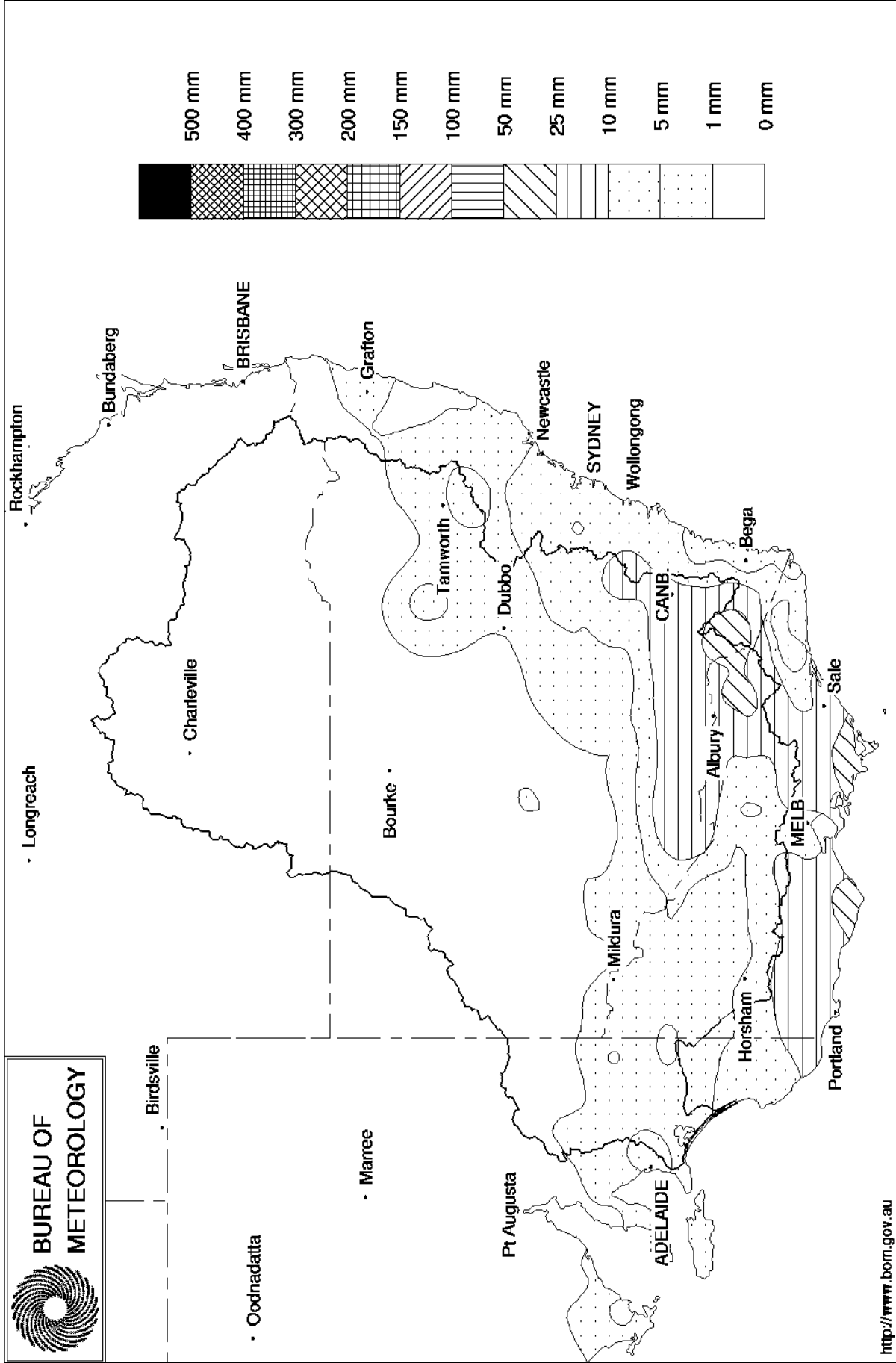
S A Water

BERRI

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th October 2000

Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 04/10/2000

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	466.00	2719	70%	80	2639	+54
Hume Reservoir	192	3038	191.79	2995	99%	30	2965	+13
Lake Victoria	27	680	26.30	602	89%	100	502	+40
Menindee		1682 *		1961	117%	480 #	1481	-15
Total		9306		8278	89%	690	7588	+93

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **88%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	653	64%	3	650	+21
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1402	86%	24	1378	+30
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1398	41%	100	1298	+50

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Oct-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversions	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2585	+91	Snowy-Murray	+0	489
Snowy-Murray Component	1193	+79	Tooma-Tumut	+22	183
Target Storage	1400		Nett Diversion	-22.2	306
			Murray 1 Release	+37	679

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	52.3	188.5
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	1.6
Licensed Pumps	6.9	43.3
Lower Darling	7.2	123.1
TOTAL	66.9	360.9

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	5.8	22.7
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.9	155.7
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.3	6.8
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	5.1
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.7	30.0
TOTAL	30.3	220.3

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170
Flow this week	169.6
Flow so far this month	98
Flow last month	727

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	140	192	215
Euston	200	191	213
Red Cliffs	230	230	249
Merbein	170	180	203
Burtundy	440	413	407
Lock 9	210	226	246
L.Victoria	310	280	330
Berri	330	318	329
Waikerie	340	400	389
Morgan	310	374	393
Mannum	350	353	385
Murray Bridge	360	365	369
Meningie	1330	1400	1272
Goolwa Barrages	2800	6915	1863



Week ending 04-Oct-2000

River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
River Murray	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
Khancoban	-	-	4230	F	9060	8680
Jingellic	4.0	2.82	15970	F	22520	17420
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.90	2340	F	2760	2860
Heywoods	5.5	3.31	20220	F	28220	17180
Doctors Point	5.5	3.89	25100	F	34930	22660
Albury	4.3	3.03	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	5.32	37400	F	33500	27770
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	4.60	39500	F	34230	39770
Tocumwal	6.4	5.02	38010	R	31660	51860
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.40	27876	R	23990	25380
Stevens Weir (d/s)		5.16	11400	S	14643	14743
Swan Hill	4.5	3.47	21250	S	21340	21010
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.82	29400	R	28230	25890
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.75	34330	S	33440	30490
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.78	32420	S	31020	28220
Rufus Junction	-	5.60	23884	R	23080	23070
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	22300	S	22170	26690
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.47	4030	F	5220	4170
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.97	6919	F	8550	9040
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.90	8336	F	7950	5330
Edward at Liewah	-	4.55	5870	R	5370	4760
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.59	6060	R	4950	3170
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.17	3690	F	5920	6500
Darling at Bourke	-	4.32	1830	R	1900	1740
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.14	1530	F	1630	1660
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.16	20	S	20	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	40780	30490
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	+0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.47	+3.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	+1.42
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.06	+1.24
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+1.91	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+2.14
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+2.14	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+1.38
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+1.16	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+1.38
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.23	+1.72	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	+0.83

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.71	0.70	380
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.86	1050

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	40
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	40
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.82	All closed

