

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 April 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :bwh

11 April, 2001



Little rain was recorded throughout Murray and tributary catchment areas during the week. Tributary inflows to the Murray have either receded to or remained at low flow rates this week.

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has remained near steady at 79% of capacity in recent weeks as inflows have been in balance with evaporation and release. Release from Hume Reservoir has been reduced from 18 000 to 12 500 ML/day in response to a gradual reduction in total irrigation demand this week. Further reduction in irrigation demand is anticipated over the Easter holiday period. Storage in Hume is now 29% of capacity, and can be expected to fall to about 25% by the end of the irrigation season if conditions remain moderately dry.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala reduced from 8 800 to 6 500 ML/day (about 47% of capacity) during the week. Diversion via National Channel to the Torrumbarry Irrigation System increased slightly from 3 000 to 3 600 ML/day (about 85% of capacity). This diversion rate was higher than ordered, and this was possible because flow in the Murray upstream of Torrumbarry Weir was higher than expected due to a reduction in pumping by private diverters upstream. Some of the increased diversion to National Channel will be stored in Kow Swamp for use later in the season.

Flow in the mid Murray at Euston has receded from a peak of 9 600 ML/day to 4 200 ML/day, as inflows from the Murrumbidgee River have reduced. Without further rain, flow downstream of Euston Weir is forecast to continue to recede to about 3 100 ML/day by mid April. As noted in last week's report, Mildura Weir will be temporarily withdrawn from the River Murray commencing in mid May to carry out maintenance work on the weir trestles. The water level of the weir pool will be lowered by about 3.6 m below full supply level. Lock passage is expected to be unavailable in the period 14 to 27 May. However, as usual, boat operators are advised to contact the Weir office to check the availability of the Lock.

Flow in the Darling River at Bourke has increased from 3 000 to 5 000 ML/day mainly as a result of the rainfall which occurred in the McIntyre River system in mid March (as indicated in the report for week ending 21 March). This will provide a minor increase in inflows to Menindee Lakes over coming weeks, and storage in the Lakes is expected to remain near surcharge capacity until at least May. Release from Menindee Lakes has continued to be gradually reduced from 7 400 to 4 400 ML/day at a rate of reduction about 500 ML/day each day. Further reductions will continue at a rate of 250 ML/day each day until minimum flow is achieved by late April.

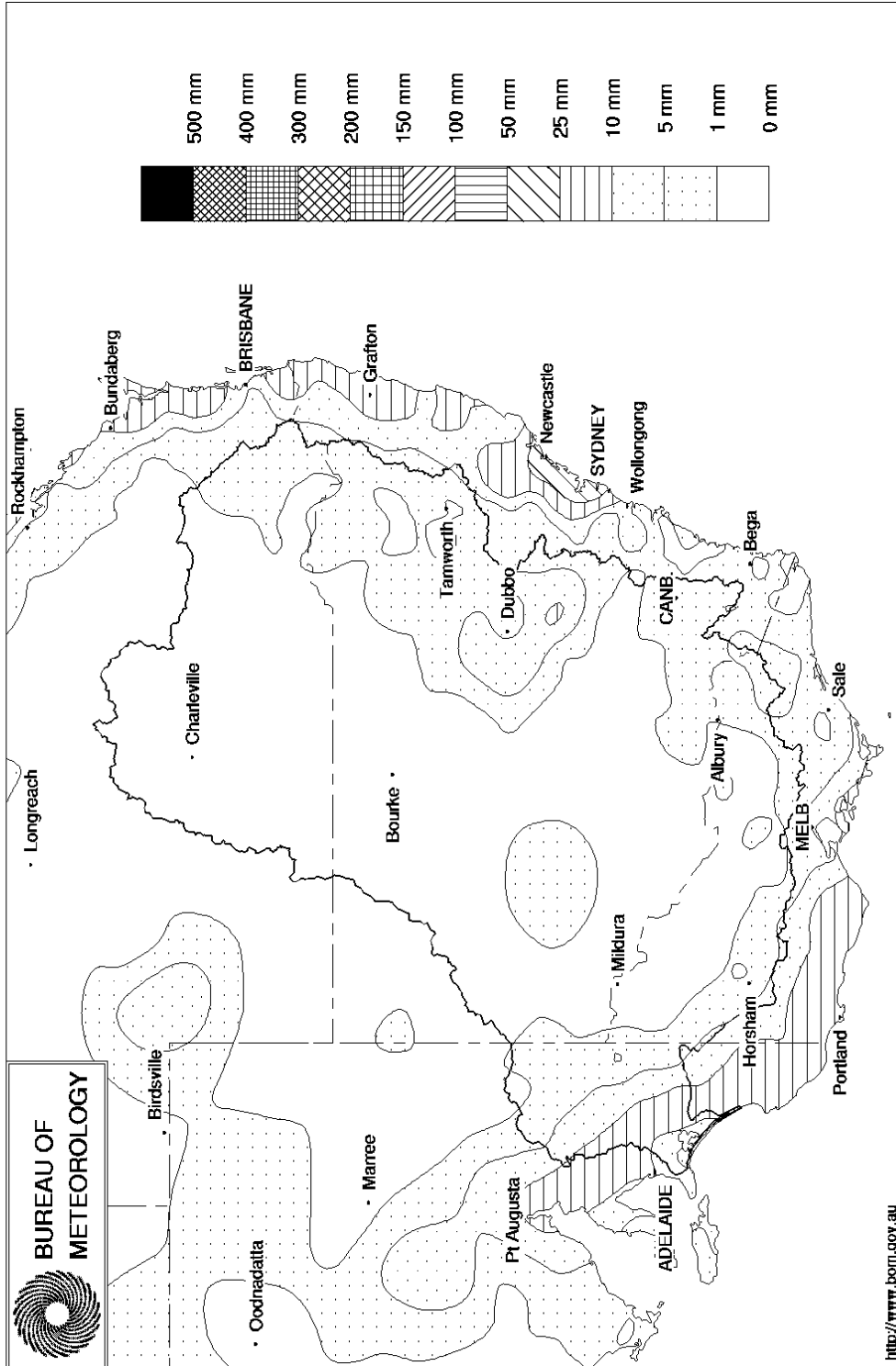
Flow to South Australia peaked at 24 800 ML/day on 7 April. With flow upstream in the River Murray and lower Darling River gradually receding, flow to South Australia is expected to gradually fall to about 10 000 ML/day by late April. The water level in Lake Victoria has been drawn down by about 7 cm per day during the week, and is now 24.85 m (2.15 m below full supply level).

Salinity at Swan Hill increased from about 160 EC to 390 EC mainly as a result of increased flow and saline input to the Murray from Barr Creek. This has occurred as pumping from Barr Creek to Lake Tutchewop has recently ceased because salinity in Barr Creek at Capels Crossing has receded below trigger levels for pumping according to the operating rules for the Barr Creek Drainage Diversion Scheme. The salinity at Swan Hill is expected to remain at or slightly above 400 EC for most of this week. Further downstream, salinities are generally low for this time of year, and averaged about 160 EC at Euston, 270 EC at Mildura, and 400 EC at Morgan this week.

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General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th April 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending 11-Apr-2001

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level m AHD	Full Supply Capacity GL	Storage Level m AHD	Current Storage		Dead storage GL	Active storage GL	Change for the week GL
				GL	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3906	472.80	3095	79%	80	3015	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	177.61	895	29%	30	865	-110
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.85	447	66%	100	347	-53
Menindee		1682 *		1944	116%	480 #	1464	-27
Total		9306		6381	69%	690	5691	-193

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **66%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	404	39%	3	401	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1631	667	41%	24	643	-14
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1099	32%	100	999	-40

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Apr-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2945	-14	Snowy-Murray	+10	690
Snowy-Murray Component	1396	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	313
Target Storage	1340		Nett Diversion	9.1	378
			Murray 1 Release	+14	1058

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July		This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	38.2	1523.4	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	16.6	450.4
Wakool System loss	0.7	34.8	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	23.0	713.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	28.3	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.1	145.0
Licensed Pumps	10.9	342.7	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.8	52.9
Lower Darling	0.1	289.5	Licensed pumps - SRW	3.2	148.5
TOTAL	50.6	2218.6	TOTAL	48.7	1510.3

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135
Flow this week	164.2
Flow so far this month	246
Flow last month	430

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	390	206	217
Euston	140	161	200
Red Cliffs	250	260	243
Merbein	270	270	224
Burtundy	380	353	412
Lock 9	320	315	268
L. Victoria	330	332	305
Berri	330	334	325
Waikerie	360	390	389
Morgan	370	405	391
Mannum	380	385	406
Murray Bridge	400	395	398
Meningie	1300	1290	1256
Goolwa Barrages	570	603	1175



Week ending 11-Apr-2001

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	-	-	1820	F	1740	2220
Jingellic	4.0	1.40	2640	S	2690	3440
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	790	S	780	830
Heywoods	5.5	2.81	12530	F	15290	13740
Doctors Point	5.5	2.91	12700	F	16210	14570
Albury	4.3	1.88	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.05	15800	F	17910	13910
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.56	8700	F	8920	7290
Tocumwal	6.4	2.17	9678	F	9390	8200
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.13	2738	F	2510	4100
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.83	539	R	299	561
Swan Hill	4.5	0.65	1980	S	2220	4790
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.02	3795	F	5130	6990
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.07	4230	F	6990	8360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.50	12840	F	14680	14070
Rufus Junction	-	5.18	19500	F	22310	19420
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	20100	R	19060	18060
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.77	330	F	440	380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.02	749	S	890	1040
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	433	F	400	450
Edward at Liewah	-	2.01	1410	F	1870	2590
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.48	459	F	540	430
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.74	420	F	1080	2780
Darling at Bourke	-	4.62	4630	F	4330	1680
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.83	7220	F	8750	10800
Barwon at Mungindi	-	5.24	6220	R	5640	3470

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	-300	1410
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.38	+2.87
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.15	+1.19
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.12	+1.17
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.09	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.21	+2.04
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.04	+0.86	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.13	+1.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.14	+0.48	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.18	+1.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.13	+0.92	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.74

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	0.87	590
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.47	602

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	25
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.72	5

