

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 July 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng

19 July, 2001



Rain blanketed the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with falls of up to 50 mm recorded in the catchments of the upper Murray and its tributaries. Elsewhere in the Basin, falls were generally between 10 and 25 mm in Victoria reducing towards the north with only light falls of between 1 and 5 mm recorded in central and western New South Wales.

The rain has maintained inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs at an average of about 3 000 and 8 000 ML/day respectively, and has produced minor rises in tributary inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers to the River Murray. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir is now at 3 161 GL (81% of capacity) with storage in Hume Reservoir now at 1 385 GL (46% of capacity).

Flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to 4 500 ML/day, and without further rain is expected to be gradually reduced later next week. Tributary inflows from the Kiewa, Ovens, Goulburn, Campaspe and Murrumbidgee Rivers currently total about 6 500 ML/day, which is equivalent to the current average daily flow requirement for South Australia.

The first orders for water have been received from Goulburn-Murray Water for the filling of irrigation channels and storages within the Torrumbarry Irrigation System. Diversion from the River Murray to National Channel is forecast to commence next week at low rates, and is expected to gradually increase throughout late July and August. Without further rain, release from Torrumbarry Weir is likely to decrease in late July as diversions to National Channel increase. However additional releases will be made from Yarrawonga Weir as necessary to ensure that flow in the River Murray at Swan Hill is maintained at or above the minimum level of 0.60 m on the town gauge.

Flow downstream of Euston Weir remains steady at about 6 300 ML/day and will remain at about this level before rising later next week toward 7 000 ML/day. If dry conditions ensue, the flow downstream of Euston will recede in early to mid August.

Conditions on the Darling River remain very stable with very gradually receding flows at Bourke, Louth and Wilcannia. Storage in Menindee Lakes remains steady at 1 977 GL (99% of surcharge capacity), and release is steady at 500 ML/day.

Flow to South Australia remains at about the current requirement of 6 500 ML/day, comprising 3 500 ML/day entitlement plus 3 000 ML/day additional dilution flow. Storage in Lake Victoria is declining slowly and is currently 370 GL (54% of capacity), and further rainfall will be required upstream to produce increased Murray flows for refilling of the Lake.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 13 July 2001 OPERATION OF DARTMOUTH DAM AND HUME DAM FOR 2001-2002 SEASON



River Murray Water yesterday discussed forecast operation of Dartmouth Reservoir with the Mitta Mitta Catchment Water Services Committee, at a meeting convened by Goulburn-Murray Water. The discussion focussed on forecast operation of Dartmouth Reservoir over the coming 12 months, based on all probable conditions. The information provided to the Water Services Committee follows.

Storage volume in Dartmouth Reservoir on 13 July 2001 is 3 150 GL, or 81% capacity.

Whilst this is the highest that storage in Dartmouth has been since August 1997, the current probability of Dartmouth Reservoir spilling later this season is relatively low, at about 15% (about 1 chance in 7).

Storage volume in Hume Reservoir on 13 July 2001 is 1 350 GL, or 44% capacity. This compares to about 1 540 GL (51% capacity) at the same time last year. The current probability of Hume spilling later this spring is about 40% (2 chances in 5). This is slightly less than the long-term average of one chance in two.

During the 2000/2001 water year, no significant quantities of water were required to be transferred from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir. As a result, flow in the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Dam remained well below channel capacity last season.

However, there is a greater likelihood of higher flows in the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Dam this season. If conditions are very dry, water will be released from Dartmouth to meet water supply requirements downstream of Hume Dam. These transfers would not commence until October at the earliest. If conditions are extremely dry, it may be necessary to maintain flow in the Mitta Mitta River at channel capacity for long periods. The more likely scenario is that such releases as may be required will be made at flow rates less than channel capacity.

Average conditions will result in transfers from Dartmouth to Hume in late spring and early summer 2001 in accordance with Hume-Dartmouth "harmony" operation. This operation is only used when Dartmouth is near capacity, and involves managing the airspace remaining in Hume and Dartmouth in unison. These releases have the advantage of equalising the probability of spill for Dartmouth and Hume, without placing water resources at risk. Another advantage is that storage levels in Lake Hume are higher in late spring and early summer, enhancing the recreational use of Lake Hume.

If conditions are very wet, water would not be transferred from Dartmouth to Hume under "harmony" operation until Hume has ceased spilling. Should very wet conditions ensue, further discussions with landholder groups downstream of Dartmouth and Hume will take place to confirm agreed pre-release and flood operation arrangements.

The operation of Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs is subject to change, based on actual conditions through the season. The status of storage and flow in the River Murray system, including Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs, is updated weekly via River Murray Water's Weekly Report. This report is available on line, at www.mdbc.gov.au – follow the link to the River Murray and Lower Darling.

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(Keith Bashford is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

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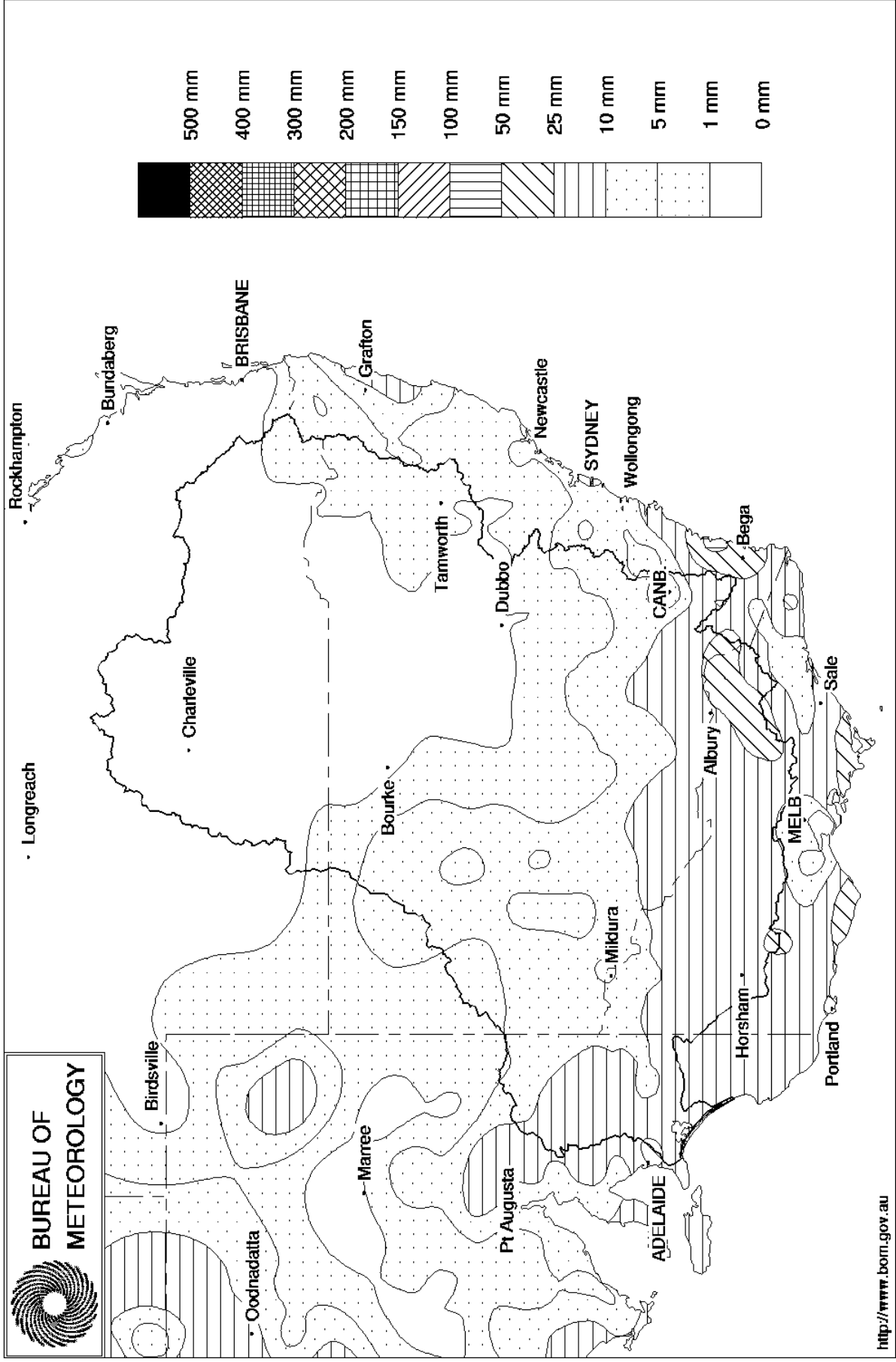
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th July 2001
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending 18-Jul-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	473.93	3161	81%	80	3081	+12
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	181.86	1385	46%	30	1355	+54
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.09	370	54%	100	270	+8
Menindee		1682 *		1977	118%	480 #	1497	-0
Total		9306		6892	74%	690	6202	+74

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 72%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026		424	41%	3	421	+10
Blowering Reservoir	1631		936	57%	24	912	+33
Eildon Reservoir	3390		1099	32%	100	999	+10

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Jul-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2602	+32	Snowy-Murray	+11	330
Snowy-Murray Component	1159	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	41
Target Storage	1170		Nett Diversion	5.6	289
			Murray 1 Release	+18	382

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	0.1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	0.5
Licensed Pumps	0.9	2.5	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	10.7	14.4
Lower Darling	0.1	0.2	Licensed pumps - SRW	1.9	4.5
TOTAL	1.0	2.8	TOTAL	12.5	19.4

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5
Flow this week	45.0
Flow so far this month	117
Flow last month	106

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	330	338	222
Euston	280	259	208
Red Cliffs	260	290	257
Merbein	250	280	239
Burtundy	440	435	414
Lock 9	330	319	285
L.Victoria	350	332	315
Berri	440	453	351
Waikerie	-	-	402
Morgan	570	587	417
Mannum	500	479	410
Murray Bridge	480	482	408
Meningie	1130	1120	1231
Goolwa Barrages	1670	1714	1249



Week ending 18-Jul-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	-	-	1900	F	2680	3840
Jingellic	4.0	1.75	5260	S	6590	7000
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.55	1130	F	1080	990
Heywoods	5.5	1.26	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.92	3330	R	2920	2230
Albury	4.3	0.98	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.08	3360	F	3160	2380
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.98	4590	S	3890	3150
Tocumwal	6.4	1.43	4298	R	3810	3300
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.57	3984	R	3680	3380
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.59	297	F	448	612
Swan Hill	4.5	0.90	3380	R	3240	3620
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.35	4489	S	4600	5020
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.42	6270	S	6300	6930
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.96	6080	F	6950	6640
Rufus Junction	-	3.38	5845	R	5990	6030
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	6030	F	6490	5480
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.15	2900	R	2440	1710
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.35	1520	R	1230	990
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.30	610	R	610	490
Edward at Liewah	-	1.76	1150	F	1150	1240
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.42	352	S	380	370
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.74	1510	S	1530	1410
Darling at Bourke	-	4.20	960	S	980	1040
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.89	654	S	650	640
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.33	290	S	340	260

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8860	6290
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+1.09
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.11
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.86
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.32	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.21
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.41	1630
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.02	1.43	1810

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	4
Mundoo	26 openings	0.78	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.79	4

