

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 10 October 2001

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :brc

12 October, 2001



Light rain was recorded across the River Murray catchment upstream of Euston this week. Totals of greater than 25 mm were confined to the upper slopes of the Ovens and Kiewa catchments. Conditions were generally dry elsewhere.

River Murray Water announced on 11 October that Harmony Transfers from Dartmouth to Hume will commence on Wednesday 17 October. Harmony transfers allow water to be transferred from Dartmouth to Hume earlier than irrigation transfer requirements, where there is little or no risk of this water spilling from Hume prior to a Dartmouth spill. The probability of Hume or Dartmouth spilling this season is now very low at less than 10%. Harmony transfers provide benefits in terms of flood mitigation in the Mitta Mitta Valley, as well as enhanced recreational use of Lake Hume due to higher water levels through late spring and early summer. Refer to the media release attached for greater detail.

Inflows to the River Murray from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers receded to about 3 600 and 5 400 ML/day respectively this week. Consequently, releases from Hume Dam were increased from 6 700 to 10 200 ML/day this week to meet downstream requirements. Releases from Hume Dam will be reduced from 10 October in expectation of rainfall in the next few days.

Irrigation diversions from Lake Mulwala increased from a combined total of 8 200 to 9 200 ML/day this week. Releases from Yarrawonga Weir were steady this week at about 10 400 ML/day. At Torrumbarry Weir, irrigation diversions via National Channel were temporarily reduced early this week to assist in maintaining sufficient inflow to the Euston Weir pool. However, diversions via National Channel were increased on Monday 8 October following an improvement in the outlook at Euston due to light rain over the weekend. This increase will assist in filling Kow Swamp in advance of expected higher demand for irrigation water in the Torrumbarry Irrigation Area in late spring and early summer.

Releases from Stevens Weir on the Edward River system were reduced late this week due to the improved outlook at Euston Weir. However, rainfall early next week, combined with a significant reduction in inflow from Billabong Creek, will result in a requirement for higher flows downstream of Stevens Weir next week.

The water level at Euston Weir was 47.47 m, or 130 mm below FSL at the end of this week. The pool level is now not expected to fall further as a result of reductions in diversions and river losses following rainfall last weekend. The pool is now expected to recover to FSL by about 15 October.

Releases from Menindee Lakes continued at the channel capacity for regulated flows of 9 000 ML/day this week. Releases will be maintained at this rate until late November unless further rainfall results in an improvement in flow in the River Murray upstream of the Darling River Junction.

Storage in Lake Victoria is now at 25.06 m (469 GL or 69% capacity), and will continue to climb slowly over the next few weeks. Flow to South Australia will remain at the October requirement of 8 500 ML/day unless there is significant further rain.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 11 October 2001

Water Transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir



River Murray Water announced today that release from Dartmouth Reservoir will be increased as part of a program to transfer additional water resources to Hume Reservoir.

This transfer is being made according to combined operating rules which allow for 'harmony' operation of the two storages. Harmony transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir provide increased water levels in Hume Reservoir, and are based on the principle of equalizing the chance of spill at Dartmouth and Hume. As there is now a low risk of spill from Hume this season, water can be transferred from Dartmouth without impacting on overall water availability.

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir is currently at 88% of capacity, and storage in Hume Reservoir is currently at 66% of capacity. The chance of spill at each of Dartmouth and Hume this irrigation season is now very low at less than 10%.

This mode of operation provides benefits to recreation in Hume Reservoir because water levels are higher than they would otherwise be, particularly in summer. It also provides a benefit of flood mitigation in the Mitta Mitta valley by reducing the storage in Dartmouth.

Commencing 9:00 am Wednesday 17 October, flow at Colemans will be gradually increased from the current flow of 200 ML/day (0.87 m gauge height) to 5 000 ML/day (2.24 m gauge height). This level will be reached late Thursday 18 October. Under relatively dry weather conditions, flow in the Mitta Mitta River at Tallandoon (currently about 1 200 ML/day, and 1.57 m gauge height) is forecast to increase to about 6 000 ML/day (2.60 m gauge height).

It is currently expected that the flow at Colemans will be maintained near 5 000 ML/day until late November, however it may be reduced if there is a significant rainfall in the Hume Reservoir catchment. In addition, temporary increases in release from Dartmouth may be required from time to time for the purposes of electricity generation.

If conditions are very dry, it may be necessary to increase release rates during mid December and January in order to meet downstream irrigation and water supply requirements. As the irrigation season progresses, the release rate will be continually reviewed in conjunction with storage levels in Hume and inflow conditions. A further media release will be issued whenever there will be a significant change in release rate.

There is likely to be increased debris, particularly along the lower Mitta Mitta River, for the first few days of the increased flow. Landowners are advised to take this into account with the operation of pumps during this period.

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

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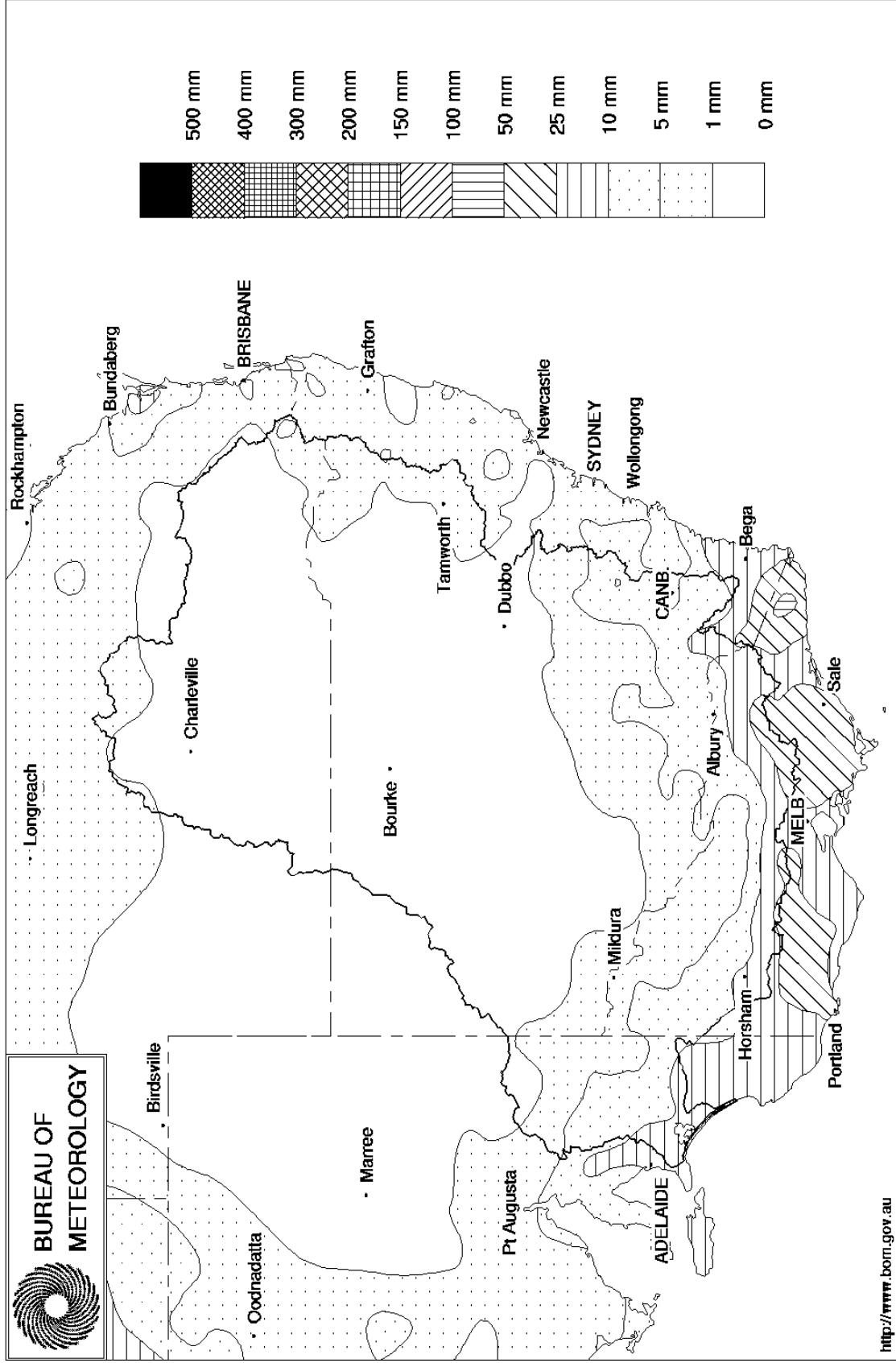
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 10th October 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Week ending 10-Oct-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	478.45	3430	88%	80	3350	+26
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	186.30	2016	66%	30	1986	+18
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.06	469	69%	100	369	+29
Menindee		1682 *		1599	95%	480 #	1119	-84
Total		9306		7513	81%	690	6823	-11

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **79%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	577	56%	3	574	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1090	67%	24	1066	-36
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1376	41%	100	1276	-5

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 09-Oct-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2953	+38	Snowy-Murray	+6	407
Snowy-Murray Component	1345	-	Tooma-Tumut	+8	142
Target Storage	1400		Nett Diversion	-2.3	266
			Murray 1 Release	+20	593

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	54.0	256.9
Wakool System loss	1.3	4.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	2.3
Licensed Pumps	9.4	55.2
Lower Darling	0.5	3.1
TOTAL	65.7	322.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	8.4	83.9
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.9	158.3
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.7	14.5
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	19.6
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.4	40.4
TOTAL	39.8	316.7

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170
Flow this week	59.1
Flow so far this month	85
Flow last month	228

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	210	296	267
Euston	230	221	276
Red Cliffs	360	400	340
Merbein	430	420	306
Burtundy	400	394	396
Lock 9	390	379	354
L.Victoria	380	368	356
Berri	440	447	416
Waikerie	520	500	500
Morgan	500	498	506
Mannum	480	478	520
Murray Bridge	520	537	568
Meningie	1120	1140	1119
Goolwa Barrages	1990	1809	1600



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	-	-	2830	F	3880	4130
Jingellic	4.0	1.98	7250	F	8980	8910
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.59	1260	F	1350	1380
Heywoods	5.5	2.51	10170	S	8520	12610
Doctors Point	5.5	2.94	13100	R	11970	15510
Albury	4.3	1.90	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.82	14100	R	13590	16260
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	10400	F	10440	9480
Tocumwal	6.4	2.33	9711	F	9590	8360
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.52	3809	F	4380	2360
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.56	273	F	478	316
Swan Hill	4.5	0.98	3880	R	2700	1580
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.97	3304	R	2470	3350
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.85	3220	R	3660	7720
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.17	10205	F	12110	13490
Rufus Junction	-	3.71	7783	F	8120	7520
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	7310	S	7060	7100
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.38	3630	R	4250	3200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.57	5367	F	5720	4050
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.36	699	F	760	670
Edward at Liewah	-	0.60	250	F	350	930
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.35	245	R	270	450
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	220	F	440	3450
Darling at Bourke	-	4.12	570	F	650	850
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-9.00	-9	F	8170	7400
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	60	F	90	240

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	15230	15670
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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	-0.02	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.40
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.22
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.13	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.28
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+1.00
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.53	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.34
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.30
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.09	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.12

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.16	0.83	559
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.47	602

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.96	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.93	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.90	5

