

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 September 2001

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng:bwh

19 September, 2001



Light falls of rain were recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin this week with falls of 1 to 5 mm in the eastern and northern parts of the Basin. Isolated falls of 5 to 15 mm were recorded in upper Murrumbidgee and Lachlan catchment areas. Tributary flows in the upper River Murray showed little or no response, but inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River continues to rise following rain over the last two weeks.

Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir averaged about 4 500 ML/day during the week, and storage has continued to climb slowly to 3 345 GL or 86% of capacity. Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 96 GL to 1 992 GL (66% of capacity), largely in response to the rain of last week.

Warmer weather in the Murray valley this week has resulted in significant increases in irrigation demands and river losses. As a result, release from Hume Reservoir has been increased from the minimum requirement of 600 ML/day to 5200 ML/day, and further increases early next week to about 10 000 ML/day are anticipated. Without further rain, it is expected that storage in Hume will begin to fall late next week as release plus evaporation is forecast to exceed inflow.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala increased from 4 200 ML/day to 7 300 ML/day (about 50% of capacity). Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been gradually reduced from 11 000 to 5 500 ML/day in response to receding flows in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. Without further significant rain, release at Yarrawonga will be increased next week to meet requirements as tributary flows decline.

Diversion from the Torrumbarry Weir pool to National Channel increased from 1 800 to 3 600 ML/day during the week. Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir peaked at 6 000 ML/day on 17 September as a result of rain in upstream tributaries in early September. Torrumbarry flow will be reduced next week as upstream flows in the Murray and Goulburn recede.

Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River increased from 2 000 to 3 000 ML/day, and further rises to a peak of about 4 000 ML/day are forecast to occur by end of September. Recent rises in the Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers produced a peak Murray flow downstream of Euston Weir of 9 400 ML/day earlier in the week.

Despite recent temporary flow increases along the mid Murray, a further increase in release from Menindee Lakes is now required to supplement storage in Lake Victoria according to combined operating rules for these two storages. Consequently, release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River will now be increased from 7 000 to 9 000 ML/day (refer to Media Release attached).

Additional dilution flow to South Australia (3 000 ML/day above entitlement) is continuing to be provided according to the combined operating rules for Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes. It is currently expected that it will be provided at least until late October, but further extension is likely if there is a significant increase in flow in either the mid Murray or upper Darling systems.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 18 September 2001
Increase in Release from Menindee Lakes



River Murray Water today announced that releases from Menindee Lakes will be further increased in order to supplement resources in the River Murray.

This increase in release is being made as part of the combined operation of Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria to minimise evaporation losses from the storages. Transfers from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria will be increased to ensure there is sufficient storage in Lake Victoria to assist in meeting South Australia's water entitlements for the remainder of the irrigation season.

As flows in the Murray have not risen substantially following recent rains, further increases in release from Menindee Lakes are now required. Commencing Friday 21 September flow at Weir 32 (currently 7 000 ML/day, 2.6 m gauge height) will be increased to 9 000 ML/day (3.3 m gauge height) by Monday 24 September. This increase is forecast to produce a rise in the water level at Burtundy from the current level of 3.3 m to approximately 4.3 m in early October.

The requirement for releases from Menindee Lakes will be kept under review according to flows in the River Murray and storage in Lake Victoria. If flow in the River Murray upstream of Wentworth increases significantly as a result of rain, releases from Menindee Lakes will be reduced to conserve resources. A further media release will be issued if a significant change to the pattern of release from Menindee Lakes is required. Further advice may be obtained from River Murray Water's Weekly Report, at www.mdbc.gov.au.

River pumpers and other river users are advised to take account of the effects of the changed river levels and conditions.

For further information contact:

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

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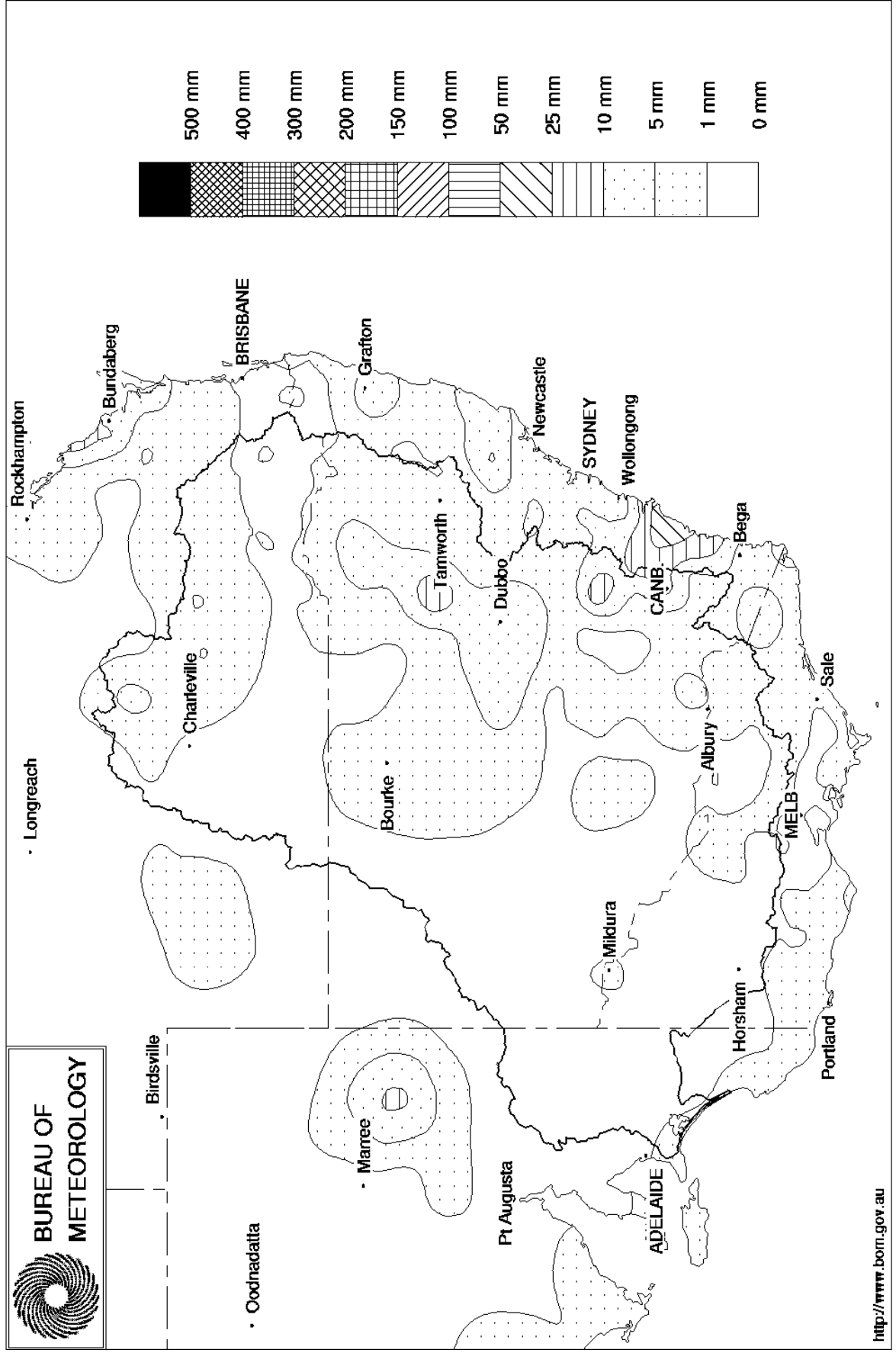
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th September 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



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	477.04	3345	86%	80	3265	+30
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	186.14	1992	66%	30	1962	+96
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.98	359	53%	100	259	+32
Menindee		1682 *		1815	108%	480 #	1335	-50
Total		9306		7510	81%	690	6820	+108

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

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

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	556	54%	3	553	+33
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1185	73%	24	1161	+45
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1413	42%	100	1313	+33

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Sep-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2807	+64	Snowy-Murray	+0	398
Snowy-Murray Component	1242	-	Tooma-Tumut	+18	111
Target Storage	1240		Nett Diversion	-17.9	287
			Murray 1 Release	+20	527

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	24.7	106.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	0.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	1.1
Licensed Pumps	5.2	24.0
Lower Darling	0.3	1.8
TOTAL	30.2	133.9

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	14.1	40.5
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.3	88.3
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.6	6.1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	15.6
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.7	28.6
TOTAL	29.1	179.1

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135
Flow this week	51.6
Flow so far this month	144
Flow last month	217

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	160	240	257
Euston	270	183	270
Red Cliffs	230	300	338
Merbein	200	300	306
Burtundy	410	410	391
Lock 9	350	400	353
L.Victoria	380	357	352
Berri	410	407	412
Waikerie	-	490	515
Morgan	500	480	510
Mannum	490	494	537
Murray Bridge	550	597	584
Meningie	1150	1160	1129
Goolwa Barrages	1210	1283	1728



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	-	-	5180	F	4240	4760
Jingellic	4.0	2.36	10770	F	11870	13460
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.67	1500	F	1760	1990
Heywoods	5.5	2.01	5150	R	1480	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.48	8050	R	4600	4040
Albury	4.3	1.42	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.21	4010	F	4600	4190
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.12	5490	F	9370	6930
Tocumwal	6.4	2.02	7684	F	9520	5600
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.76	4624	F	4890	4460
Stevens Weir (d/s)		1.15	1000	F	889	241
Swan Hill	4.5	1.12	4770	R	4460	6310
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.63	5463	F	6350	7210
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.66	7700	F	8730	7940
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.47	13240	F	12120	8950
Rufus Junction	-	3.70	7720	R	6900	7550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	6350	F	6800	6760
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.14	2870	R	3180	3530
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.42	4836	F	7230	9260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.43	799	F	1210	720
Edward at Liewah	-	1.41	830	F	1020	830
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.65	845	F	940	560
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.92	3250	R	2470	1120
Darling at Bourke	-	4.16	740	R	690	850
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.41	6170	R	4940	3130
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	100	R	170	360

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	22950	22860
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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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.16	+1.39
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.10	+0.16
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.24	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.80
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.83	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.18	+0.17	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+0.28
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.12	+0.29	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	+0.10

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.09	2.21	3290
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	2.33	3190

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.85	5
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.91	15

