

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 3 April 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng

4 April, 2002



Despite good falls of rain being recorded in the central and northern portions of the Murray-Darling Basin, little or no rain fell along the River Murray this week. Tributary inflows to the River Murray remain low as last week's rain fell on very dry catchments producing little or no runoff. After receiving about 50 mm of rain last week, the Ovens River catchment produced a peak inflow to the River Murray of only 700 ML/day and this has since receded to 320 ML/day.

Release from Hume Dam was progressively reduced to a flow of about 11 000 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga in response to last week's rain. Irrigation demands have since increased slightly and release from Hume is currently 13 000 ML/day and expected to reach about 15 000 ML/day early next week. Storage in Hume Reservoir is now 488 GL (16% of capacity) and will continue to fall during April unless significant further rainfall is received. It is common for the level of Hume Reservoir to fall below 500 GL this time of year and this has now occurred five times in the last eight years. Storage reached a low in 1998 of 274 GL (9% of capacity), and it is expected that without significant rain the level of Hume could fall below this level this season.

Diversion from Lake Mulwala has increased slightly to about 45% of capacity (6 200 ML/day) and may increase further next week if conditions remain dry. Release from Yarrawonga Weir reached a peak of 16 500 ML/day in response to last week's rain and has since been reduced to near channel capacity (10 600 ML/day). As irrigation demands reduce in the mid reaches of the Murray, release from Yarrawonga Weir is expected to be gradually reduced over the next couple of weeks.

Flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir has averaged about 2 600 ML/day this week and is expected to recede toward minimum levels by mid April.

Diversion to National Channel from the Torrumbarry Weir pool remains high at about 3 800 ML/day and is expected to reduce in mid April. Release from Torrumbarry Weir is currently peaking at about 4 200 ML/day and is expected to be reduced to about 3 000 ML/day by the end of next week. The river height at Swan Hill increased from 0.7 to 0.9 m this week and without further rain will gradually recede toward the minimum target level of 0.6 m by mid April.

Euston Weir pool is currently being refilled after reaching a maximum drawdown last week of 18 cm below Full Supply Level (FSL). The pool level, currently 10 cm below FSL, is expected to refill by Saturday 6 April. Release from Euston Weir has been increased from 3 000 to 3 700 ML/day and is expected to peak at about 6 000 ML/day in mid April. Release from Mildura Weir has been increased to 3 100 ML/day and will also continue to rise until mid April. Mildura Weir will be temporarily withdrawn from the River Murray in May/June 2002 to permit maintenance work on the weir trestles (*see Media Release attached*).

Storage in Lake Victoria is currently at 23.3 m AHD (291 GL or 43% of capacity) and is expected to remain at about this level for much of April with sufficient water in store to supply South Australia over the coming months. Flow to South Australia has been reduced to the April entitlement of 4 500 ML/day and will be reduced further in May to 3 000 ML/day.

DAVID DOLE  
General Manager

# MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 28 March 2002

## Mildura Weir Removal



River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today that Mildura Weir will be temporarily removed from the River Murray in mid May/early June 2002 for maintenance.

The weir is to be removed to allow some existing weir trestles to be removed for overhaul, and to be replaced by newly manufactured trestles. It is necessary to complete this maintenance work after the end of the current irrigation season, and before the commencement of the next irrigation season. The proposed schedule for withdrawal and re-instatement is currently as follows:

Proposed Date	Action
13 May 2002	Commence removal of weir bars and trestles, and commence gradual lowering of weir pool
24 May 2002	Expected date of commencement of refilling of weir pool
30 May 2002 to early June 2002	Expected date of completion of refilling of weir pool to near full supply level. This date will be dependent on available river flows.

The above schedule will be adhered to as far as possible, however some minor variations in timing may be required in response to river conditions and other circumstances that may arise at that time. A further media release will be issued in late April to confirm the dates or advise of any changes to dates which may be required for the withdrawal and re-instatement process.

Withdrawal of the weir will lead to a lowering of the weir pool level by about 3.6 m below the normal full supply level. If river flow at the time is relatively low, this may lead to temporary but significant increases in river salinity at and downstream of Mildura as a result of increased saline input from the water table adjacent to the weir pool. River operation at the time will be directed toward minimising any increases in river salinity that may occur, particularly in South Australia. However, the opportunities for mitigation of salinity between Mildura and Lake Victoria are limited unless river flows are high at the time.

Limited availability of Lock passage will be provided as far as is possible within the constraints of work requirements during the withdrawal of the weir, and given the low water levels as the weir is removed. It is therefore advised that Lock passage is likely to be unavailable in the period 13 to 30 May inclusive. However, as usual, boat operators are advised to contact the Senior Reservoir Officer in advance to check availability and to arrange a suitable time for a Lockage. Boat operators are advised that navigation upstream of the weir will be more difficult than usual as a result of the lower water levels as the weir is removed.

Any inconvenience to river pumpers and river navigation is regretted, however, the purpose of the weir withdrawal is to ensure the continued serviceability of the works.

For further information contact:

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**Roly Miller**

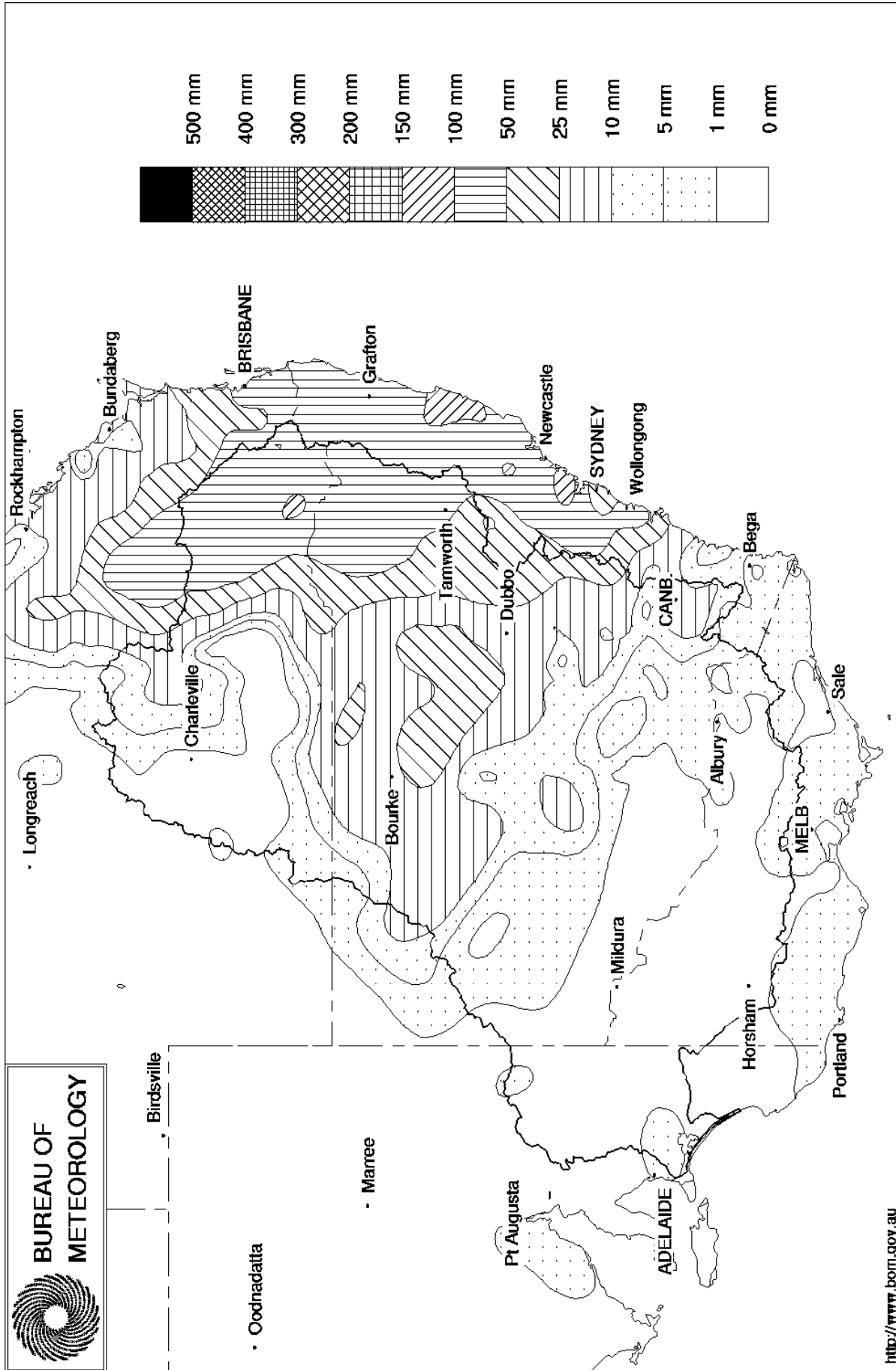
Senior Reservoir Officer – Mildura Weir

Ph: 035023 1396

Note: These contacts are *not* to be quoted as spokesperson

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 3rd April 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



## Week ending Wednesday 03 Apr 2002

### Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead storage (GL)	Active storage (GL)	Change for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	476.68	3 323	85%	80	3 243	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.13	488	16%	30	458	-86
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.30	291	43%	100	191	-18
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		434	26%	640 #	- 206	-15
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 306</b>		<b>4 537</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>3 687</b>	<b>-119</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **43%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	241	24%	3	238	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	192	12%	24	168	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	763	23%	100	663	-19

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 02-Apr-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2001
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 936	-8	Snowy-Murray	+0	739
Snowy-Murray Component	1 318	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	221
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	0.0	518
			Murray 1 Release	+0	1 049

### Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	17.4	1 420.5
Wakool System loss	2.4	35.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	26.5
Licensed Pumps	12.0	359.9
Lower Darling	0.2	112.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>32.3</b>	<b>1 955.1</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.9	476
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.1	741
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.0	141
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	67
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.2	165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>35.7</b>	<b>1 590</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(5 700 ML/day)
Flow this week	40.1	
Flow so far this month	16	
Flow last month	187	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	80	102	190
Euston	140	138	218
Red Cliffs	250	250	289
Merbein	220	220	282
Burtundy	720	718	484
Lock 9	380	384	404
Lake Victoria	430	456	404
Berri	520	525	470
Waikerie	640	630	559
Morgan	620	627	554
Mannum	620	615	544
Murray Bridge	720	732	591
Meningie	-	-	1 223
Goolwa Barrages	1 450	1 731	1 444



Week ending Wednesday 03 Apr 2002

### River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	800	F	820	810
Jingellic	4.0	1.25	207.77	1 610	S	2 010	1 560
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.46	218.35	880	R	920	1 190
Heywoods	5.5	2.88	156.51	12 790	R	13 880	23 780
Doctors Point	5.5	2.95	151.42	13 200	R	14 360	23 600
Albury	4.3	1.95	149.39	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.68	128.70	13 100	F	18 240	24 610
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.81	116.85	10 600	F	14 990	10 730
Tocumwal	6.4	2.80	106.64	13 430	F	13 870	9 860
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.61	80.16	4 240	F	4 110	3 500
Swan Hill	4.5	0.90	63.82	3 560	F	3 390	2 330
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.23	51.35	4 640	R	4 020	2 840
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.94	42.78	3 660	R	3 230	2 320
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.84	3 140	F	2 730	1 610
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	3 280	R	2 840	1 590
Rufus Junction	-	3.00	17.65	3 800	F	5 060	5 510
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 850	S	3 800	3 380
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.72	153.95	260	F	420	500
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.76	145.44	318	F	450	230
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.29	92.71	572	F	630	500
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 750	F	2 590	1 660
Edward at Liewah	-	1.94	57.32	1 340	R	1 130	830
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.40	54.89	321	R	240	140
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.55	56.51	270	S	240	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.33	-	290	R	150	80
Darling at Bourke	-	4.11	-	530	R	560	810
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.83	-	430	S	460	450

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 140	1 670
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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	+0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.20	+0.70
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.11	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.49
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.11	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.20	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	-0.20

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.00	1.29	70.64	1380
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.38	0.18	61.48	296

### Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.50	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.48	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.47	All closed

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level

