REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 August 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :djc:bwh **23 August, 2002**

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Very dry conditions have continued across the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin, however, rainfall of between 10 and 25 mm was recorded in parts of southern Queensland. With the very dry conditions along the Murray, irrigation demand is exceptionally high for this time of the year early in the irrigation season. Consequently, release from both Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs is soon to be increased to regulated channel capacity to assist in meeting the high irrigation demand and the need to continue transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

Commencing Friday 23 August, the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir will be increased from 8 500 ML/day to about 9 400 ML/day (*see Media Release attached*). If conditions remain dry, release from Dartmouth will be adjusted in order to target a flow of regulated channel capacity at Tallandoon (10 000 ML/day) in the Mitta Mitta River. Storage in Dartmouth declined by 50 GL to 3 009 GL or 77 % of capacity.

Release from Hume Reservoir is currently being increased in order to achieve a flow of regulated channel capacity of 25 000 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga. This has been in response to very high irrigation demand along the River Murray, and a need to further increase the rate of transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria. Storage in Hume decreased by 39 GL to 905 GL or 30 % of capacity.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala has increased from 5 000 ML/day (38 % of capacity) to 10 700 ML/day (78 % of capacity), and current advance orders total 13 200 ML/day (96% of capacity). However, about 1 000 ML/day of the diversion to Mulwala Canal is being escaped to the Edward River to assist with transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased from regulated channel capacity (10 300 ML/day) to 12 000 ML/day in order to increase the rate of transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria. A further increase to about 13 000 ML/day is expected to be made by late August unless irrigation demand remains very high in the short term. If conditions remain dry, high rates of transfer may be required until December. The additional flow above normal regulated channel capacity through the Barmah-Millewa Forest will be diverted through the Gulf Creek system in Barmah Forest. In view of the higher river levels through the forest, it has also been necessary to open the appropriate forest regulator to refill Moria Lake. As a result, flow at Barmah temporarily decreased from 7 800 to 7 000 ML/day before rising to 7 200 ML/day, and is expected to continue to rise next week with the arrival of the increased flow resulting from higher release rates at Yarrawonga Weir.

While flow at Euston Weir declined from 4 300 to 2 900 ML/day, and is forecast to remain near this rate next week, flow downstream of Euston will begin to rise in early September with the arrival of higher flows in transit for the purpose of refilling Lake Victoria.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 21 August 2002

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Increase in Rate of Transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir to Channel Capacity

River Murray Water announced today that release from Dartmouth Reservoir will be increased to channel capacity in order to further supplement storage in Hume Reservoir so that requirements along the River Murray during the 2002/2003 irrigation season can be met.

Continuing dry conditions over the past week have meant that inflows to the River Murray and its storages have continued to decline. Dry conditions have also resulted in a significant increase in irrigation consumption which has now led to storage in Hume Reservoir starting to fall.

It is therefore necessary to increase the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir to regulated channel capacity. This will ensure sufficient storage is available in Hume to meet the River Murray's remaining requirements over the 2002/03 season, including requirements for transfer of water from Hume to Lake Victoria.

Commencing at 8:00 am on Friday 23 August, flow at Colemans will be gradually increased from 8 500 ML/day (2.7 m gauge height) to about 9 400 ML/day (2.8 m gauge height). Further downstream along the Mitta Mitta valley, flow at Tallandoon will rise from the current rate of 9 200 ML/day (3.1 m gauge height) to about 10 000 ML/day (3.2 m gauge height) by Saturday 24 August.

Inflow from unregulated tributaries along the Mitta Mitta River between Dartmouth and Tallandoon will be closely monitored, and release from Dartmouth will be adjusted with the objective of maintaining river flow at or below channel capacity (10,000 ML/day at Tallandoon).

Under extreme dry conditions, flow rates at or near channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River are expected to continue into 2003. However, even slight improvements to inflow at Hume Reservoir, or in tributary flows downstream, will provide scope to reduce release rates from Dartmouth.

Landholders along the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir are encouraged to monitor the river channel for any signs of unusual erosion. Any unusual erosion problems can be reported to either River Murray Water on (02) 6279 0112 or the North East Catchment Management Authority on (02) 6055 6133.

River Murray Water will continue to closely monitor inflow conditions and flow requirements along the River Murray. A further media release will be issued when there is a significant change in the release program.

For further information contact:
Allison Hicks
Media Liaison Officer
Phone: (02) 6279 0100

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st August 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre

 ID code: IDCRFXMD.2002081520020821.bw.img Issued: 21/08/2002

Week ending Wednesday 21 Aug 2002

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Storage for the week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	471.29	3 009	77%	80	2 929	-49
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.72	905	30%	30	875	-39
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.48	409	60%	100	309	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		364	22%	640 #	0	-6
Total		**9 306**		**4 688**	**50%**	**850**	**4 114**	**-101**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **49%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		298	29%	3	295	-5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		524	32%	24	500	-34
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		818	24%	100	718	-1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Aug-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 913	+29	Snowy-Murray	+5	162
Snowy-Murray Component	1 339	-	Tooma-Tumut	+8	91
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-3.6	72
			Murray 1 Release	+12	256

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	33.6	52.9
Wakool System loss	0.4	3.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	1.4
Licensed Pumps	6.2	17.8
Lower Darling	4.1	27.4
TOTAL	**44.6**	**102.5**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	18.6	23
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	30.3	133
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.1	4
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	3
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.0	14
TOTAL	**52.9**	**178**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	
Flow this week	28.1	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	84	
Flow last month	109	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	110	112	155
Euston	290	260	216
Red Cliffs	200	200	208
Merbein	220	220	214
Burtundy	820	818	829
Lock 9	280	268	260
Lake Victoria	340	358	356
Berri	400	405	439
Waikerie	-	-	- 9
Morgan	630	633	649
Mannum	670	665	662
Murray Bridge	710	715	716
Meningie	1 420	1 420	1 419
Goolwa Barrages	3 800	4 097	4 475

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Week ending Wednesday 21 Aug 2002

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 650	F	2 360	3 240
Jingellic	4.0	1.69	208.21	4 820	F	6 000	7 210
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.07	219.96	9 220	S	9 220	8 400
Heywoods	5.5	3.50	157.13	21 430	S	19 690	13 670
Doctors Point	5.5	3.69	152.16	22 600	S	20 810	14 230
Albury	4.3	2.78	150.22	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.86	129.88	22 100	R	19 160	14 790
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.01	117.05	12 000	S	10 790	10 270
Tocumwal	6.4	2.43	106.27	11 160	R	10 310	10 040
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.17	79.72	2 760	S	3 090	3 640
Swan Hill	4.5	0.71	63.63	2 490	S	2 540	3 300
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.61	50.73	2 630	R	2 850	3 320
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.69	42.53	2 850	F	3 720	4 090
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	30.88	2 940	F	3 060	2 650
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	3 250	S	3 250	2 920
Rufus Junction	-	2.93	18.16	3 550	F	3 610	3 660
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 890	S	2 840	3 480
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.23	154.46	940	F	1 050	1 140
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.48	146.16	1 863	F	2 080	2 440
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	399	F	380	430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 150	S	1 860	1 130
Edward at Liewah	-	1.17	56.55	630	R	490	320
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.14	54.63	55	R	40	40
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.60	56.56	310	F	370	860
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	30	S	30	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	170	S	170	190
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	60	R	60	100

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7 700	8 690

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	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.60
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.36
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.10	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-0.01

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.56	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.03	0.16	61.46	278

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.83	All closed

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

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC