

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 28 August 2002

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :brc:bwh

30 August, 2002



Dry conditions continue

Total inflow to the River Murray system (including inflow to Menindee Lakes on the Lower Darling) for August to date has been equivalent to about the driest year in every ten years. For the period March to August 2002 inclusive, total system inflow has been only 35% of the median inflow for that period, while the Hume Reservoir catchment natural inflow has been about 65% of median.

Rainfall was received in some drought declared areas of the upper Darling River catchment this week, although totals were insufficient to provide much relief. Rainfall totals of 50 mm or more were welcomed in the Condamine River catchment downstream of Dalby, Queensland. However, little or no rain fell throughout the River Murray catchment upstream of the Darling junction.

River Murray system at regulated capacity upstream of Torrumbarry

Transfer of water from upper Murray storages to downstream storages has continued, with transfer from Dartmouth to Hume continuing at high rates with flow at Tallandoon averaging 9 600 ML/day (capacity 10 000 ML/day) this week. Dartmouth to Hume transfers will continue at high rates until the end of the irrigation season unless there is a significant improvement in inflow conditions.

Release from Hume Dam averaged 24 800 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga (capacity 25 000 ML/day) this week, in response to very high irrigation demands combined with the need to transfer water to Lake Victoria. This is the first time that release from Hume Dam has been set at regulated channel capacity this early in the season to meet downstream water supply requirements – release has been at these rates or higher in some years only if there has been spill or pre-release. For a comparison, August release in the 1982 drought peaked at 23 000 ML/day for just two days, but averaged 19 100 ML/day for the last two weeks of August - that release was lower than the current 2002 Hume release because storage in Menindee Lakes in August 1982 was high and there was no need to transfer water from Hume to Lake Victoria in that season.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to 13 000 ML/day in order increase the rate of transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria. This increase will be used to assist in filling Lake Victoria to ensure that South Australia's requirements, as well as those of the upper States can be met throughout this irrigation season. Some of the Murray flow is being passed through the Gulf Creek system in Barmah Forest. Whilst storage in Lake Victoria fell by 14 GL to 395 GL (58% capacity), the storage level is expected to increase in late September and October as increased Murray flows arrive.

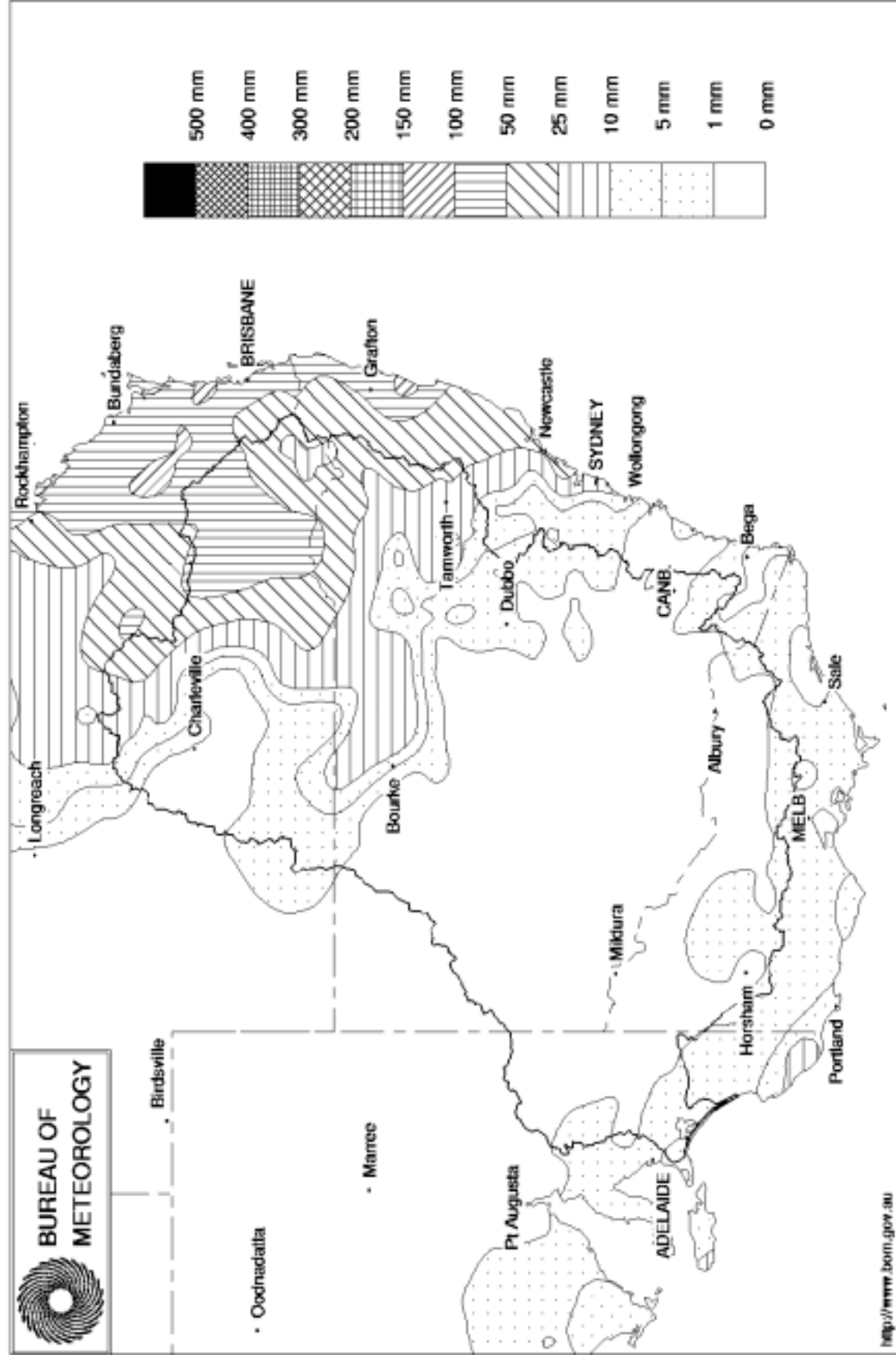
Very high irrigation demand along the River Murray

Very high demand for irrigation water has continued, with the major Victorian channel offtakes diverting water at about 95% of rated capacity. High demands have also occurred in NSW channel systems, despite relatively low water availability to NSW irrigators.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th August 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 28 Aug 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 in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	470.29	2 953	76%	80	2 873	-56
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.93	825	27%	30	795	-80
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.34	395	58%	100	295	-14
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		357	21%	640 #	0	-6
Total		9 306		4 531	49%	850	3 964	-157

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **47%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	301	29%	3	298	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	512	31%	24	488	-12
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	811	24%	100	711	-6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Aug-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 934	+17	Snowy-Murray	+5	167
Snowy-Murray Component	1 243	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	96
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-0.4	71
			Murray 1 Release	+12	268

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	58.1	111.0
Wakool System loss	1.4	4.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	1.7
Licensed Pumps	8.8	26.5
Lower Darling	4.4	31.7
TOTAL	73.1	175.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	20.0	46
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	29.9	169
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.7	7
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	4
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.0	16
TOTAL	55.7	242

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	(3 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	27.6	
Flow so far this month	112	
Flow last month	109	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	100	178	161
Euston	180	228	219
Red Cliffs	250	230	213
Merbein	210	210	213
Burtundy	810	813	825
Lock 9	290	279	265
Lake Victoria	330	325	348
Berri	390	392	427
Waikerie	-	-	-9
Morgan	630	629	644
Mannum	650	649	659
Murray Bridge	740	725	718
Meningie	1 280	1 340	1 397
Goolwa Barrages	3 640	3 769	4 298



Week ending Wednesday 28 Aug 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	-	-	-	2 540	S	2 060	2 270
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	5 040	F	4 650	6 000
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.16	220.05	9 770	S	9 570	9 220
Heywoods	5.5	3.62	157.25	24 110	F	24 320	19 690
Doctors Point	5.5	3.84	152.31	24 500	F	24 790	20 810
Albury	4.3	2.95	150.39	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.23	130.25	25 100	R	24 070	19 160
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.13	117.17	13 000	S	12 290	10 790
Tocumwal	6.4	2.59	106.43	12 280	R	11 780	10 310
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.45	80.00	3 780	R	3 270	3 090
Swan Hill	4.5	0.70	63.62	2 430	R	2 300	2 540
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.80	50.92	3 180	R	2 900	2 850
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.82	42.66	3 480	R	3 260	3 720
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.81	2 310	F	2 260	3 060
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.77	27.53	2 180	R	2 390	3 250
Rufus Junction	-	2.90	18.20	3 390	F	3 560	3 610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 680	F	2 860	2 840
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.27	154.50	1 010	R	860	1 050
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.22	145.90	1 205	F	1 260	2 080
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	450	S	420	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 610	F	1 470	1 860
Edward at Liewah	-	2.10	57.48	1 510	R	1 160	490
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.17	54.66	70	S	60	40
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.52	56.48	250	F	290	370
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	30	F	40	30
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	140	S	150	170
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	20	F	30	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 180	7 700
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+0.57
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.12	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.34
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.01	+0.13	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.09	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.02	-0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.64	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.27	0.09	61.39	220

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.76	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.83	All closed



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