

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 13 February 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

14 February, 2002



Light to moderate rainfall was recorded across the southern and eastern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin, with falls in the range of 10 to 25 mm in a number of areas. There was little rain in northern areas of the Basin, and streamflows in the Darling River system upstream of Menindee Lakes generally remain low.

Rainfall late last week resulted in slight increases in inflows to both Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs. Storage in Dartmouth rose by 6 GL early in the week, but has since begun to slowly fall and storage is now 3 341 GL (86% of capacity). Inflow to Hume Reservoir peaked at around 8 300 ML/day, and storage continued to fall to 1 283 GL (42% of capacity). Release from Hume Reservoir was reduced to about 12 200 ML/day during the week in response to reduced demand after the rain. However, to meet rising demand, release from Hume has now been increased to 16 000 ML/day, and further increases will be required next week if conditions remain dry.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala was further reduced this week in response to recent rain (currently 8 400 ML/day or 64% of capacity), but is now steadily rising. As a result of the partial rejection of irrigation orders, it has been necessary to temporarily increase release from Yarrowonga Weir to channel capacity of the Barmah-Millewa Forest downstream (10 400 ML/day). Lake Mulwala has been temporarily surcharged to conserve some of the water in transit, and to prevent unseasonal flooding of the forest; and the Lake will be drawn down next week to assist in meeting downstream requirements. In addition, the Mulwala Canal system was used to escape some water to the Edward/Wakool System to assist in preventing flooding of the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

Diversion from Torrumbarry Weir pool to National Channel was reduced from about 3 800 to 3 000 ML/day in response to rain in irrigation areas. As a result of this, and increased flow in transit in the Murray, flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir was increased from 3 400 to about 5 800 ML/day, and is expected to gradually recede next week.

Increased flow from the Murray and Murrumbidgee River is expected to produce a peak of about 7 000 ML/day upstream of Euston on about 21 February. The water level of Euston Weir pool will be temporarily be drawn down next week to assist with undertaking maintenance work on the Lock chamber. This will create 'airspace' in the weir pool to store increased flows and temporarily prevent flooding of the work site, and the peak flow downstream of Euston is expected to be about 6 500 ML/day late next week. As a result of this work, passage of river vessels will not be possible from 18 February to 1 March while the Lock is closed (*see attached Media Release*).

Release from Menindee Lakes to the Darling River has been reduced to about 1 600 ML/day, and will be gradually reduced in coming weeks to the minimum release rate by early March.

Increased flows in transit along the mid Murray will be re-regulated by Lake Victoria. However, the storage level of the Lake (currently 473 GL or 70% of capacity) will continue to steadily fall as release from the Lake will continue to meet part of the entitlement flow to South Australia (7 000 ML/day in February and 6 000 ML/day in March).

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 12 February 2002



Temporary Closure of the Euston Lock Chamber and Lowering of the Euston Pool Level.

River Murray Water today announced that the navigation lock at Euston Weir will be closed from Monday 18 February to Friday 1 March whilst maintenance work is carried out.

To assist with this program it will be necessary to temporarily lower the weir pool to create some 'airspace' to store increased river flows. This operation will enable downstream release to be temporarily reduced to prevent flooding of the work site and allow the works to proceed. As a result of recent rainfall in both the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys, flow upstream of Euston Weir is forecast to peak at about 6 400 ML/day.

Commencing Wednesday 13 February, the weir pool will be gradually lowered from full supply level by about 30 cm by progressively increasing release from the current rate of 4 000 ML/day to 6 000 ML/day over two days. Release will then be reduced to 4 000 ML/day on 18 February for approximately eight hours to enable a temporary sandbag wall to be constructed in the lock chamber. If necessary, this operation may be repeated on Friday 19 February to complete this stage of the works.

It is currently expected that the pool will be 30 cm below full supply level for about two days (17 & 18 February) before being refilled to full supply level by about Saturday 23 February. River pumpers and other river users are advised to take account of these changes when planning their activities.

A further media release will be issued if there is any significant change in circumstances and operational plans. Those wishing to use the lock are advised to contact the Lockmaster in advance to obtain an update on the lock's availability since the works may be completed earlier than scheduled.

For further information contact:

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

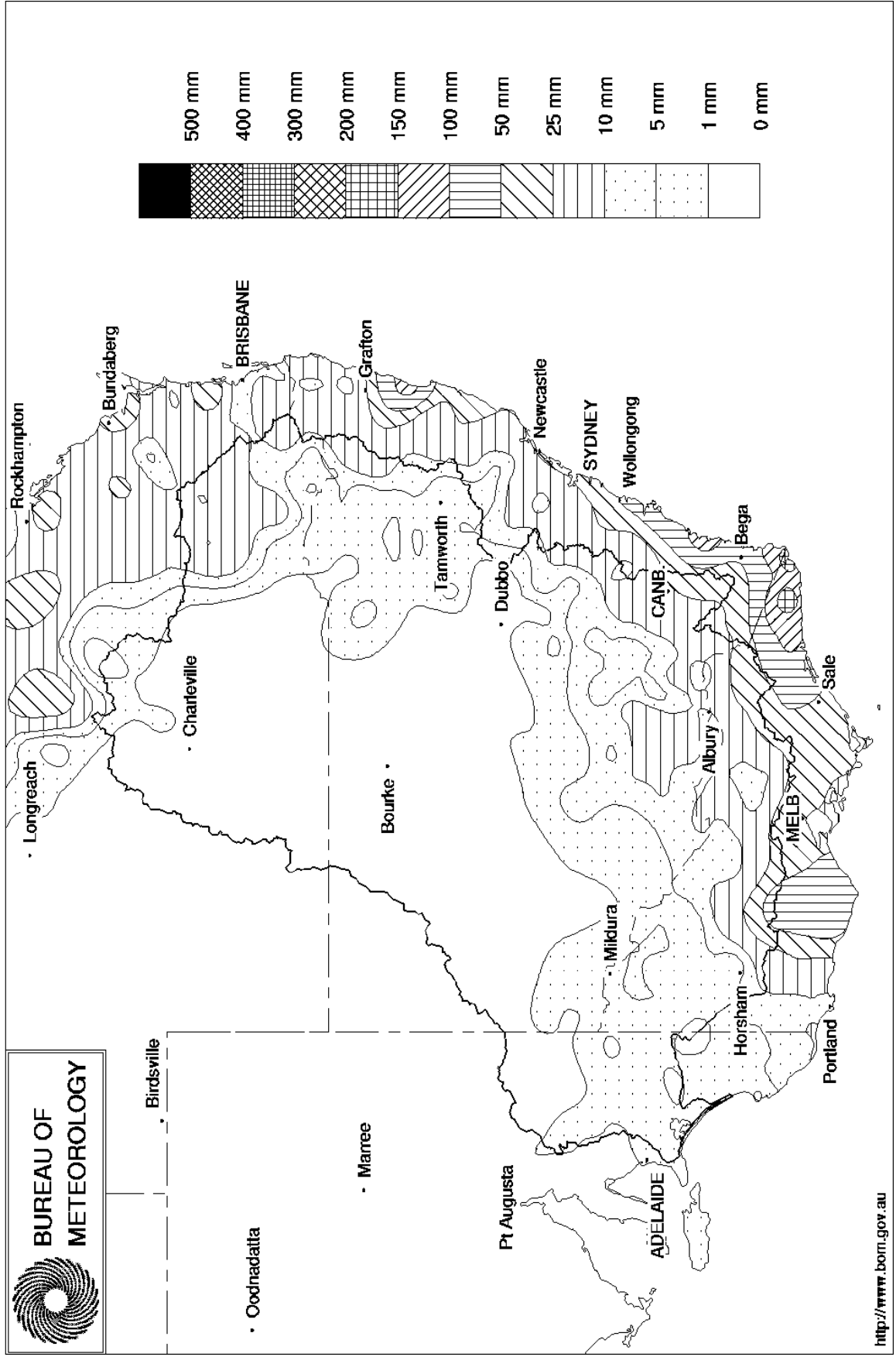
Lockmaster

Lock 15 – Euston Weir

Phone: (03) 5026 4005

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 13th February 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 13 Feb 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 | 476.98 | 3 341 | 86% | 80 | 3 261 | +5 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 181.04 | 1 283 | 42% | 30 | 1 253 | -54 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 680 | 25.10 | 473 | 70% | 100 | 373 | -20 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 682 * | | 562 | 33% | 480 # | 82 | -39 |
| Total | | 9 306 | | 5 659 | 61% | 690 | 4 969 | -109 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **58%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|--|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | | 245 | 24% | 3 | 242 | +66 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | | 420 | 26% | 24 | 396 | -22 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 390 | | 1 027 | 30% | 100 | 927 | -24 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-Feb-2002

| Storage (GL) | Current storage | Weekly change | Diversion | This week | From 1 May 2001 |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 3 062 | +0 | Snowy-Murray | +24 | 647 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 1 379 | - | Tooma-Tumut | +1 | 221 |
| Target Storage | 1 460 | | Nett Diversion | 23.1 | 426 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +29 | 941 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2001 |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 33.5 | 1 094.6 |
| Wakool System loss | 0.3 | 25.8 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 1.1 | 21.1 |
| Licensed Pumps | 10.0 | 247.3 |
| Lower Darling | 6.3 | 84.1 |
| TOTAL | 51.2 | 1 473.0 |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2001 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | 5.7 | 358 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 20.8 | 559 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 5.8 | 119 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 1.9 | 51 |
| Licensed pumps - SRW | 6.0 | 132 |
| TOTAL | 40.2 | 1 220 |

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 194 | (7 100 ML/day) |
| Flow this week | 49.5 | |
| Flow so far this month | 92 | |
| Flow last month | 220 | |

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2001 |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 90 | 114 | 207 |
| Euston | 190 | 204 | 234 |
| Red Cliffs | 260 | 250 | 304 |
| Merbein | 250 | 250 | 295 |
| Burtundy | 590 | 601 | 459 |
| Lock 9 | 500 | 498 | 406 |
| Lake Victoria | 460 | 460 | 390 |
| Berri | 620 | 597 | 456 |
| Waikerie | 590 | 590 | 543 |
| Morgan | 600 | 590 | 539 |
| Mannum | 610 | 612 | 528 |
| Murray Bridge | 650 | 630 | 563 |
| Meningie | 1 340 | 1 340 | 1 210 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 1 550 | 1 614 | 1 418 |



Week ending Wednesday 13 Feb 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 | - | - | - | 4 830 | F | 4 060 | 5 630 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 2.01 | 208.53 | 7 530 | R | 6 990 | 7 030 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.50 | 218.39 | 990 | F | 1 100 | 1 180 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 3.09 | 156.72 | 15 930 | R | 14 510 | 20 090 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 3.21 | 151.68 | 16 500 | S | 15 130 | 20 910 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 2.22 | 149.66 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 3.16 | 129.18 | 16 600 | R | 17 070 | 21 860 |
| Yarrawonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 1.53 | 116.57 | 8 480 | S | 9 650 | 9 810 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 2.13 | 105.97 | 8 690 | F | 9 650 | 9 410 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.04 | 80.59 | 5 750 | R | 4 890 | 3 950 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 1.02 | 63.94 | 4 390 | R | 3 370 | 4 080 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 2.39 | 51.51 | 5 230 | R | 4 870 | 5 520 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 1.01 | 42.85 | 4 010 | F | 4 330 | 4 510 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | 30.81 | 3 240 | F | 3 650 | 2 470 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.89 | 27.65 | 5 100 | R | 5 510 | 5 140 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 3.51 | 17.72 | 6 560 | F | 6 510 | 6 610 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | - | - | 4 220 | F | 4 170 | 4 040 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 0.79 | 154.02 | 340 | F | 450 | 320 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 7.78 | 145.46 | 345 | F | 400 | 250 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.29 | 92.71 | 591 | F | 610 | 410 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 1 780 | F | 2 000 | 1 650 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 2.30 | 57.68 | 1 750 | R | 1 610 | 1 280 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.65 | 55.14 | 845 | F | 800 | 570 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 0.54 | 56.50 | 260 | R | 230 | 180 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.24 | - | 120 | R | 70 | 230 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 3.95 | - | 60 | S | 70 | 120 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 1.62 | - | 2 520 | F | 2 780 | 3 370 |

| | | |
|---|-------|-------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 5 380 | 1 670 |
|---|-------|-------|

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 | +0.10 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.11 | +1.19 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | -0.01 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.03 | +0.12 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | -0.03 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.02 | +0.20 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.01 | +0.01 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.03 | +0.68 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.00 | +0.25 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.01 | +0.18 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.03 | -0.02 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.01 | +0.14 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.00 | +0.10 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.03 | -0.11 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. | | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| | | | local (m) | (m AHD) | |
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -0.04 | 1.86 | 71.21 | 2560 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | -0.85 | 0.38 | 61.68 | 504 |

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | Openings | Level | Status |
|----------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.68 | All closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.66 | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | 0.67 | All closed |



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