

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 6 March 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng/bwh

7 March, 2002



Light falls of rain were recorded in southern Queensland and northern New South Wales however these falls are insufficient to produce significant streamflows. Warm and dry conditions along the River Murray have led to significant increases in irrigation demand and river losses.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been increased to meet the high irrigation demand, and flow at Albury/Wodonga has been increased from 21 500 to 25 000 ML/day – the effective channel capacity for the reach from Hume Dam to Yarrawonga Weir. Storage in Hume Reservoir has fallen by 140 GL to 1 016 GL, or one third of capacity.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala is currently 13 200 ML/day (about 97% of capacity) and is expected to rise to 13 600 ML/day (100% of capacity) early next week. Additional water is currently being released from Lakes Buffalo and William Hovel in the upper Ovens River catchment, and will supplement River Murray flows by increasing flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta from about 200 to 700 ML/day early next week. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been maintained at channel capacity and is expected to remain at this level next week if conditions remain warm and dry.

Diversion to National Channel from the Torrumbarry Weir pool has been increased from 3 500 to 3 900 ML/day or near capacity. Release from Torrumbarry Weir declined to 2 200 ML/day early in the week before being increased to 3 200 ML/day.

Following a period of increased demand and river losses, the river level at Swan Hill temporarily fell below the target minimum of 0.6 m gauge height late this week. With increased flows arriving from upstream, the level at Swan Hill is expected to reach 0.6 m next week.

Additional water is currently being provided from weir pools on the Murrumbidgee River to assist in meeting Murray flow requirements later in March. The flow at Balranald on the lower Murrumbidgee River is currently about 550 ML/day and expected to reach 1000 ML/day next week.

Euston Weir pool level is currently being temporarily drawn down to assist in meeting downstream requirements. The pool level is expected to be drawn down to 30 cm below full supply level by about 18 March (*see media release attached*).

Release from Menindee Lakes is now at the minimum requirement of 350 ML/day. Storage is currently 500 GL and slowly falling. Flow in the lower Darling River at Burtundy is currently 1 100 ML/day and will continue to fall over the coming weeks. Flow to South Australia has been reduced to the March entitlement of 6 000 ML/day.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 7 March 2002
Temporary Lowering of the Euston Weir Pool



River Murray Water announced today that the water level of Euston Weir pool will be temporarily lowered to assist in meeting flow requirements along the River Murray.

Irrigation demand and losses have increased significantly over the last week along the middle reaches of the River Murray, and resources in the Euston Weir pool will be temporarily utilised to assist in meeting downstream flow requirements.

River Murray Water has also requested the Department of Land and Water Conservation to provide some additional water from the lower weir pools in the Murrumbidgee River. This is now arriving in the lower Murrumbidgee River at Balranald and will also assist in meeting flow requirements along the Murray.

The water level of the Euston Weir pool (currently 5 cm below full supply level (FSL)) is now being gradually drawn down. If conditions remain dry, it is expected that the pool level will be drawn down to approximately 30 cm below FSL by around 18 March 2002.

At this stage, the duration of the drawdown is uncertain, but will depend on irrigation demand and weather conditions upstream.

A further media release will be issued once further information becomes available to determine the timing of refilling of the weir pool.

For further information contact:

Daniel Connell

Media Liaison Officer

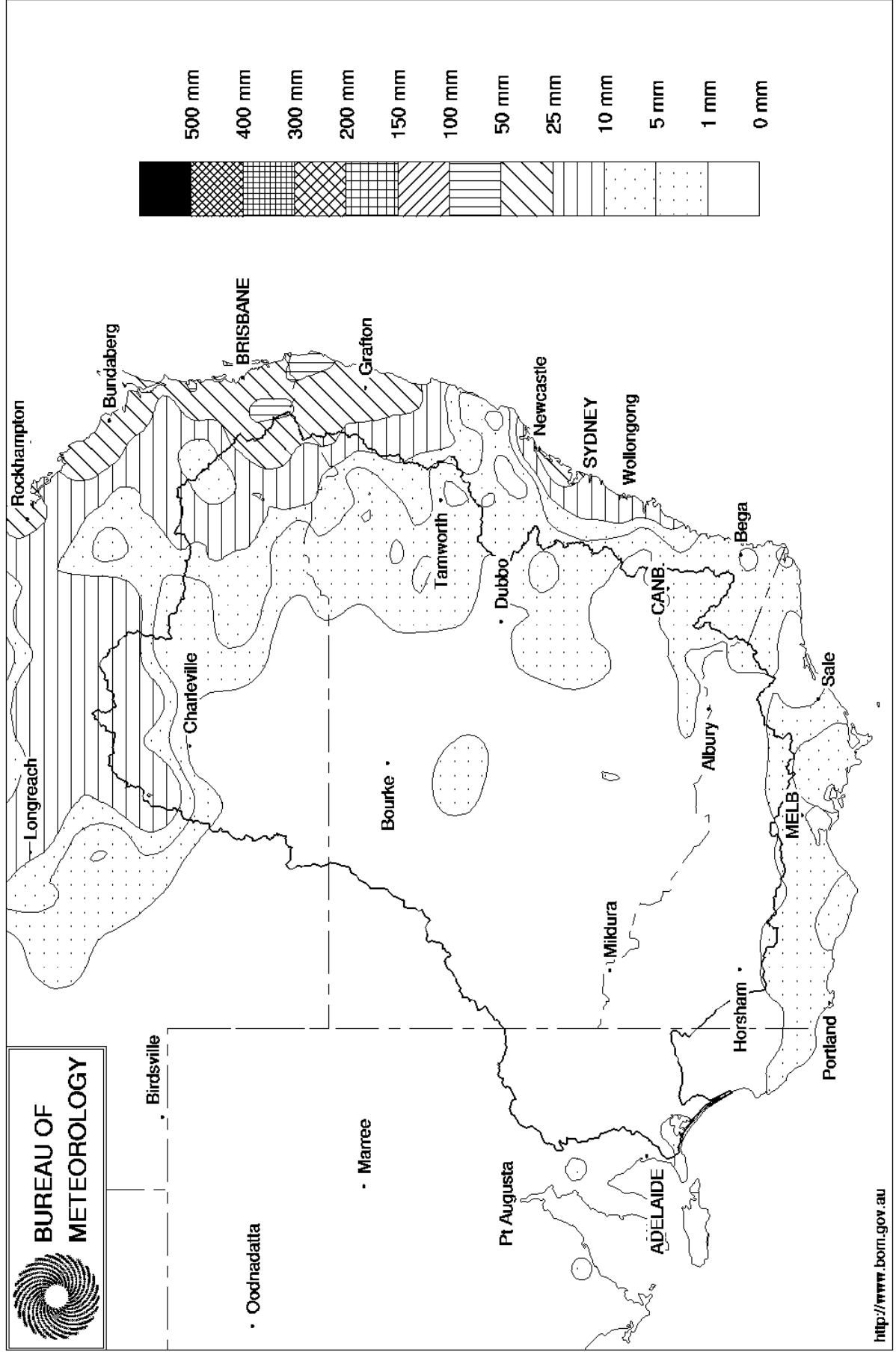
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th March 2002
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 06 Mar 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	476.94	3 339	85%	80	3 259	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	178.76	1 016	33%	30	986	-140
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.70	432	64%	100	332	-14
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		499	30%	480 #	19	-13
Total		9 306		5 286	57%	690	4 596	-168

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **53%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	271	26%	3	268	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	327	20%	24	303	-38
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	927	27%	100	827	-42

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Mar-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2001
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 018	-13	Snowy-Murray	+17	707
Snowy-Murray Component	1 336	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	221
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	17.0	487
			Murray 1 Release	+21	1 013

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	52.9	1 213.5
Wakool System loss	0.4	26.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	24.0
Licensed Pumps	15.6	291.7
Lower Darling	5.8	103.5
TOTAL	75.6	1 659.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	20.9	408
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	27.4	631
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.2	131
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.3	59
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.3	149
TOTAL	59.1	1 378

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	
Flow this week	43.5	(6 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	36	
Flow last month	198	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	120	106	199
Euston	130	126	225
Red Cliffs	190	200	296
Merbein	220	220	291
Burtundy	470	482	468
Lock 9	380	390	408
Lake Victoria	460	463	397
Berri	520	515	463
Waikerie	600	600	552
Morgan	610	606	545
Mannum	620	613	535
Murray Bridge	660	658	572
Meningie	-	-	1 223
Goolwa Barrages	1 540	1 532	1 430



Week ending Wednesday 06 Mar 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	-	-	-	4 510	F	3 250	3 850
Jingellic	4.0	1.80	208.32	5 640	R	4 660	5 530
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.42	218.31	790	F	840	930
Heywoods	5.5	3.73	157.36	24 970	S	24 200	15 990
Doctors Point	5.5	3.87	152.34	24 900	S	24 390	16 960
Albury	4.3	2.98	150.42	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.17	130.19	24 600	S	22 740	16 230
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.77	116.81	10 300	S	10 370	9 020
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	9 770	S	9 730	8 670
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.31	79.86	3 220	R	2 700	3 640
Swan Hill	4.5	0.53	63.45	1 370	R	1 790	3 600
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.66	50.78	2 910	F	3 530	5 890
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.79	42.63	2 930	R	3 460	6 570
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	2 650	F	3 860	5 470
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	3 140	R	4 450	6 500
Rufus Junction	-	3.32	17.66	5 510	F	5 740	6 500
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 860	R	3 820	4 070
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.73	153.96	270	F	320	600
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	345	R	290	340
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	399	F	420	500
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 410	F	1 560	1 250
Edward at Liewah	-	1.79	57.17	1 180	F	1 210	1 450
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.50	54.99	500	F	770	890
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.87	56.83	540	R	390	790
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.33	-	290	R	350	100
Darling at Bourke	-	4.08	-	420	F	490	530
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.01	-	1 140	F	1 310	1 720

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 170	2 270
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.99
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.61
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	-0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.12

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.71	1.2	70.55	1190
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.70	0.98	62.28	1200

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.61	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.59	All closed

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

