

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 September 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

26 September, 2002



Inflows to River Murray Remain Low

Rain was restricted to southern areas of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with falls of between 10 and 25 mm with isolated falls up to 50 mm being recorded about the ranges. This rain has assisted in slowing the rate of recession of streamflows in the upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens Rivers.

Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir is gradually receding, and averaged about 4 300 ML/day this week. Dartmouth release has been adjusted as necessary in response to tributary inflows downstream, and held near 9 000 ML/day in order to maintain flow near channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River at Tallandoon to maximise the rate of transfer of water to Hume Reservoir. Consequently, storage in Dartmouth decreased by 33 GL to 2 768 GL (71 % of capacity).

As a result of the rain of last week and this week, inflow to Hume Reservoir peaked at about 25 000 ML/day (including effects of ongoing release from Dartmouth and the Snowy Mountains Scheme) on 21 September, and has since gradually receded to about 20 000 ML/day. Release from Hume has been gradually reduced from 14 000 to 8 000 ML/day early in the week in response to a reduction in downstream demand, and a rise in both the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers being temporarily stored in Lake Mulwala. With a subsequent increase in downstream demand, release from Hume has been increased to 13 000 ML/day with further increases to 18 000 ML/day expected next week if conditions remain dry. Storage in Hume increased by 92 GL to 859 GL (28 % of capacity).

Transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria

The transfer of water to Lake Victoria commenced in late July, and was gradually increased over August and September. Release from Yarrawonga Weir is continuing at 14 000 ML/day (above the normal channel capacity of 10 300 ML/day through the Barmah-Millewa Forest) with the additional flow being directed through some regulators in the Barmah Forest to assist with bypassing the constraint imposed by the Barmah choke. Transfer to Lake Victoria is also continuing at maximum rates via Mulwala Canal and the Edward/Wakool River system. Flow at Euston has increased close to its expected peak of 10 800 ML/day, and is forecast to fall slightly over the next week as inflow from the Murrumbidgee River gradually recedes from its peak of 1 300 ML/day on 21 September.

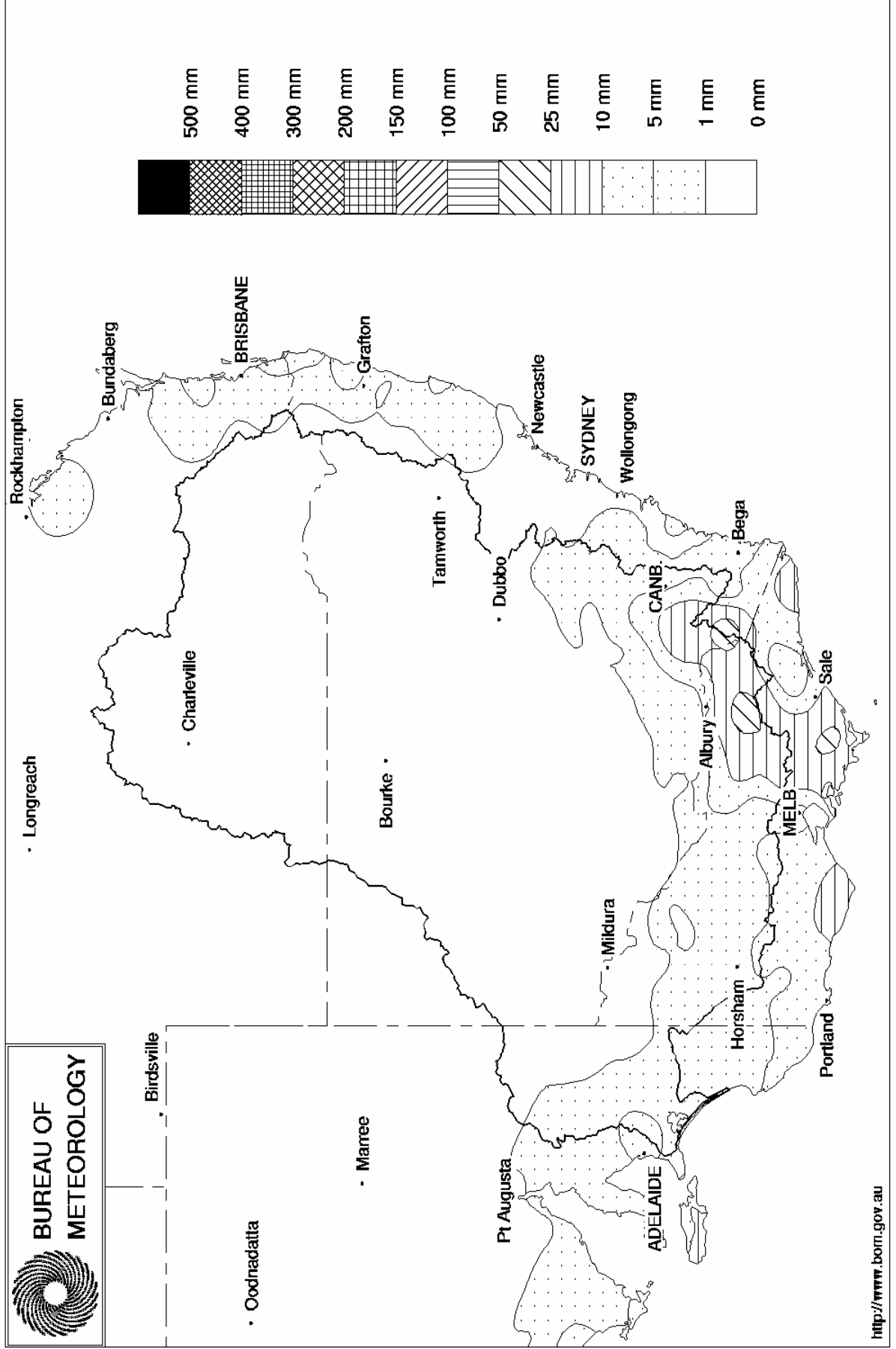
River Salinity

Salinity of the Wakool River at Stoney Crossing increased from 860 EC (at a flow of 60 ML/day) in early September to a temporary peak of 2 900 EC on 14 September (at a flow of 650 ML/day) before declining to the current level of 120 EC at 1 700 ML/day. This peak occurred as a result of flushing of salt from the waterways as river flows increased during refilling of the Wakool system, most of which has no flow during the winter months. Salinity levels in the Wakool River are expected to remain low while it is being used to transfer water to Lake Victoria. Further downstream, this contributed to a temporary increase in salinity of the River Murray at Euston from 90 EC to 290 EC. Elsewhere along the River Murray, salinities are currently 50 EC at Tocumwal; 70 EC at Swan Hill; 220 EC at Wentworth; 380 EC at Renmark; and 580 EC at Morgan.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th September 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 25 Sep 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	466.92	2 768	71%	80	2 688	-33
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.27	859	28%	30	829	+92
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.26	387	57%	100	287	+22
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		325	19%	640 #	0	-5
Total		9 306		4 339	47%	850	3 804	+76

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **45%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		339	33%	3	336	+14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		482	30%	24	458	+3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		805	24%	100	705	+32

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Sep-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 107	+66	Snowy-Murray	+3	181
Snowy-Murray Component	1 450	-	Tooma-Tumut	+18	143
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-15.1	38
			Murray 1 Release	+29	350

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.7	192.3
Wakool System loss	0.1	11.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	3.4
Licensed Pumps	5.0	51.5
Lower Darling	1.9	49.5
TOTAL	14.1	308.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	7.6	85
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.3	244
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.6	18
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	8
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.6	28
TOTAL	32.1	382

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	29.9	
Flow so far this month	111	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	70	74	116
Euston	290	162	183
Red Cliffs	100	130	212
Merbein	120	160	225
Burtundy	820	812	821
Lock 9	260	310	280
Lake Victoria	370	373	358
Berri	420	415	418
Waikerie	-	560	593
Morgan	580	598	633
Mannum	670	671	660
Murray Bridge	-	-	729
Meningie	1 670	1 520	1 434
Goolwa Barrages	3 520	3 667	3 936



Week ending Wednesday 25 Sep 2002

River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	5 320	F	6 130	4 980
Jingellic	4.0	2.25	208.77	9 710	S	12 200	6 970
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.19	220.08	9 960	F	10 000	9 940
Heywoods	5.5	2.82	156.45	13 020	R	10 180	17 480
Doctors Point	5.5	3.13	151.60	15 500	R	12 610	18 600
Albury	4.3	2.13	149.57	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.80	128.82	13 900	R	14 990	20 100
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.24	117.28	14 000	S	13 710	12 990
Tocumwal	6.4	2.77	106.61	13 750	S	13 300	12 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.42	80.97	7 290	F	7 530	7 230
Swan Hill	4.5	1.38	64.30	6 790	S	6 740	6 300
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.56	52.68	10 080	S	9 750	8 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.12	43.96	10 850	R	9 950	8 080
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.07	7 380	F	7 150	5 040
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.01	27.77	8 180	R	7 730	5 290
Rufus Junction	-	2.99	19.04	3 890	F	3 920	4 100
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 530	S	3 240	2 980
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.11	155.34	2 690	R	2 880	1 530
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.07	146.75	3 643	F	4 790	1 450
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.29	92.71	591	F	620	440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 890	S	2 900	2 850
Edward at Liewah	-	3.06	58.44	2 830	S	2 820	2 590
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.88	55.37	1 720	R	1 430	770
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.12	57.08	790	F	1 020	370
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.08	-	0	F	30	60
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	140	S	110	90
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.63	-	7	S	10	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	17 650	7 390
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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	+0.09	+0.66
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	-0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.08
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.27	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.38
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.37	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.03	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.06

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.52	0.66	70.01	355
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.14	0.15	61.45	269

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.78	All closed

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

