

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 9 July 2003

Our Ref: RMW305/01//01brc:bwh

11 July, 2003



Little rain was recorded in the Upper Murray and tributary streams, with totals generally less than 5 mm. Unregulated streamflows in the Upper Murray, Kiewa and Ovens catchments have receded steadily, and are now less than flows observed prior to the last significant rainfall event in late June.

## ***Mid Murray Operation***

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced from 5800 to 4000 ML/day in response to receding inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa catchments. Commencing Monday 14 July, the water level in Lake Mulwala will be gradually lowered by about 0.3 m below current level to facilitate additional remedial works on the upstream side of the Yarrawonga Weir main embankment - more detail is provided in the media release attached. An extra 13 GL will be released from Yarrawonga Weir in order to lower the water level of Lake Mulwala. This operation has no impact on current water availability in the River Murray System as the water released will be captured in downstream storages.

Further downstream, release from Torrumbarry Weir has been increased from 3900 to 5900 ML/day with the arrival of small flushes sourced from the Ovens and Lower Goulburn catchments, and release will recede to about 3500 ML/day next week without further rain. Release from Euston Weir was increased slightly to 4900 ML/day this week, and will increase to about 6500 ML/day next week as the small flush arrives. These increased flows will be stored in Lake Victoria which currently holds 290 GL (43% of capacity), which is 111 GL less than at the same time last year.

## ***Flow in South Australia***

With low storage reserves in the River Murray System, water availability to the States is currently very low. In response to its reduced water availability, South Australia is currently managing its resources by reducing its flow below normal entitlement. Accordingly, flow to South Australia averaged 2800 ML/day this week, which represents 80% of the normal July daily entitlement rate of 3500 ML/day. Salinity at Morgan averaged about 530 EC this week (an increase of 70 EC over the last month), and is expected to increase to about 560 EC by the end of July.

## ***Murray Mouth***

Dredging is continuing at the Murray Mouth with one dredge which has been used continuously since October 2002 which has successfully prevented the Mouth from closing last irrigation season. However, due to a continued accumulation of sand in the Mouth, combined with little prospect of increased flows over the next 2 to 3 months, a second dredge has been contracted and arrived at the Mouth last week. One dredge will be used to maintain a connection between the Goolwa channel and the Mouth, while the second dredge will start from the Tauwichee side (east of the Mouth towards the Coorong), and will work towards the Mouth to try to maintain and improve the connection between the Coorong and the Mouth to ensure a tidal exchange by late spring. At this stage, a budget allocation has been approved for dredging to continue until late September. However, in the absence of higher flows sufficient to scour large volumes of accumulated sand from the Mouth, an extension of the dredging program is being considered. A recent aerial photograph of the Mouth is attached.

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# MEDIA RELEASE



Monday, 7 July 2003

## TEMPORARY LOWERING OF LAKE MULWALA

River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today that Lake Mulwala water level will be temporarily lowered to approximately 300 mm below current water level commencing next Monday 14 July.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is being temporarily lowered to allow further remedial works on the upstream side of Yarrawonga Weir.

This lowering of water level is minor compared to last year's drawdown. The remedial works are expected to commence on Monday 21 July, and are likely to require lowered water levels for about a further three weeks. The water level in Lake Mulwala will be raised to normal levels by 15 August in preparation for the coming irrigation season. The timing and rate of refilling will be dependent mainly on upstream flow conditions at the time.

The extra water released to lower the lake level will be captured in downstream storages. This operation has no impact on current water availability in the River Murray system.

Recreational users of Lake Mulwala are advised to exercise additional caution whilst water levels are low.

**The Yarrawonga Weir access road will be closed for the duration of the works.** However, the new pedestrian walkway will remain open.

Interference with habitat, including removal of trees, stumps and fallen logs and aquatic weeds on the foreshore of Lake Mulwala is prohibited.

Any enquiries in relation to the drawdown should be directed to Goulburn-Murray Water's Yarrawonga Weir office on 03 5744 3137.

Media contact:

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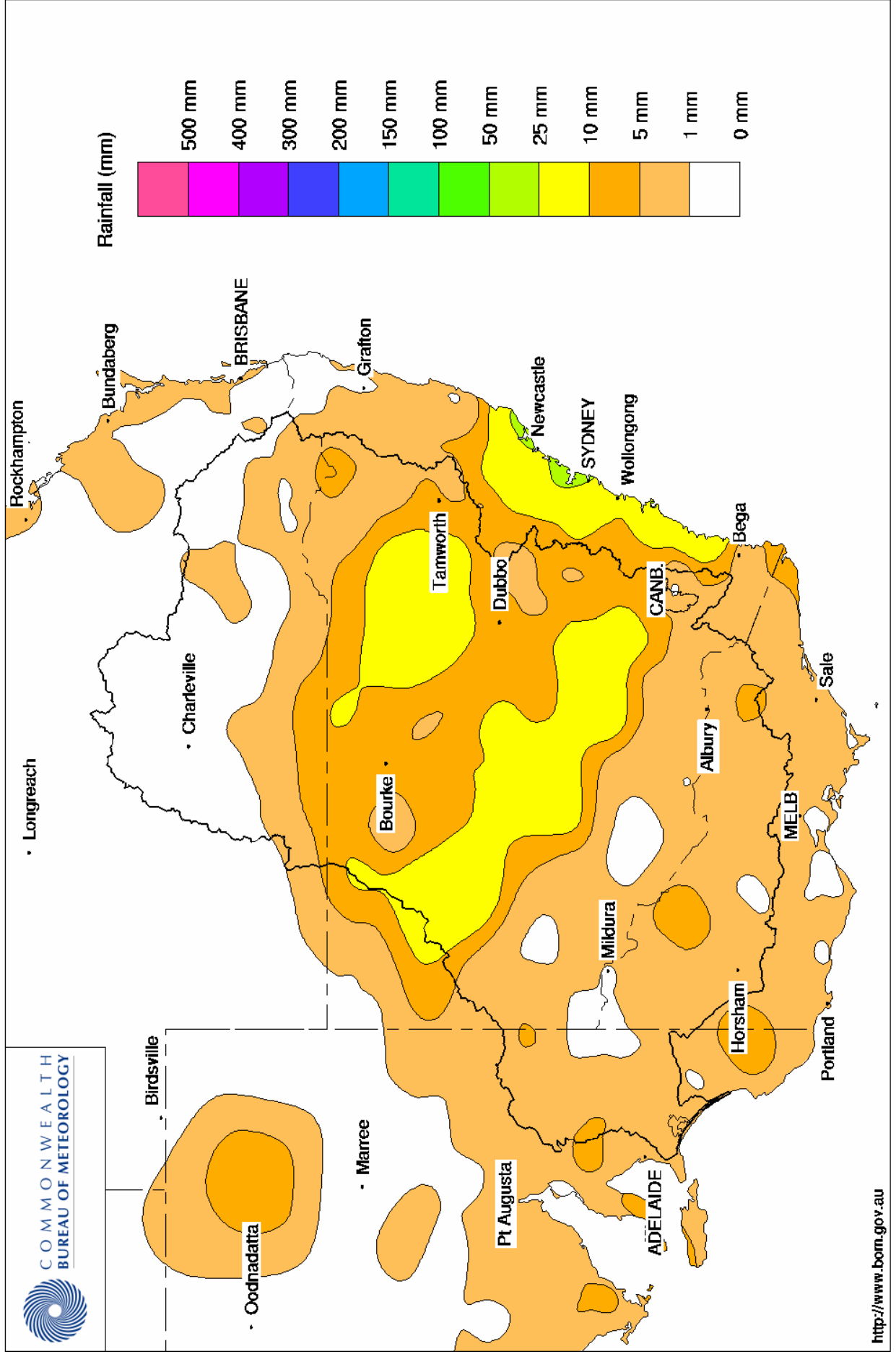
(Lawrie Kirk is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)



Recent arial photograph showing the condition of the Murray River mouth.

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 9th July 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



## Week ending Wednesday 09 Jul 2003

### 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	429.73	1 187	30%	80	1 107	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.17	573	19%	30	543	+28
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.29	290	43%	100	190	+4
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		71	4%	640 #	0	+1
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 227</b>		<b>2 121</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>1 840</b>	<b>+39</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **22%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	81	8%	3	78	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	256	16%	24	232	+59
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	399	12%	100	299	+15

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 08-Jul-2003

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 713	-29	Snowy-Murray	+17	259
Snowy-Murray Component	732	-	Tooma-Tumut	+4	29
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	12.8	230
			Murray 1 Release	+24	293

### Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.1
Licensed Pumps	1.0	1.3
Lower Darling	0.0	.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5	(2 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	19.6	
Flow so far this month	25	
Flow last month	72	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	130	140	90
Euston	190	200	120
Red Cliffs	170	160	140
Merbein	160	160	160
Burtundy (Darling)	1 610	1 570	1 230
Lock 9	230	220	180
Lake Victoria	270	260	290
Berri	440	420	330
Waikerie	510	510	410
Morgan	520	530	480
Mannum	420	420	530
Murray Bridge	510	520	610
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 100	1 080	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 020	1 060	1 150
Meninqie (Lake Alb.)	1 430	1 770	1 620
Goolwa Barrages	4 320	4 170	3 430

**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	-	-	-	5 650	F	3 240	3 200
Jingellic	4.0	1.86	208.38	6 160	R	4 250	5 830
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.26	218.15	470	S	500	610
Heywoods	5.5	1.16	154.79	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.61	150.08	1 540	R	1 510	1 760
Albury	4.3	0.74	148.18	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.58	126.60	1 190	F	1 660	1 910
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.80	115.84	4 020	F	5 050	4 330
Tocumwal	6.4	1.35	105.19	4 510	F	5 260	3 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.02	80.57	5 860	R	5 000	3 680
Swan Hill	4.5	1.01	63.93	4 380	R	4 000	3 500
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.26	51.38	5 030	R	4 730	3 960
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.11	42.95	4 930	R	4 780	3 850
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.85	4 790	F	4 480	3 380
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.85	27.61	4 030	F	4 100	2 960
Rufus Junction	-	2.81	19.74	2 650	F	2 580	2 220
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 870	S	3 150	2 520
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.40	154.63	1 220	R	1 180	1 400
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.45	146.13	1 969	F	2 450	2 640
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.57	92.99	1 015	F	1 280	500
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 030	F	790	610
Edward at Liewah	-	1.36	56.74	790	R	640	470
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.33	54.82	197	S	180	90
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	215	F	260	230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	170	S	180	100
Darling at Bourke	-	4.03	-	250	S	280	330
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	60	S	40	20

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 250	6 880
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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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.01	+0.50
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.33
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.21	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	-0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.02	+0.03	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.18

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	0.66	70.01	355
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.17	0.15	61.45	269

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.58	All closed

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

