

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 17 September 2003

Our Ref : RMW305/01//01/ng/taj

29 April, 2004



Further welcome rain

Between 25 and 75 mm of rain was recorded across the upper Murray this week helping to boost headwater and tributary flows. Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir increased from about 2 500 to 6 000 ML/day with Hume Reservoir inflows rising from 11 000 to 16 000 ML/day and expected to exceed 20 000 early next week. Total MDBC storage increased by 154 GL and is now about 3 900 GL or 42% of total capacity. In comparison, the volume in storage this time last year was about 4 300 GL.

The rain has resulted in renewed, yet modest, rises in tributary inflows with the Kiewa, Ovens and Goulburn Rivers. Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased from 8 000 to 11 000 ML/day during the week and is currently expected to be increased to about 18 000 ML/day next week.

River Murray System Planning

Releases from the headwater storages of Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs continue to be maintained at minimum required riparian flows in order to maximise resource availability for the coming season. Release from Dartmouth Dam will remain at minimums at the present time, however is likely to be increased over the coming summer to help supply diversions downstream. The commencement date of water transfers from Dartmouth Dam will continue to be reviewed and reported in future weekly reports. Release from Hume Dam will remain at minimum rates as long as rainfalls and downstream tributary inflows are sufficient to meet demands. Should a spell of warmer or drier weather occur, release from Hume Dam will be increased as tributary inflows recede to low levels.

The prospects of receiving significant inflows to Menindee Lakes this season remains poor - there has been little rainfall activity in the upper Darling River catchment to date this year. It is therefore likely that the transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria will be again be necessary this season to assist in meeting South Australia's requirements over summer. However, with the recent rainfall and tributary inflows, storage in Lake Victoria is forecast to remain close to full well into October, delaying the need to begin such transfers until late in spring. Transfers made this season will remain within regulated channel capacity downstream of Yarrawonga Weir.

Environmental Watering

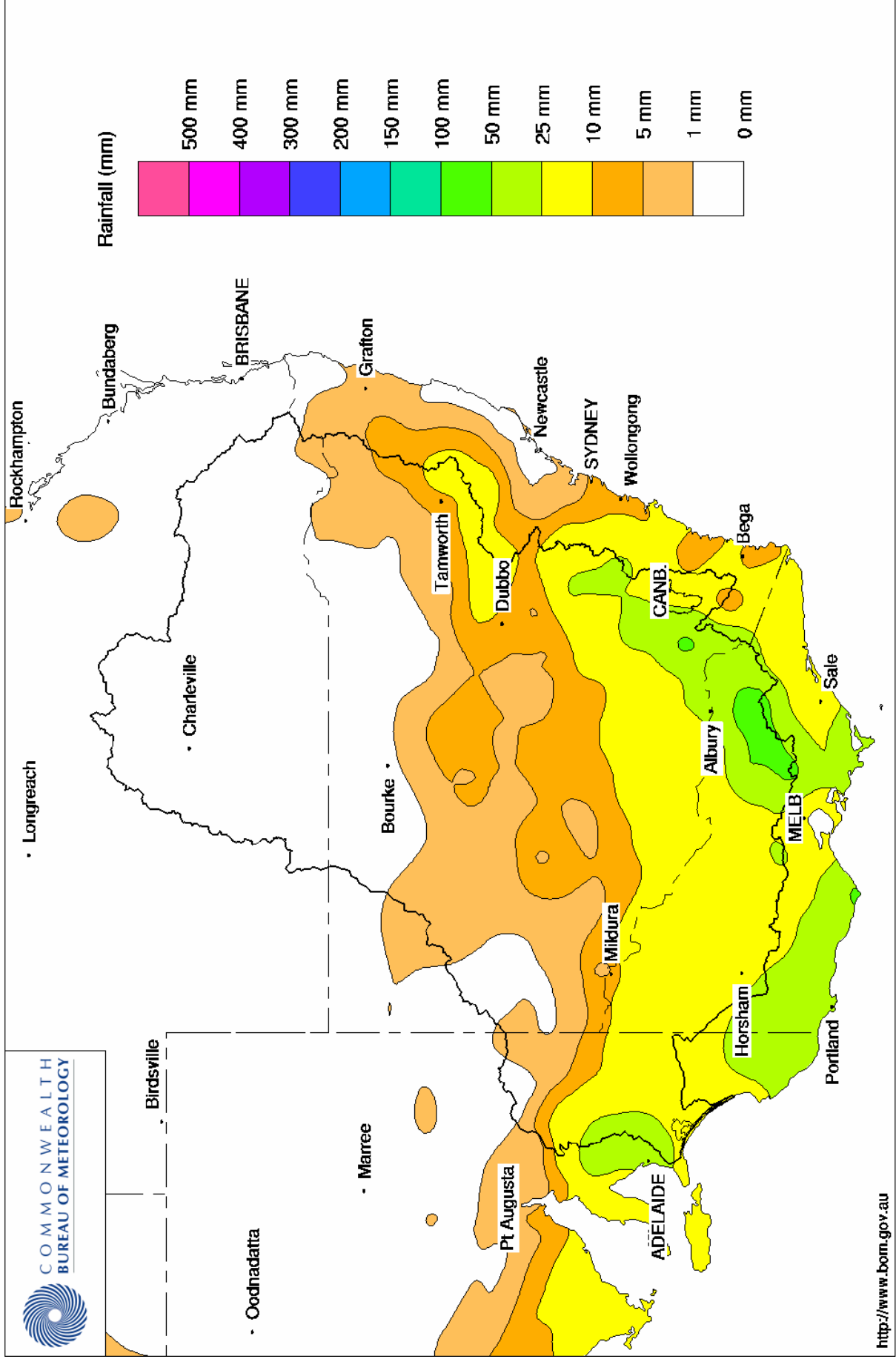
The higher river flows since late July have enabled the watering of forest areas across the mid-Murray. Up to 75% of Barmah-Millewa Forest is estimated to have been inundated with some drought affected areas flooded for the first time in recent years. Flows down Gunbower Creek were used to inundate over 150 ha of low-lying floodplain within Gunbower Forest. This water reaching some drought stressed red gums and large numbers of waterfowl have been observed moving throughout these areas. More than half of Werai Forest on the Edward River has also been inundated with some sites receiving their first substantial flood since spring 2000. In the absence of further elevated flows, forest regulators will probably close in coming weeks. Flow to South Australia averaged about 11 000 ML/day this week and releases through Goolwa and Tauwichee Barrages to the Murray Mouth are continuing although the gates have been closed for short periods when wind and tide conditions so required.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 17th September 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



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	438.98	1 505	39%	80	1 425	+30
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	184.14	1 693	56%	30	1 663	+85
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.40	613	90%	100	513	+42
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		67	4%	640 #	0	-2
Total		9 227		3 879	42%	850	3 601	+154

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **43%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	309	30%	3	306	+15
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	791	49%	24	767	+35
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 078	32%	100	978	+65

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-Sep-2003

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 583	+2	Snowy-Murray	+12	489
Snowy-Murray Component	697	+11	Tooma-Tumut	+11	123
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	1.4	365
			Murray 1 Release	+22	615

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	10.3	51.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	1.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	.9
Licensed Pumps	3.6	14.9
Lower Darling	0.1	.7
TOTAL	14.1	69.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.7	6
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.5	41
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	3
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.1	30
TOTAL	10.2	80

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(11 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	80.6	
Flow so far this month	144	
Flow last month	136	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	110	130	130
Euston	170	170	140
Red Cliffs	180	160	120
Merbein	190	160	120
Burtundy (Darling)	1 700	1 730	1 660
Lock 9	150	150	170
Lake Victoria	230	190	240
Berri	200	220	340
Waikerie	560	540	550
Morgan	520	520	550
Mannum	610	600	540
Murray Bridge	620	610	560
Milang (Lake Alex.)	990	1 050	1 080
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 060	1 080	1 080
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 470	1 270	1 410
Goolwa Barrages	6 800	4 020	3 530



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	-	-	-	6 210	R	4 300	5 270
Jingellic	4.0	2.68	209.20	14 320	R	9 790	10 550
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.80	218.69	1 960	R	1 570	1 590
Heywoods	5.5	1.18	154.81	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.09	150.56	4 510	R	3 390	2 610
Albury	4.3	1.10	148.54	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.26	127.28	4 270	R	3 200	3 480
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.88	116.92	11 000	R	8 950	14 270
Tocumwal	6.4	2.17	106.01	9 840	R	9 920	16 950
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.39	81.94	11 090	F	13 560	17 260
Swan Hill	4.5	2.09	65.01	11 480	F	13 650	17 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	5.05	54.17	18 770	F	18 980	19 760
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.15	44.99	18 500	S	18 800	18 140
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.71	18 670	F	18 670	14 380
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.72	28.48	17 630	S	17 770	14 750
Rufus Junction	-	4.13	21.06	10 640	F	11 160	6 700
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	12 100	R	10 620	6 320
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.47	155.70	4 610	R	3 200	2 240
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.60	148.28	10 200	R	7 170	8 160
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.53	92.95	951	R	1 050	2 680
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 350	F	3 790	6 770
Edward at Liewah	-	3.48	58.86	3 530	R	3 270	2 640
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.16	55.65	2 740	R	2 230	1 200
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	215	F	280	320
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.13	-	0	F	10	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	220	S	260	310
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	10	S	10	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	15 360	16 110
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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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+1.87
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.42
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.46
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.91	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+1.31
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+1.08	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.60
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.21	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.57
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.50	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.33

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	1.35	70.7	1500
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.14	0.16	61.46	278

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	20
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.79	19



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