

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 September 2003

Our Ref: RMW305/01//01/ms/ng

29 April, 2004



Rainfall and inflows in the upper Murray

Rain was confined to the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin with the heaviest falls of between 5 and 50 mm recorded along the Great Divide in Victoria and southern New South Wales (see attached rainfall map). The rain has maintained inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir above 6 000 ML/d and inflow to Hume Reservoir above about 16 000 ML/d. Inflow to Hume peaked at about 22 000 ML/d on Friday, 19 September.

Storage in Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs has risen to 1 552 GL (40% of storage capacity) and 1 818 GL (60%) respectively. Total River Murray system storage is currently 4 070 GL or 44% of capacity, which is about 270 GL less than at the same time last year.

Mid and lower Murray flows

Flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta reached 16 000 ML/d on Saturday, 20 September and has since receded to less than 10 000 ML/d. Flow in the Kiewa River at Bandiana has remained relatively steady at about 4 600 to 4 800 ML/d due to rainfall and snow melt. Release from Yarrowonga Weir was maintained at 17 000 ML/d from 21 September to 24 September and is currently being reduced as Ovens River inflows recede. Release from Euston Weir has reduced from 18 500 to 15 000 ML/d and is expected to remain above 10 000 ML/d until early October.

The level of Lake Victoria continues to rise (to near 93% of capacity) and the lake is expected to fill by mid October. In accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy, filling of the lake has been delayed in order to minimise the impact of high lake levels on the ecological and cultural values of the site.

Flow to South Australia peaked at about 14 000 ML/d on Monday, 22 September and is expected to fall below 10 000 ML/d by the coming weekend. As the flow recedes in South Australia the barrage gates will be progressively closed to ensure that the Lower Lakes are full upon return to fully regulated flows in the River Murray. Windy conditions and high tides have necessitated periodic gate closures at Goolwa and Tauwitchere Barrages over the last week to keep sea water out of Lake Alexandrina as far as possible.

Salinity

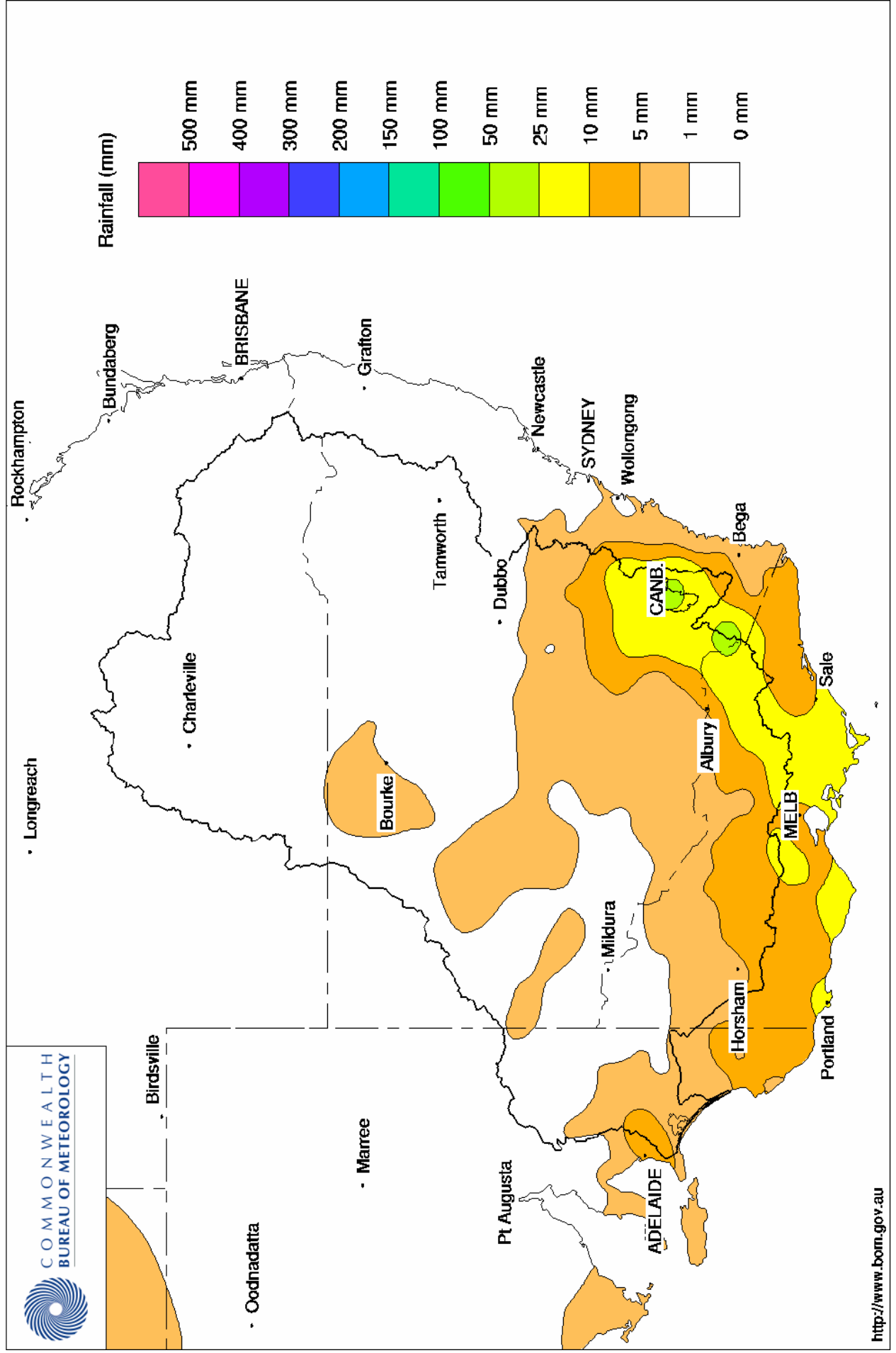
River salinity levels have remained generally low except in the lower Darling and Murray rivers. Salinity levels at Burtundy in the lower Darling are currently averaging about 1 700 EC and expected to remain at, or above this level in coming weeks. The salinity level at Goolwa is expected to reduce as release continues from Goolwa Barrage.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th 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	440.25	1 552	40%	80	1 472	+47
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	185.00	1 818	60%	30	1 788	+125
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.56	631	93%	100	531	+18
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		65	4%	640 #	0	-2
Total		9 227		4 067	44%	850	3 791	+188

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

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

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	329	32%	3	326	+21
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	837	51%	24	813	+45
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 191	35%	100	1 091	+113

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Sep-2003

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 671	+88	Snowy-Murray	+0	489
Snowy-Murray Component	732	-	Tooma-Tumut	+11	134
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-11.1	354
			Murray 1 Release	+26	640

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	10.6	62.2
Wakool System loss	0.0	1.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	1.4
Licensed Pumps	4.3	19.2
Lower Darling	0.1	.8
TOTAL	15.5	84.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	1.9	7
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.5	50
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	5
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.1	34
TOTAL	15.5	96

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	91.5	(13 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	236	
Flow last month	136	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	110	100	130
Euston	110	140	140
Red Cliffs	170	160	130
Merbein	170	180	130
Burtundy (Darling)	1 710	1 720	1 670
Lock 9	210	200	180
Lake Victoria	230	230	240
Berri	180	170	320
Waikerie	-	500	550
Morgan	330	450	540
Mannum	520	540	540
Murray Bridge	620	630	570
Milang (Lake Alex.)	840	960	1 060
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 110	1 130	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 470	1 490	1 420
Goolwa Barrages	1 810	3 140	3 480



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	-	-	-	8 630	F	6 040	4 300
Jingellic	4.0	2.72	209.24	14 790	R	14 720	9 790
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.78	218.67	1 880	F	2 000	1 570
Heywoods	5.5	1.18	154.81	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.17	150.64	5 160	S	4 850	3 390
Albury	4.3	1.16	148.60	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.54	127.56	5 790	R	5 210	3 200
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.62	117.66	17 000	S	16 210	8 950
Tocumwal	6.4	3.15	106.99	17 660	R	15 420	9 920
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.28	81.83	10 660	R	9 660	13 560
Swan Hill	4.5	1.53	64.45	7 820	F	9 240	13 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.28	53.40	14 490	F	16 720	18 980
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.73	44.57	15 110	F	17 070	18 800
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.59	-	F	17 150	18 670
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.62	28.38	16 390	S	16 940	17 770
Rufus Junction	-	4.49	21.42	13 180	R	12 590	11 160
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	12 700	F	12 840	10 620
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.48	155.71	4 780	S	4 730	3 200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.56	148.24	9 958	F	13 350	7 170
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	3.35	94.77	4 186	F	3 110	1 050
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	810	F	1 410	3 790
Edward at Liewah	-	3.23	58.61	3 100	F	3 470	3 270
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.02	55.51	2 180	F	2 720	2 230
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	173	F	200	280
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	30	F	40	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.99	-	140	F	180	260
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.64	-	0	F	0	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	26 060	15 360
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.03	+2.17
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.06	+0.63
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.60
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.79	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+1.53
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.98	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.65
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.11	+0.23	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.62
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.40	No. 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.44

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.08	0.7	70.05	398
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.12	0.16	61.46	278

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.68	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.76	19

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

