

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 August 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/jm  
Trim Ref : 04/9417DO

13 August, 2004



## ***Rainfall***

The Upper Murray and tributary catchments recorded further light to moderate rainfall of up to 25 mm this week, whilst falls of up to 10 mm occurred across the southern Murray-Darling Basin. As a result of the good rainfalls on 3 and 4 August, inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers peaked early this week at 5 100 ML/day and 15 000 ML/day respectively. Inflows from the Goulburn River also responded to the rain, peaking at 1 600 ML/day – this is the first significant response this season from the Goulburn River.

## ***Upper Murray Storages***

The combined storage in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoir increased by 102 GL this week, in response to the recent rainfall. This increase in total storage comprised a rise of 112 GL in Hume and a reduction of 10 GL in Dartmouth, which occurred as a result of the current program to transfer water resources to Hume Reservoir for the coming season.

## ***System Operation***

Release from Hume Reservoir has been maintained at the minimum required riparian flow of 600 ML/day, as the inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers have been more than sufficient to meet downstream needs. These inflows are currently being stored in Lake Victoria, which is rising steadily.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to 12 000 ML/day (approximately 2 000 ML/day above channel capacity) to pass the tributary inflows. A number of regulators were opened to pass water into the Barmah-Millewa Forest, and the flow down Gulpa Creek is being gradually increased towards about 750 ML/day. The flow down the Mulwala Canal was also increased to about 2 400 ML/day, to pass as much as possible through the Edward-Wakool system, whilst remaining within channel capacity.

Flow to South Australia is currently being maintained at about the regulated requirement of 4 000 ML/day. Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 36 GL to 458 GL (68% of capacity) due to tributary inflows and the earlier releases of water from Hume.

## ***Barrages***

A small number of barrage gates were opened late this week, as inflows to the Lower Lakes in South Australia were boosted by the recent heavy rainfall in the ranges east of Adelaide. Releases have commenced through the Goolwa Barrage to reduce salinity levels in the Goolwa channel, and the newly-installed 'fish ladders' in Tauwichee Barrage. The release will be extended for as long as possible while ensuring that as much water as possible is made available for irrigators and urban water use at the start of summer (*see attached Media Release*).

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## **MURRAY MOUTH FLOWS AGAIN**

Up to 50 gigalitres of River Murray water will be allowed to flow through the Tauwitchere and Goolwa barrages and out of the Murray Mouth over the next few weeks.

Acting Minister for the River Murray John Hill said the water was available due to recent heavy localised rainfall in the Lower Lakes area and runoff from the Angas and Bremer Rivers and Currency Creek.

“This water is being used to reduced salinity in the Goolwa Channel, which has reached very high levels recently, as well as allowing further testing of the newly installed ‘fish ladders’ in the Tauwitchere Barrage,” the Minister said.

“Having water flowing out of the Murray Mouth again is good news for local communities, irrigators and the environment because it is the only way of taking salt out of the River Murray system and helps to prevent flooding in the area surrounding the Lower Lakes.

“This release is too small to impact on the sand build up at the Murray Mouth but it will reach the sea thanks to the round-the-clock dredging operation.

“A controlled release of water from Goolwa barrage began yesterday in an effort to reduce the salinity in the Goolwa channel prior to the coming irrigation season.

“Once the salinity level in this area has improved the rest of the water will be shared between the Goolwa and Tauwitchere barrages.

“The release will be extended for as long as possible while ensuring that as much water as possible is available for irrigators and urban water use at the start of summer.

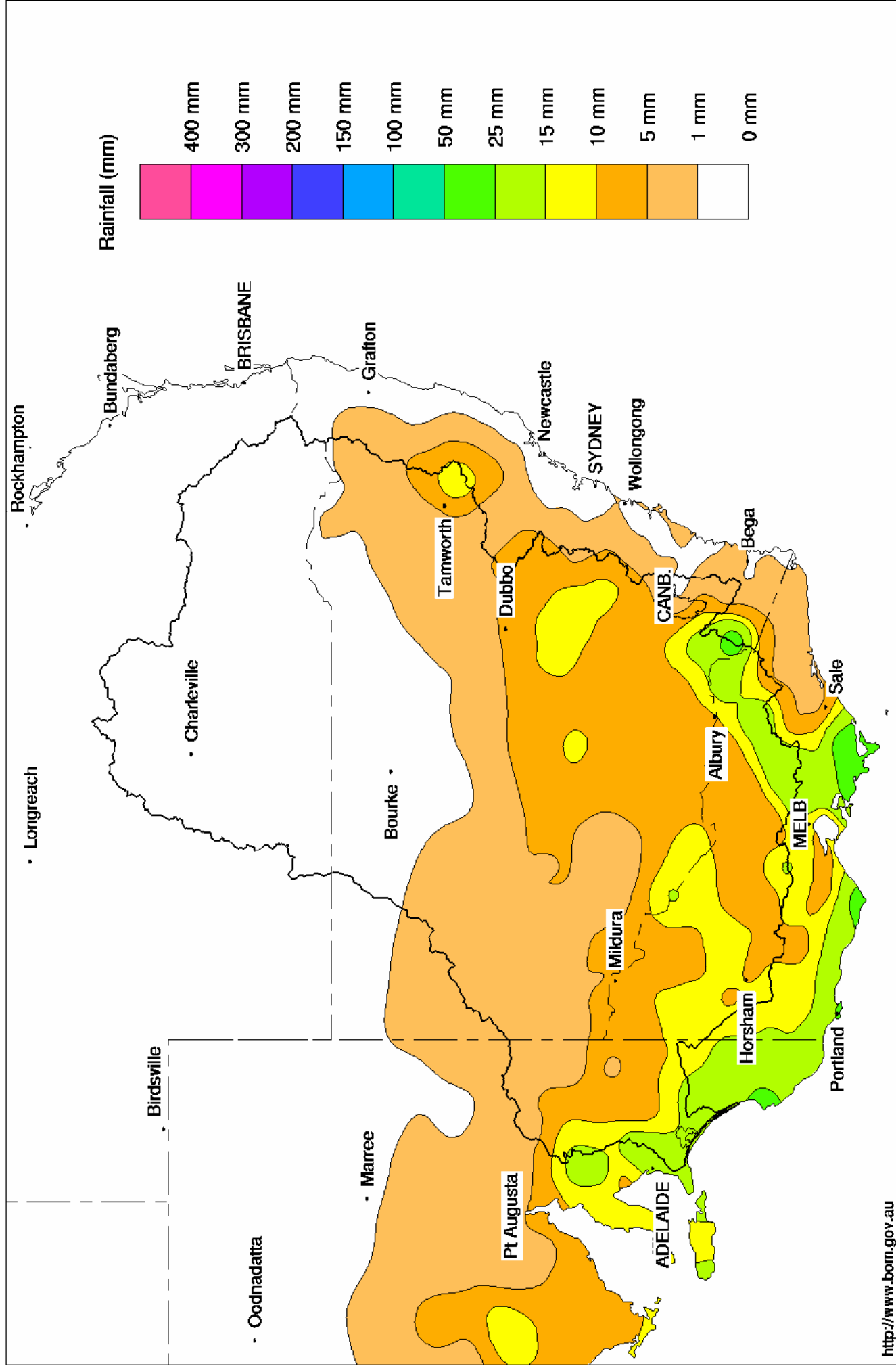
“While the impact of this release on the health of the Coorong will be small, extending the period of the release will maximise these benefits.

“Monitoring programs are being established to ensure that information is gained on the benefits and impacts of this release.

“It is anticipated that this release will continue for 2 – 3 weeks unless there is further significant rainfall either locally or further upstream in the Murray catchment.”

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th August 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



**Water in Storage**

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Storage for the week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	449.47	1 924	49%	80	1 844	-10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.45	513	17%	30	483	+112
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.95	458	67%	100	358	+36
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		321	20%	640 #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 227</b>		<b>3 216</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>2 685</b>	<b>+136</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **32%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	409	40%	3	406	+4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	233	14%	24	209	+32
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	942	28%	100	842	+69

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Aug-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 900	+10	Snowy-Murray	+7	215
Snowy-Murray Component	818	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	55
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	1.6	160
			Murray 1 Release	+9	266

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	5.8	25.6
Wakool System loss	0.3	.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.7
Licensed Pumps	1.2	6.3
Lower Darling	0.2	.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>33.8</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.0	1
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.0	11
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>14</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	124	
Flow this week	27.7	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	44	
Flow last month	109	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	100	90	90
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	50	50	50
Merbein	60	50	60
Burtundy (Darling)	370	360	360
Lock 9	120	120	120
Lake Victoria	220	200	190
Berri	300	310	330
Waikerie	-	-	430
Morgan	460	460	470
Mannum	500	500	510
Murray Bridge	570	550	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	920	920	930
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	990	1 010	990
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 000	2 010	2 010
Goolwa Barrages	3 450	3 560	3 550



**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	-	-	-	2 500	F	2 320	3 100
Jingellic	4.0	1.93	208.45	6 800	F	7 900	6 430
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.63	219.52	6 230	S	6 300	2 600
Heywoods	5.5	1.18	154.81	600	S	600	870
Doctors Point	5.5	1.77	150.24	2 430	F	3 180	2 980
Albury	4.3	0.89	148.33	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.04	127.06	3 010	F	3 840	3 860
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.89	116.93	11 000	S	11 190	10 100
Tocumwal	6.4	2.46	106.30	11 950	F	11 510	10 690
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	81.49	9 260	R	8 920	8 540
Swan Hill	4.5	1.65	64.57	8 630	F	8 600	8 140
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.52	52.64	10 500	S	10 250	10 070
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.98	43.82	9 970	R	9 850	9 790
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.18	10 750	F	11 240	11 100
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.14	27.90	9 440	S	9 490	9 340
Rufus Junction	-	2.97	19.90	3 600	S	3 570	3 420
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 970	S	3 840	3 670
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.83	155.06	2 050	F	2 910	2 240
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.25	147.93	8 248	F	11 530	7 770
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.74	93.16	1 305	F	1 160	740
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 920	F	2 500	1 550
Edward at Liewah	-	2.30	57.68	1 690	R	1 510	1 600
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.35	54.84	226	S	210	180
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.45	56.41	197	R	210	250
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	S	20	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	131	F	150	160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	36	S	40	40

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	15 070	8 790
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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	+0.03	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.68
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.38	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.45
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.50	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.07	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.08	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.11

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.91	0.9	70.25	658
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.03	0.09	61.39	220

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.87	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.90	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.88	All closed



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