

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 December 2004

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17 December, 2004



Widespread and significant rain was recorded across much of the Basin, and followed the rain of the previous week. Highest falls were more than 100 mm in parts of northern NSW, while falls of 25 to 100 mm were recorded in the Murray catchment and in irrigation areas (*see attached map*). Despite the depth of rain, there was little streamflow response in catchments of the River Murray.

Darling River System

With significant streamflow rises in much of the Darling River System, the Bureau of Meteorology has issued warnings of minor to moderate flooding for the Gwydir, Namoi, Barwon, and Darling Rivers. The Bureau has advised that the Darling flood peak is expected to reach Bourke by about 10 January. Flow in the Barwon River at Mogil Mogil in the upper Darling system has increased to 44 000 ML/day (17 December). More information is available on web site pages of the Bureau of Meteorology, and also the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources as follows: <http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/nsw/>; and, <http://waterinfo.dipnr.nsw.gov.au/drr/index.html>.

Preliminary indications from the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) are that the additional inflow to Menindee Lakes from this event will be at least 100 GL, however, revised estimates will be provided in coming weeks as more information becomes available.

System Operation

Significant reductions in irrigation demand resulted after the rain, particularly areas supplied by Mulwala Canal, Yarrawonga Main Channel and National Channel. In response to this and minor increases in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, release from Hume Reservoir has been reduced from 11 000 to 7 000 ML/day. Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to a peak of 12 800 ML/day following the rain of last week. This, combined with localised heavy rain, led to inundation of parts of the Barmah-Millewa Forest. Flow at Yarrawonga has since been temporarily reduced to 8 500 ML/day to conserve resources in response to increased flows in transit to Lake Victoria following the temporary reduction in irrigation demand. Flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir is now also being reduced prior to further review of the rate of transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has temporarily been increased from 6 000 to 10 000 ML/day due to reduced irrigation demand and reduced river losses upstream. Flow inputs from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers are forecast to be relatively low, and the River Murray flow at Euston has increased to 9 000 ML/day, and is expected to peak at about 13 500 ML/day by about 25 December.

In order to conserve resources, release from Dartmouth Reservoir was gradually reduced from 4 000 to 2 000 ML/day over the week in response to improvements in system inflows in previous weeks.

Second call for proposals for water recovery

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission is now calling for further project proposals under the \$1.2m *Development of Infrastructure Projects* Program (*see attached media release*). The remaining \$640,000 of funding is specifically to undertake feasibility assessments for infrastructure projects that would deliver water savings.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, December 17, 2004

Second opportunity for river communities to benefit

The second opportunity for communities to submit ideas on possible water recovery projects under The Living Murray has been announced by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

Catchment management authorities, industry, irrigation and community groups are again being asked to propose cost-effective infrastructure improvement projects that can be further investigated and developed for future recovery of water for the environment, according to Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik.

“MDBC is calling for organisations to identify feasibility studies for possible future water recovery projects that they believe should be undertaken in the southern part of the Basin that will each result in an average annual increase of flows in the rivers of at least two gigalitres but cost \$2000/ML or less to deliver,” Dr Craik said.

“Types of infrastructure improvement projects that would deliver water savings include installation of pipelines, lining of sections of irrigation channels, and installation of more precise flow measurement systems.

“We expect that the funding of the feasibility study for each project will generally be about \$100,000 or less, but special cases would be considered” she said.

Developed in consultation with state agencies, successful projects this round would be additional to four already approved feasibility projects from the first call for proposals in August under the Living Murray’s \$1.2m *Development of Infrastructure Projects Program*. About \$640,000 of funding remains in this program for this round of projects.

“It’s very important for Basin communities to grasp these opportunities to develop proposals for future investment in their regions,” Dr Craik said.

Organisations considering submitting a second round proposal should download the prospectus, background leaflet and short application from the MDBC website. Proposals will be accepted until 12 noon on February 17, 2005.

For previously funded projects and to view the prospectus and application forms:

http://www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au/implementing/water_recovery.html

Further information on The Living Murray initiative: www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au

For general MDBC information: www.mdbc.gov.au

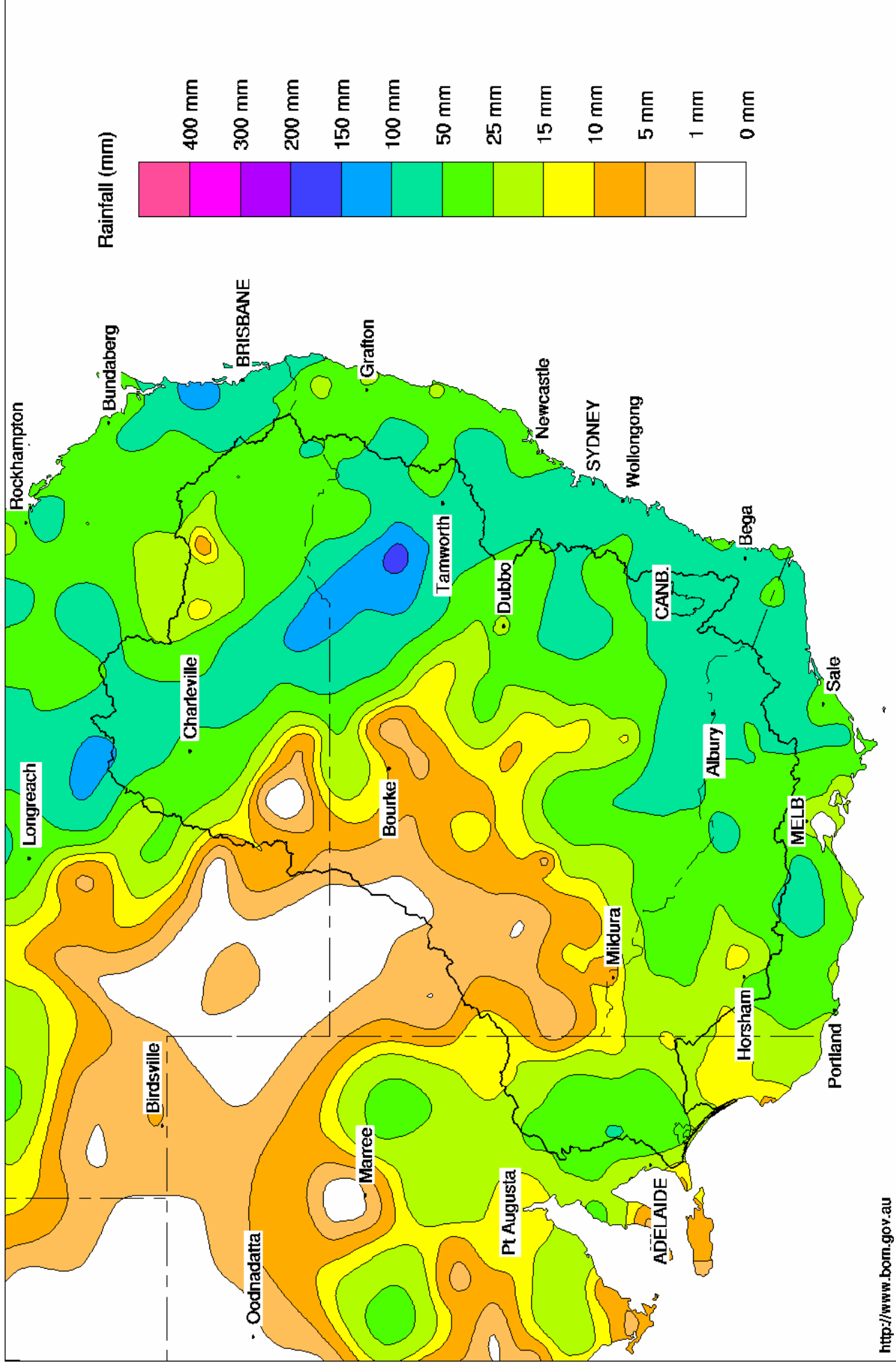
For general enquiries on the Development of Infrastructure Projects Program: contact Leanne Wilkinson, (02) 6279 0516, Leanne.Wilkinson@mdbc.gov.au

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th December 2004

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	445.38	1 753	45%	80	1 673	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	183.67	1 627	54%	30	1 597	+6
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.94	669	99%	100	569	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		231	14%	640 #	0	-7
Total		9 224		4 281	46%	850	3 839	-9

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **46%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	238	23%	3	235	+31
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	479	29%	24	455	-9
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 464	43%	100	1 364	+10

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Dec-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 648	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+2	338
Snowy-Murray Component	1 204	-	Tooma-Tumut	+6	225
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	-3.3	113
			Murray 1 Release	+12	650

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.5	328.4
Wakool System loss	-0.8	4.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	11.6
Licensed Pumps	4.4	118.5
Lower Darling	0.4	9.9
TOTAL	5.0	472.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.4	139
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.4	261
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.5	60
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	12
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.9	127
TOTAL	17.9	600

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.6	
Flow so far this month	108	
Flow last month	193	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	60	70	100
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	-	-	100
Merbein	160	150	110
Burtundy (Darling)	540	530	450
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	180	180	180
Berri	220	220	250
Waikerie	-	320	410
Morgan	320	330	420
Mannum	440	450	520
Murray Bridge	530	540	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 330	1 350	1 260
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 190	750	990
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 070	2 070	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	-	1 850	1 830



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	-	-	-	3 930	F	2 050	2 560
Jingellic	4.0	2.16	208.68	8 920	R	5 340	6 310
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.16	219.05	3 480	F	4 390	5 030
Heywoods	5.5	2.22	155.85	7 480	F	8 320	13 570
Doctors Point	5.5	2.54	151.01	8 910	F	9 320	14 110
Albury	4.3	1.54	148.98	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.52	128.54	11 500	R	10 790	16 360
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.56	116.60	8 570	S	10 750	9 980
Tocumwal	6.4	2.18	106.02	9 520	F	11 350	10 240
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.12	81.67	9 950	R	7 970	5 070
Swan Hill	4.5	1.56	64.48	7 950	R	6 410	4 600
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.49	52.61	10 350	R	9 190	8 410
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.88	43.72	9 330	R	8 150	8 370
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.95	-	F	-	9 720
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	6 330	R	6 620	8 070
Rufus Junction	-	3.56	20.49	7 120	R	6 670	6 790
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	6 870	S	7 180	4 880
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.69	154.92	1 770	R	1 360	1 140
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.86	146.54	3 185	R	2 420	1 900
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.36	92.78	699	F	750	550
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 920	F	2 900	2 820
Edward at Liewah	-	3.07	58.45	2 770	S	2 680	2 380
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.79	55.28	1 260	S	1 220	1 160
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.07	57.03	733	R	400	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.64	-	12 600	F	9 260	180
Darling at Bourke	-	4.16	-	712	R	420	210
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	76	R	30	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 950	7 620
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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	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+1.16
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.17
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.04	+0.15	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.79
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.05	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.28
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.19

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.05	1.62	70.97	2060
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.36	62.66	1710

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.96	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed

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

