

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 January 2004

Our Ref: RMW305/01/01/ms:bwh

23 January, 2004



## ***Rainfall***

Rainfall totals for the week in southern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin were less than 15 mm, and had little effect on streamflows. However, heavy rain was recorded across northern parts of the Basin with totals exceeding 150 mm in some areas.

## ***Upper Darling System***

The heavy rainfall has produced significant but short duration rises in flow in streams across much of the Darling River system catchment with the Bureau of Meteorology issuing flood warnings in some areas. *Preliminary* indications from the NSW Department of Infrastructure and Natural Resources are that the increased flows in transit are relatively low compared with the capacity of Menindee Lakes, and will not be sufficient to raise the storage volume to a level where MDBC resources would again become available (when the storage next exceeds 640 GL). However, the increased storage anticipated in Menindee Lakes will provide some relief to local and regional communities which draw supplies from the lakes. Further details will be provided in coming weeks as more information becomes available.

## ***River Murray Operation***

Inflows to Dartmouth Reservoir have been in balance with the low release rate (400 ML/day), and storage has remained steady at 48% of capacity. In contrast, Hume Reservoir storage continues to be drawn down to supply downstream requirements, and storage has declined by about 3% to 53% of capacity. This compares with 5% of capacity in Hume at the same time last year.

Recent weather conditions and a review of forecast diversions by NSW and Victoria has indicated a reduction in projected requirements for the remainder of the irrigation season. Consequently, the rate of transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria via the Edward River system has been reduced, with flow downstream of Stevens Weir being reduced from 2 900 to 2 200 ML/day, and further reductions are planned next week. Gulpa Creek flow has also been reduced from 750 ML/day to 350 ML/day, marking the end of nearly three months of regulated flow at 750 ML/day. The higher flows in Gulpa Creek have served the dual role of assisting in meeting downstream requirements, and maintaining water levels suitable for a number of waterbird species to complete breeding.

## ***Water Quality***

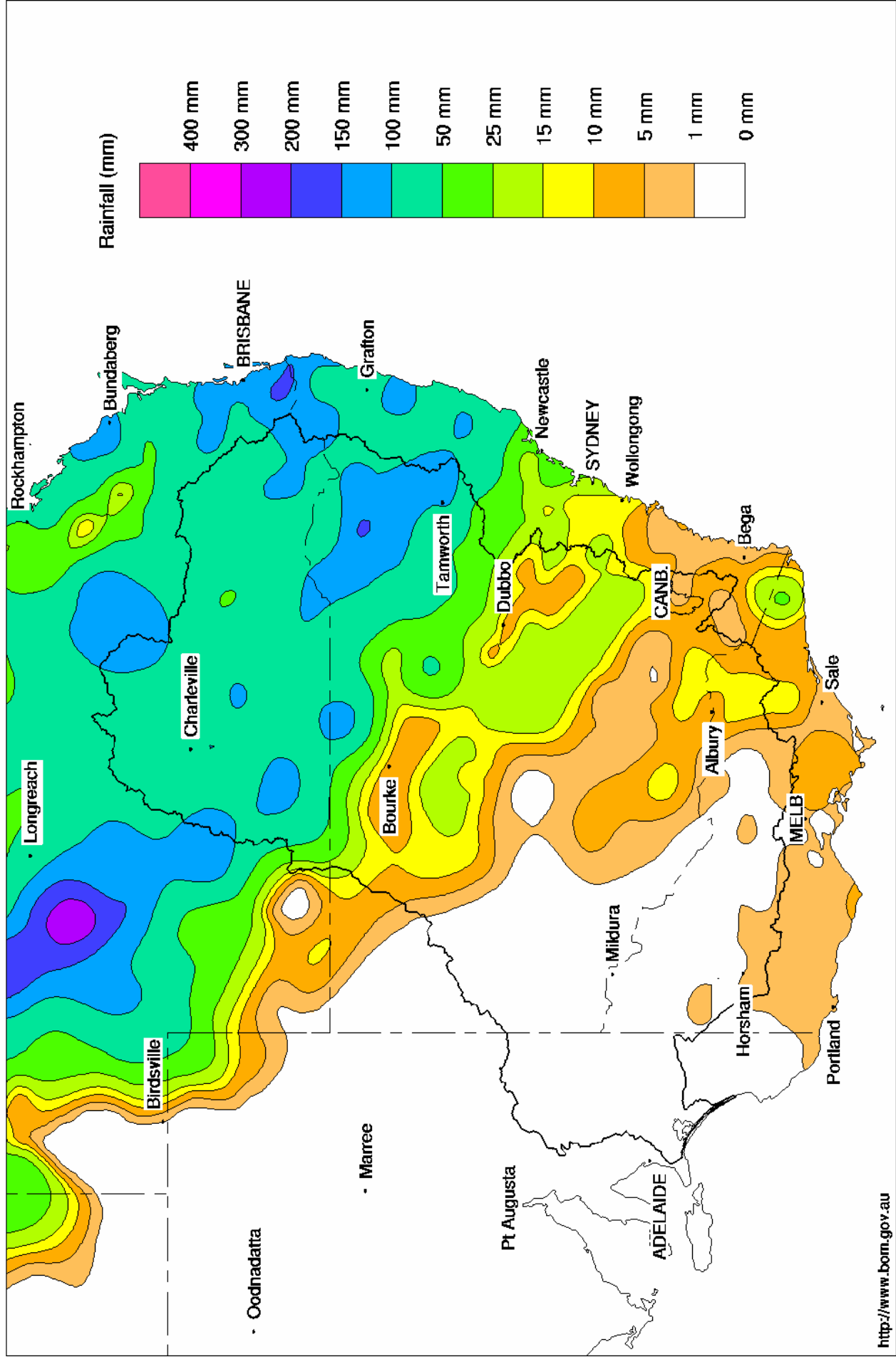
Salinity along much of the River Murray remains at low levels generally below 300 EC. The exceptions are at the Lower Lakes in South Australia where salinity is about 1 200 EC; and sites along the Lower Darling, such as Weir 32 and Burtundy, where levels are above 2 000 EC. Levels of blue-green algae are at varying concentrations across the River Murray System with the highest being recorded recently in the Darling River downstream of the Menindee Lakes, and in the Lower Lakes in South Australia. Local agencies regularly provide more detailed information on blue-green algal alert levels and associated advice regarding water use.

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**Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st January 2004**  
 Product of the National Climate Centre



**Water in Storage**

| MDBC Storages       | Full Supply Level<br>(m AHD) | Full Supply Volume<br>(GL) | Current Storage Level<br>(m AHD) | Current Storage |            | Dead Storage<br>(GL) | Active Storage<br>(GL) | Change in Storage for the week<br>(GL) |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
|                     |                              |                            |                                  | (GL)            | %          |                      |                        |  |
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00                       | 3 906                      | 448.10                           | 1 865           | 48%        | 80                   | 1 785                  | -0                                     |
| Hume Reservoir      | 192.00                       | 3 038                      | 183.48                           | 1 600           | 53%        | 30                   | 1 570                  | -96                                    |
| Lake Victoria       | 27.00                        | 680                        | 25.23                            | 487             | 72%        | 100                  | 387                    | -22                                    |
| Menindee Lakes      |                              | 1 603 *                    |                                  | 43              | 3%         | 640 #                | 0                      | -3                                     |
| <b>Total</b>        |                              | <b>9 227</b>               |                                  | <b>3 996</b>    | <b>43%</b> | <b>850</b>           | <b>3 743</b>           | <b>-122</b>                            |

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

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

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

**Major State Storages**

|                      |       |  |       |     |     |       |     |
|----------------------|-------|--|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 |  | 480   | 47% | 3   | 477   | -19 |
| Blowering Reservoir  | 1 631 |  | 676   | 41% | 24  | 652   | -50 |
| Eildon Reservoir     | 3 390 |  | 1 284 | 38% | 100 | 1 184 | -34 |

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Jan-2004

| Storage                | Active storage<br>(GL) | Weekly change<br>(GL) | Diversion (GL)   | This week | From 1 May 2003 |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 1 856                  | +2                    | Snowy-Murray     | +4        | 551             |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 1 102                  | -                     | Tooma-Tumut      | +10       | 249             |
| Target Storage         | 1 520                  |                       | Nett Diversion   | -5.1      | 302             |
|                        |                        |                       | Murray 1 Release | +8        | 859             |

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

| New South Wales         | This week   | From 1 July 2003 |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 30.6        | 424.9            |
| Wakool System loss      | 0.6         | 17.3             |
| Western Murray Irrig.   | 1.4         | 15.5             |
| Licensed Pumps          | 8.6         | 117.8            |
| Lower Darling           | 0.5         | 6.2              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>41.6</b> | <b>581.7</b>     |

| Victoria                        | This week   | From 1 July 2003 |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)   | 15.1        | 181              |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 19.5        | 333              |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts      | 7.5         | 86               |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 1.2         | 17               |
| Licensed pumps - SRW            | 6.8         | 128              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>50.1</b> | <b>744</b>       |

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

|                        |      |                |
|------------------------|------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 217  |                |
| Flow this week         | 50.6 | (7 200 ML/day) |
| Flow so far this month | 151  |                |
| Flow last month        | 224  |                |

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

|                         | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2003 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill               | 90      | 90                         | 110                         |
| Euston                  | 110     | 120                        | 120                         |
| Red Cliffs              | 120     | 130                        | 130                         |
| Merbein                 | 160     | 140                        | 140                         |
| Burtundy (Darling)      | 2 580   | 2 580                      | 1 980                       |
| Lock 9                  | 140     | 150                        | 170                         |
| Lake Victoria           | 230     | 230                        | 230                         |
| Berri                   | 240     | 250                        | 280                         |
| Waikerie                | 360     | 370                        | 400                         |
| Morgan                  | 390     | 390                        | 420                         |
| Mannum                  | 430     | 430                        | 440                         |
| Murray Bridge           | 490     | 480                        | 490                         |
| Milang (Lake Alex.)     | 1 210   | 1 210                      | 1 100                       |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 1 140   | 1 140                      | 1 110                       |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.)    | 1 610   | 1 610                      | 1 560                       |
| Goolwa Barrages         | 1 970   | 1 950                      | 2 210                       |



**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) |               |       |                                 |                                 |
| <b>River Murray</b>              |                       |              |         |               |       |                                 |                                 |
| Khancoban                        | -                     | -            | -       | 2 160         | F     | 1 890                           | 1 380                           |
| Jingellic                        | 4.0                   | 1.49         | 208.01  | 3 290         | F     | 3 010                           | 3 260                           |
| Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River ) | 4.2                   | 1.47         | 218.36  | 910           | F     | 1 490                           | 2 000                           |
| Heywoods                         | 5.5                   | 2.99         | 156.62  | 15 700        | F     | 16 780                          | 16 170                          |
| Doctors Point                    | 5.5                   | 3.17         | 151.64  | 16 000        | F     | 17 230                          | 16 730                          |
| Albury                           | 4.3                   | 2.18         | 149.62  | -             | -     | -                               | -                               |
| Corowa                           | 7.0                   | 3.33         | 129.35  | 17 900        | R     | 18 260                          | 17 930                          |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)            | 6.4                   | 1.79         | 116.83  | 10 300        | S     | 10 330                          | 10 530                          |
| Tocumwal                         | 6.4                   | 2.29         | 106.13  | 10 690        | S     | 10 830                          | 11 070                          |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)           | 7.3                   | 1.70         | 80.25   | 4 690         | F     | 5 140                           | 5 290                           |
| Swan Hill                        | 4.5                   | 1.04         | 63.96   | 4 630         | R     | 4 620                           | 4 490                           |
| Wakool Junction                  | 8.8                   | 2.96         | 52.08   | 7 870         | F     | 8 010                           | 8 200                           |
| Euston Weir (d/s)                | 8.8                   | 1.54         | 43.38   | 7 280         | F     | 7 330                           | 9 050                           |
| Mildura Weir (d/s)               | -                     | -            | 30.93   | 5 960         | F     | 6 100                           | 9 010                           |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s)             | 7.3                   | 2.89         | 27.65   | 4 770         | S     | 5 080                           | 7 720                           |
| Rufus Junction                   | -                     | 3.51         | 20.44   | 6 810         | R     | 6 780                           | 6 920                           |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)         | -                     | -            | -       | 4 170         | R     | 4 160                           | 4 070                           |
| <b>Tributaries</b>               |                       |              |         |               |       |                                 |                                 |
| Kiewa at Bandiana                | 2.7                   | 1.07         | 154.30  | 710           | R     | 630                             | 860                             |
| Ovens at Wangaratta              | 11.9                  | 8.01         | 145.69  | 812           | F     | 1 000                           | 1 470                           |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge        | 9.0                   | 1.21         | 92.63   | 450           | R     | 440                             | 560                             |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)     | -                     | -            | -       | 2 170         | F     | 2 410                           | 2 910                           |
| Edward at Liewah                 | -                     | 2.99         | 58.37   | 2 700         | F     | 2 750                           | 2 820                           |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing        | -                     | 0.72         | 55.21   | 1 030         | F     | 1 080                           | 1 190                           |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald        | 5.0                   | 0.44         | 56.40   | 161           | F     | 210                             | 750                             |
| Barwon at Mungindi               | -                     | 6.55         | -       | 12 000        | R     | 5 120                           | 60                              |
| Darling at Bourke                | -                     | 4.25         | -       | 1 283         | R     | 890                             | 1 260                           |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks        | -                     | 0.47         | -       | 0             | F     | 0                               | 10                              |

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| <b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 4 060 | 4 910 |
|---|-------|-------|

**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

| <b>Murray</b>     | FSL (m AHD) | u/s   | d/s   |                      | FSL (m AHD) | u/s   | d/s   |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Yarrowonga        | 124.90      | -0.13 | -     | No. 7 Rufus River    | 22.10       | +0.09 | +1.21 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05       | -0.02 | -     | No. 6 Murtho         | 19.25       | -0.05 | +0.17 |
| No. 15 Euston     | 47.60       | +0.01 | -     | No. 5 Renmark        | 16.30       | +0.03 | +0.22 |
| No. 11 Mildura    | 34.40       | +0.04 | +0.13 | No. 4 Bookpurnong    | 13.20       | +0.03 | +0.70 |
| No. 10 Wentworth  | 30.80       | +0.01 | +0.25 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80        | +0.02 | +0.19 |
| No. 9 Kulnine     | 27.40       | +0.01 | +0.02 | No. 2 Waikerie       | 6.10        | +0.04 | +0.14 |
| No. 8 Wangumma    | 24.60       | +0.03 | +0.12 | No 1. Blanchetown    | 3.20        | +0.03 | +0.00 |

| <b>Murrumbidgee</b> | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. |         | Flow (ML/day) |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
|                     |             |                 | local (m)     | (m AHD) |               |
| No. 7 Maude         | 75.40       | -0.21           | 0.63          | 69.98   | 325           |
| No. 5 Redbank       | 66.90       | -0.32           | 0.15          | 61.45   | 269           |

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

|                | Openings     | Level | Status     |
|----------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| Goolwa         | 128 openings | 0.70  | All closed |
| Mundoo         | 26 openings  | 0.70  | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings   | -     | All closed |
| Ewe Island     | 111 gates    | -     | All closed |
| Tauwicheere    | 322 gates    | 0.69  | All closed |



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