

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 August 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs; jm
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27 August, 2004



Rainfall

The last week has seen no rain recorded across most of the Murray Darling Basin, and only light falls of up to 10 mm in the southern and eastern boundaries of the Basin. The rain that did fall has had little impact on current river conditions and storage levels. This week has also shown the first signs of spring, with temperatures increasing upwards of 20^o C across much of the Basin.

System Operation

Releases from Dartmouth Reservoir have been maintained at about 4 500 ML/day this week, as part of a program to transfer water to Lake Hume ready for the 2004-05 irrigation and water supply season. Unless there is a significant change in inflow conditions in the River Murray System, it may be necessary to increase the rate of these transfers over the coming weeks.

Storage at Lake Victoria has continued to rise steadily (reaching 77% of capacity this week) due to the inflows received from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers during August, and the earlier transfers of water from Lake Hume. The current storage position in the Lake has allowed the rate of transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria to be temporarily reduced. The situation will be closely monitored by River Murray Water in relation to tributary inflows and the rate of rise in storage in Lake Victoria, particularly if relatively dry conditions occur over the remainder of the season.

The temporary reduction in the rate of transfer to Lake Victoria has allowed releases from Hume Dam to be maintained at the minimum rate, however this is expected to be gradually ramped up over the coming weeks, unless there is significant further rainfall and increased inflows to the Murray from downstream tributaries.

As inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens River have receded over the past week, releases from Yarrowonga Weir have been decreased from 11 500 ML/day to about 9 000 ML/day, and flows are now again within the river's channel capacity through the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

Lower Lakes and Barrages

As inflows to the Lower Lakes in South Australia have receded, releases from the Goolwa and Tauwitchere Barrages have been gradually wound back. Goolwa Barrage is now closed, and the flow through Tauwitchere has been gradually reduced to about 900 ML/day (3 gates open). Unless further significant inflows are received, the gates at Tauwitchere will be closed over the next few days, leaving just the rock ramp fish passage open. The aim is to maintain the lake level at about 0.85 m AHD, so that it is surcharged for the start of the irrigation and water supply season.

Salinity

Raised flows in the Edward-Wakool system are currently flushing out a small "slug" of higher salinity water, likely to have accumulated from groundwater inflows to deep holes in the lower Wakool River during the recent low flow period. The flow at Stony Crossing is currently about 640 ML/d, and the salinity is about 2 000 EC. This salinity spike occurs almost annually in the lower Wakool (depending on flow conditions), and is likely to be short-lived. It will be diluted significantly by the flows in the Murray (currently about 8 500 ML/day) and is unlikely to have any significant impact on salinity levels downstream.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Week ending Wednesday 25 Aug 2004

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	448.90	1 899	49%	80	1 819	-14
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.82	719	24%	30	689	+100
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.58	524	77%	100	424	+31
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		314	20%	640 #	0	-2
Total		9 227		3 456	37%	850	2 932	+116

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **35%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		383	37%	3	380	-25
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		294	18%	24	270	+16
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 078	32%	100	978	+48

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Aug-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 930	+16	Snowy-Murray	+13	234
Snowy-Murray Component	812	-	Tooma-Tumut	+6	67
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	6.5	166
			Murray 1 Release	+14	291

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.6	29.9
Wakool System loss	2.2	4.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	1.2
Licensed Pumps	2.5	10.6
Lower Darling	0.2	.9
TOTAL	5.7	47.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	3.3	5
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.1	29
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.2	4
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.8	16
TOTAL	28.5	54

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	(4 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	28.2	
Flow so far this month	100	
Flow last month	109	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	140	140	110
Euston	100	100	100
Red Cliffs	70	60	50
Merbein	70	60	60
Burtundy (Darling)	370	360	350
Lock 9	110	110	120
Lake Victoria	190	200	200
Berri	280	280	300
Waikerie	500	500	480
Morgan	490	490	470
Mannum	510	510	510
Murray Bridge	500	500	530
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 210	1 070	960
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	810	980	1 050
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 000	2 000	2 000
Goolwa Barrages	1 650	1 620	2 570



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	-	-	-	3 030	F	3 460	2 890
Jingellic	4.0	1.92	208.44	6 710	F	7 780	8 140
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.61	219.50	6 100	S	6 240	6 610
Heywoods	5.5	1.19	154.82	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.73	150.20	2 200	F	2 340	3 240
Albury	4.3	0.84	148.28	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.89	126.91	2 450	F	2 840	3 330
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.62	116.66	8 990	F	10 210	11 210
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 550	F	11 270	11 720
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.18	80.73	6 410	S	6 420	8 110
Swan Hill	4.5	1.16	64.08	5 390	F	6 110	8 760
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.14	52.26	8 680	F	9 930	10 850
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.79	43.63	8 760	F	9 960	10 210
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.18	12 000	F	13 500	11 530
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.17	27.93	9 620	S	9 520	9 420
Rufus Junction	-	2.96	19.89	3 530	R	3 550	3 590
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 430	R	2 720	3 630
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.72	154.95	1 830	F	2 000	3 010
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.49	147.17	5 198	F	6 660	9 470
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.35	92.77	670	F	780	850
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 380	F	2 790	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	2.95	58.33	2 640	S	2 600	2 030
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.57	55.06	639	R	490	220
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.38	56.34	154	R	150	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.18	-	30	S	20	20
Darling at Bourke	-	3.98	-	72	S	80	120
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	18	S	20	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	11 960	13 560
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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	-0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+0.68
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.11	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.38	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.32
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.53	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.09	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.11	+0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	-0.03

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.16	0.42	69.77	155
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.29	0.13	61.43	252

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.85	3



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