

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 February 2004

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

5 February, 2004



## ***Rainfall***

Further widespread rain was recorded in the Darling River System, with highest falls of up to 100 mm on the northern fringe of the Murray-Darling Basin. Isolated showers of up to 25 mm were recorded in the southern part of the Basin generally around the ranges but there were no significant rises in streamflow.

## ***Darling River System***

Floodwaters from rain in the northern parts of the Basin in January are progressing along the Darling River System. Flow in the Barwon River at Mungindi rapidly declined from a peak of 17 000 ML/day (29 January) to about 6 000 ML/day by 4 February, equivalent to a 1 m decline in river gauge height over that time. Further downstream, the Barwon at Walgett peaked on 4 February at a flow of about 32 000 ML/day, where levels reached slightly below minor flood level (see attached diagram). Bureau of Meteorology predictions for sites on the Darling River are for river heights to peak below minor flood levels. Whilst, storage levels at Lake Wetherell have risen slightly since mid January, the inflow peak is expected to reach Menindee Lakes in about late February.

Recent preliminary advice from the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources indicated that this flow event is likely to contribute about 300 GL additional inflow to Menindee Lakes. As a result, flows in transit are currently not sufficient to raise the storage to a volume (640 GL) where resources would again become available to the Commission, and control of release would revert to the Commission. NSW has maintained release from Menindee Lakes at about 200 ML/day, in anticipation of increased inflows to the lakes in coming weeks. When increased inflows of less saline water arrive at the lakes, the Department intends to increase release to the lower Darling for dilution of river salinity and for environmental benefit particularly for fish.

## ***Upper Murray Storages***

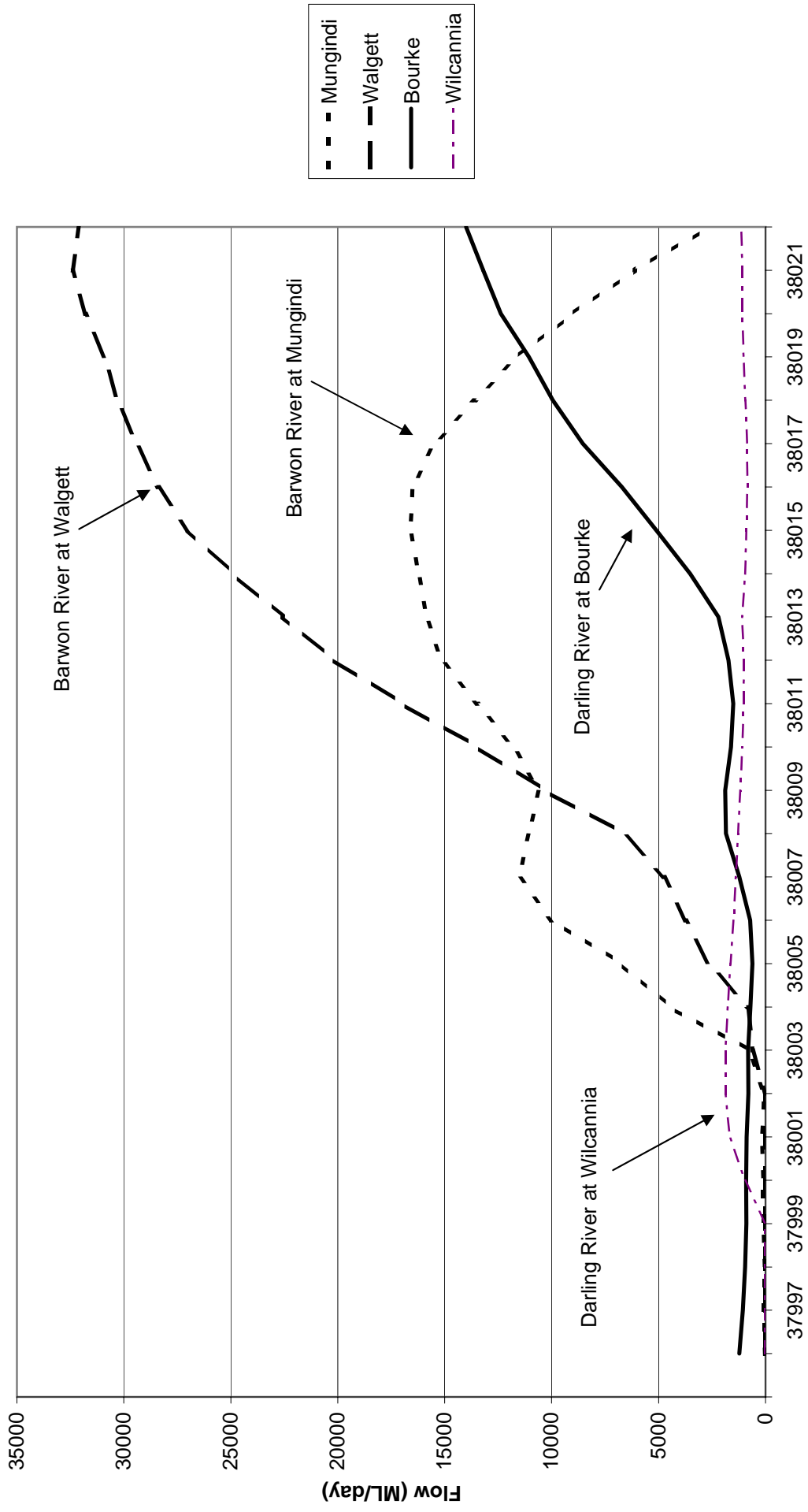
Release from Hume Reservoir has continued in the range 16 000 to 18 000 ML/day to meet downstream requirements including ongoing transfer of resources to Lake Victoria. Hume storage has declined by 108 GL (or about 3% of capacity) to 46% of capacity - this compares with a storage of only 5% of capacity at the same time last year. Total MDBC active storage is currently 42%, which compares with 23% for the same time last year.

## ***Fish Kill in Goulburn River***

Reports have been received of a fish kill in mid January in the Goulburn River in the vicinity of Goulburn Weir. A number of fish species were recorded dead, including Murray Cod, Trout Cod and Silver Perch along with mussels. While conclusive evidence as to the cause of the event is not available, the most likely cause has been attributed to a temporary low level of dissolved oxygen. The oxygen levels have now returned to normal, and it is expected that water quality in the River Murray will not be adversely affected by these conditions on the Goulburn River.

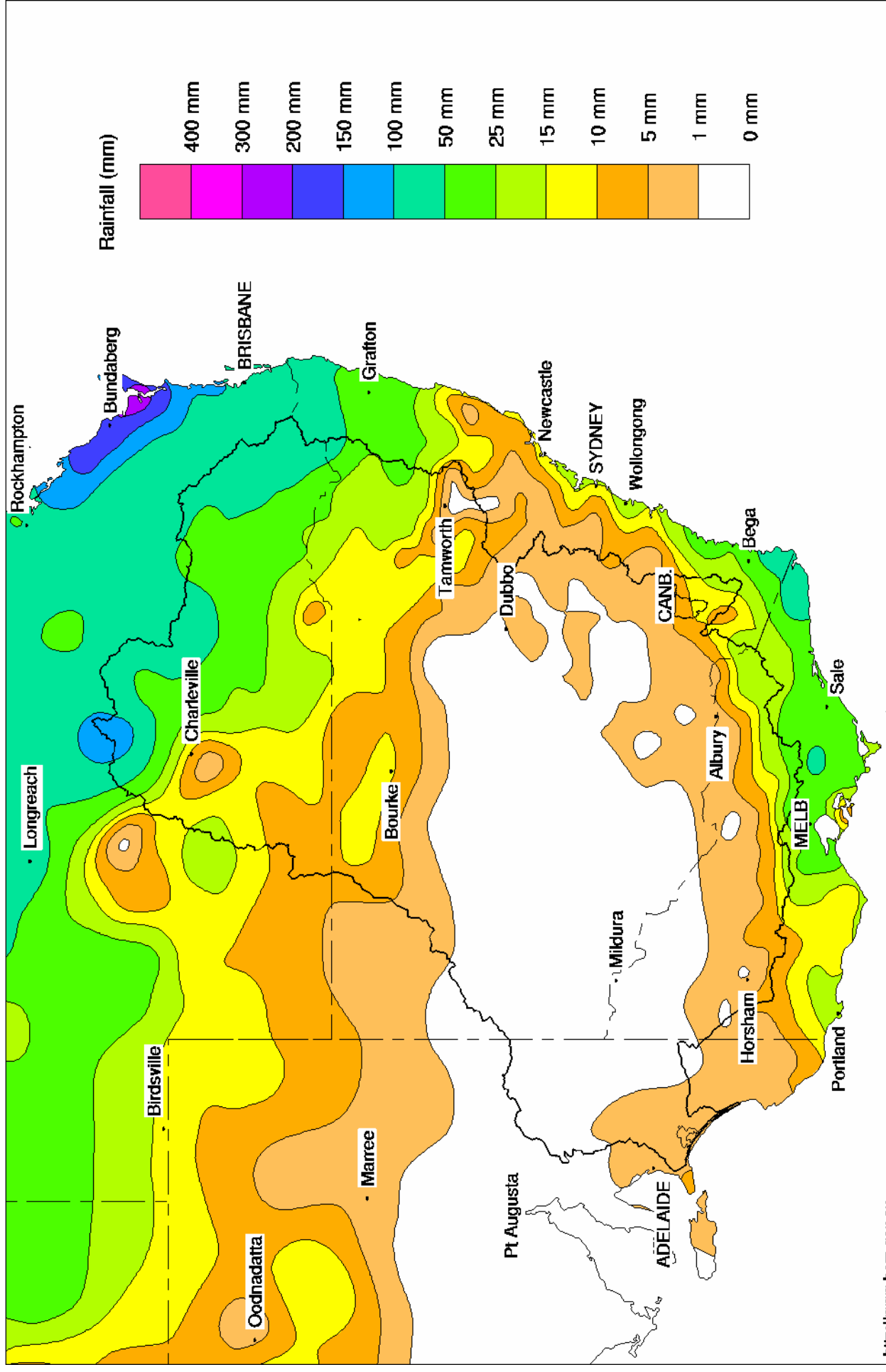
DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

### Darling River System : Selected Flows in Early 2004



# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th February 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	448.27	1 873	48%	80	1 793	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	181.91	1 392	46%	30	1 362	-108
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.71	433	64%	100	333	-28
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		64	4%	640 #	0	+5
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 227</b>		<b>3 761</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>3 487</b>	<b>-126</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **42%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	465	45%	3	462	-14
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	560	34%	24	536	-62
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 191	35%	100	1 091	-50

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Feb-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 863	+2	Snowy-Murray	+5	564
Snowy-Murray Component	1 097	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	254
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	3.3	310
			Murray 1 Release	+8	877

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	27.9	485.1
Wakool System loss	2.5	18.5
Western Murray Irrig.	1.1	18.0
Licensed Pumps	9.4	134.9
Lower Darling	0.5	7.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41.5</b>	<b>663.6</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	13.2	210
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.5	375
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.0	99
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	19
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.8	139
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44.0</b>	<b>843</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	194	
Flow this week	48.6	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	27	
Flow last month	224	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	80	80	110
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	130
Merbein	150	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	3 910	3 810	2 230
Lock 9	160	160	170
Lake Victoria	230	240	230
Berri	250	240	270
Waikerie	340	340	400
Morgan	370	380	420
Mannum	440	440	440
Murray Bridge	470	480	490
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 120	1 150	1 100
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	-	1 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	-	1 560
Goolwa Barrages	1 870	1 910	2 190



**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	-	-	-	1 320	R	1 290	2 000
Jingellic	4.0	1.37	207.89	2 430	R	2 240	3 050
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.41	218.30	760	F	840	810
Heywoods	5.5	3.23	156.86	18 330	R	16 900	17 100
Doctors Point	5.5	3.37	151.84	18 700	R	17 090	17 540
Albury	4.3	2.40	149.84	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.26	129.28	17 300	F	17 990	17 910
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.80	116.84	10 300	S	10 300	10 090
Tocumwal	6.4	2.32	106.16	10 910	R	10 820	10 540
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.03	80.58	5 900	R	5 520	5 120
Swan Hill	4.5	1.07	63.99	4 810	R	4 650	4 410
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.75	51.87	7 000	R	7 040	7 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.35	43.19	6 210	R	6 310	7 020
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.89	5 160	F	5 270	5 870
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	4 050	R	4 410	4 760
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 450	R	6 560	6 920
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 500	S	4 400	4 240
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.81	154.04	410	R	390	650
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.91	145.59	595	F	640	680
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.58	93.00	1 015	R	900	620
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 230	F	2 180	2 170
Edward at Liewah	-	2.51	57.89	1 960	F	2 060	2 510
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.49	54.98	468	F	590	880
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.47	56.43	180	S	180	140
Barwon at Mungindi	-	5.43	-	6 790	F	12 820	13 600
Darling at Bourke	-	5.70	-	13 302	R	9 650	2 110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.27	-	0	F	0	0

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 450	3 090
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**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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.05	+1.15
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.03	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.09	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.63
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.06	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.01

<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	-0.18	0.72	70.07	421
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.60	0.21	61.51	324

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.70	All closed



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