

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 5 May 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/bwh
Trim Ref : 04/5129DO

6 May, 2004



Rainfall and System Inflows

The Bureau of Meteorology recently reported that the southern portion of the Murray-Darling Basin is the only area in Australia with a severe rainfall deficiency over the three month period February to April 2004 inclusive compared with historical records (see diagram attached).

Inflows to the River Murray System (but excluding inflows to Menindee Lakes) remain very low, with April 2004 being the lowest for that month on record. 'Natural' inflow to Hume Reservoir, and River Murray System inflows (including from tributaries, but excluding Menindee inflows and transfer from Snowy Mountains Scheme) for various periods to April 2004 are summarised below:

	Inflow Level (% chance of exceedance) (i.e. % of years that inflow is greater than the recorded inflow for period)				
	Apr 2004 (1 month)	Jan 2004 to Apr 2004 (3 months)	May 2003 to Apr 2004 (12 months)	May 2002 to Apr 2004 (2 years)	May 2001 to Apr 2004 (3 years)
Hume natural inflow	99% (near min.)	97% (very low)	55% (near median)	92%	95% (very low)
Murray system inflow * (excluding Menindee Lakes inflows & Snowy Scheme transfer)	Lowest on record	97% (very low)	68%	93%	98% (very low)

* Inflow levels for the River Murray System determined from the full historical record adjusted by modelling tributary inflows (but excluding inflows to Menindee Lakes) to current the level of irrigation development.

System Operation

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir was reduced to minimum of 200 ML/day on 29 April. Whilst river flow is low, Goulburn-Murray Water will undertake scheduled maintenance at Dartmouth Dam on the High Level Outlet Works. Southern Hydro is also undertaking scheduled maintenance on the hydro-electric power station at Dartmouth. The regulating pondage downstream of the main dam is providing the Mitta Mitta flow requirement whilst the high level outlets are temporarily unavailable.

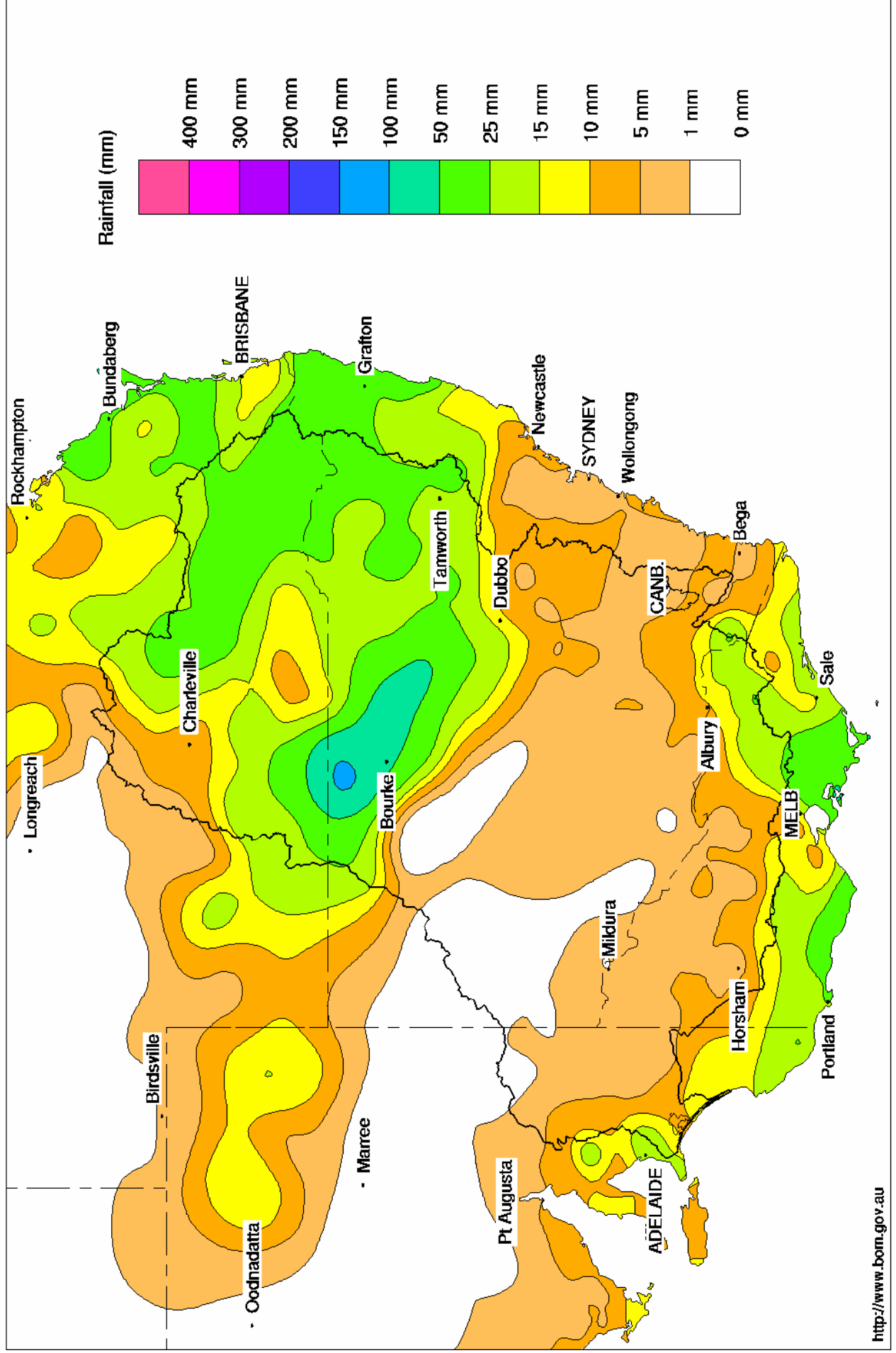
After being reduced from 8 000 ML/day over the week, release from Hume Reservoir is being held near 5 000 ML/day in view of the very low tributary inflows downstream, and the need to maintain sufficient Murray flow to meet existing irrigation demand, and to assist in supplying the entitlement flow to South Australia. Release from Hume is often lower, or near minimum, at this time of year.

The initial salinity peak generated by the salinity spike of the lower Darling River in March reached (on 5 May) a point 10 km downstream of Lock 2 (Waikerie) at a level of 460 EC (compared with the long term May average of 600 EC at Lock 2). The second peak arising from the Darling spike is now between Lock 3 and Lock 2 at a level of 420 EC. Further upstream, salinity at Lock 6 near the South Australian border has declined to 250 EC (or 180 EC below the May average of 430 EC)

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

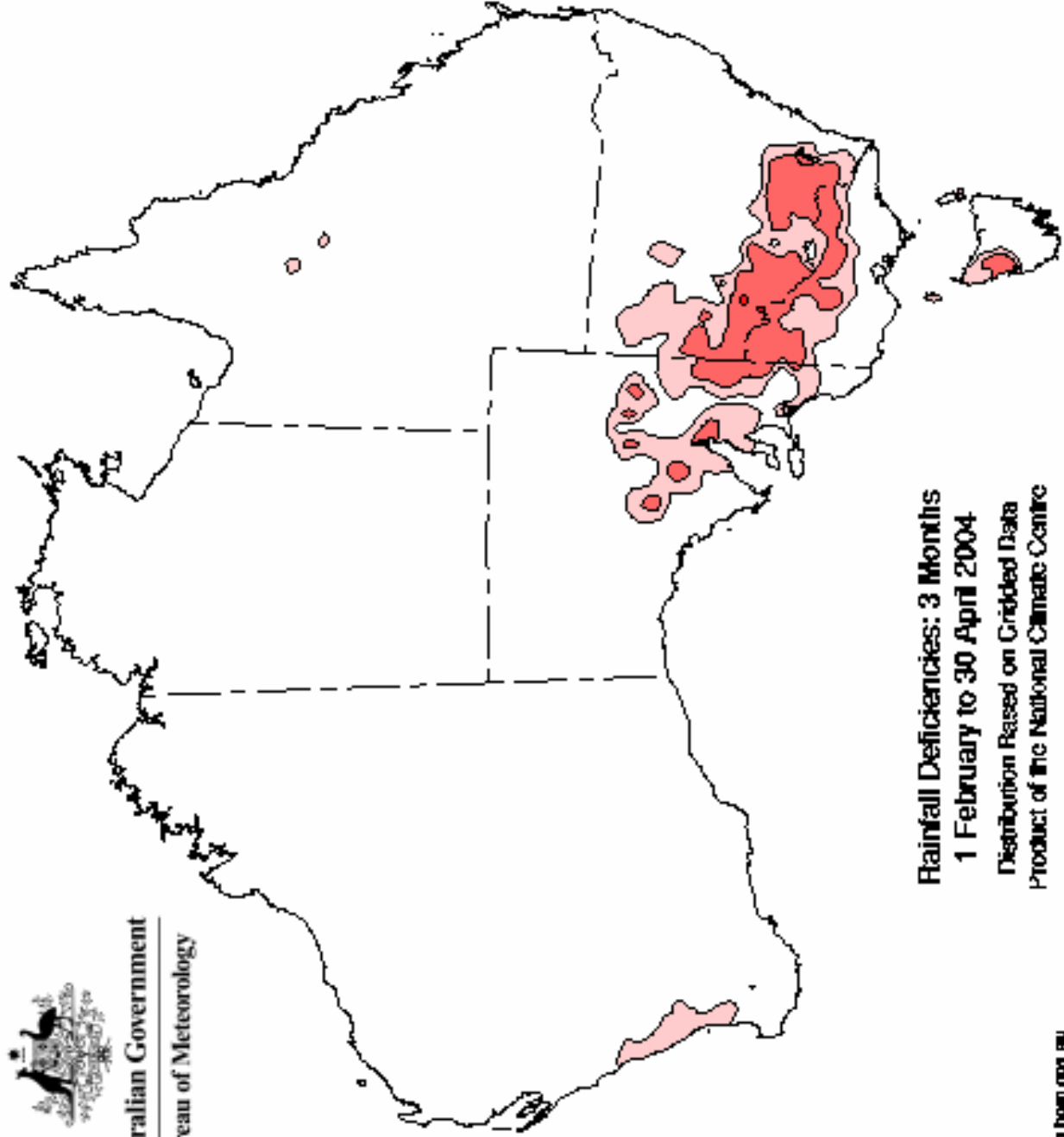
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 5th May 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre

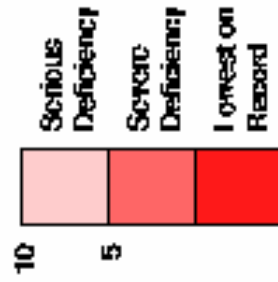




Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology



Rainfall Percentile Ranking



Rainfall Deficiencies: 3 Months
1 February to 30 April 2004
Distribution Based on Gridded Data
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	447.34	1 834	47%	80	1 754	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.30	237	8%	30	207	-8
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.57	223	33%	100	123	+5
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		347	22%	640 #	0	-2
Total		9 227		2 640	29%	850	2 083	-2

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **25%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	406	40%	3	403	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	150	9%	24	126	-15
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	623	18%	100	523	-11

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-May-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 819	-4	Snowy-Murray	+12	7
Snowy-Murray Component	964	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	11.3	7
			Murray 1 Release	+17	8

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	7.9	864.7
Wakool System loss	1.3	52.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	29.0
Licensed Pumps	12.9	287.6
Lower Darling	4.4	24.2
TOTAL	26.9	1 257.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	6.9	364
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.4	582
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.7	153
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	46
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.5	194
TOTAL	23.2	1 338

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	23.8	(3 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	15	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	100	100	100
Euston	130	110	110
Red Cliffs	100	100	130
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	490	480	2 040
Lock 9	170	170	180
Lake Victoria	280	290	240
Berri	340	370	280
Waikerie	-	410	370
Morgan	380	380	400
Mannum	420	420	440
Murray Bridge	470	470	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 100	1 090	1 130
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	690	750	1 050
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 400	2 490	1 740
Goolwa Barrages	1 880	2 050	2 100



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	-	-	-	1 770	F	2 290	2 610
Jingellic	4.0	1.38	207.90	2 500	F	3 070	2 900
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.25	218.14	460	F	510	630
Heywoods	5.5	1.95	155.58	4 640	R	4 800	9 880
Doctors Point	5.5	2.14	150.61	4 910	R	5 140	9 630
Albury	4.3	1.17	148.61	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.42	127.44	5 120	S	6 890	11 260
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.99	116.03	5 020	S	5 040	5 320
Tocumwal	6.4	1.45	105.29	5 140	S	5 170	5 700
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.18	79.73	2 840	S	2 960	2 900
Swan Hill	4.5	0.74	63.66	2 670	S	2 670	3 150
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.71	50.83	3 110	R	3 190	4 260
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.71	42.55	2 940	S	3 170	4 320
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.82	3 090	F	3 230	3 630
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.82	27.58	3 020	R	3 200	3 360
Rufus Junction	-	2.72	19.65	2 180	F	2 820	3 600
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 330	S	2 500	3 050
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.86	154.09	460	R	420	250
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.83	145.51	449	F	420	370
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	450	F	480	430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	170	S	200	150
Edward at Liewah	-	0.70	56.08	310	S	300	490
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.41	54.90	322	F	390	470
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	253	S	270	290
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	70	R	80	130
Darling at Bourke	-	4.24	-	1 213	F	1 410	1 020
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.80	-	305	R	270	240

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 900	1 030
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+0.45
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.31
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.18	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.25

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.28	0.5	69.85	211
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.84	0.09	61.39	220

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.58	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.56	All closed

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

