

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 7 January 2004

Our Ref: RMW305/01/01/:ng

9 January, 2004



Rainfall & Inflows

Light falls of rain were received across the southern half of the Murray-Darling Basin with the heaviest falls of up to 20 mm recorded in the upper Murrumbidgee catchment. Little or no runoff was generated in the upper Murray catchments and tributary inflows are continuing to recede.

River Murray System Operation

Streamflows across the upper Murray were relatively high during the month of December 2003. Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir in December was at a level which is exceeded in only 1 year in 10 on average. Inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers in December were also quite high and at a level normally exceeded in 1 year in 5 on average. Inflow conditions across the River Murray upstream of Yarrowonga Weir have been about average for the season to date (June to December inclusive) with total inflows about 2-3 times higher than those observed in the corresponding period last year.

In addition to these welcome improvements in streamflows, there have been numerous rainfall events over the major irrigation areas throughout the months of October, November and December which have suppressed losses and the demand for irrigation releases from Hume Reservoir. The combined result of the good streamflows and low irrigation demands is that storage in Hume is currently quite healthy and the need for large transfers of water from Dartmouth Reservoir has diminished considerably. Release from Dartmouth is currently averaging about 1 500 ML/day and will now only be increased under very dry conditions.

In contrast to the good streamflows upstream of Yarrowonga Weir, inflows to the River Murray from tributaries downstream of the Barmah choke have been extremely low this season. Inflow from the Murrumbidgee River for the season to date has been the lowest on record with a total of 52 GL. This is about 30 GL less than the previous minimum observed in 1940. The total inflow from the Murrumbidgee for the 2003 calendar year was exceptionally low at 88 GL which is about half of the previous minimum on record (161 GL) set in 2002. The extremely low inflows are a result of the very dry conditions across the Murrumbidgee which have also resulted in the lowest allocations on record.

The low inflows downstream of the Choke this season have resulted in the need to maintain transfers from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria at maximum possible rates. These transfers are required to ensure adequate supply to all river users downstream of the choke including the delivery of entitlement flow to South Australia.

Water Quality

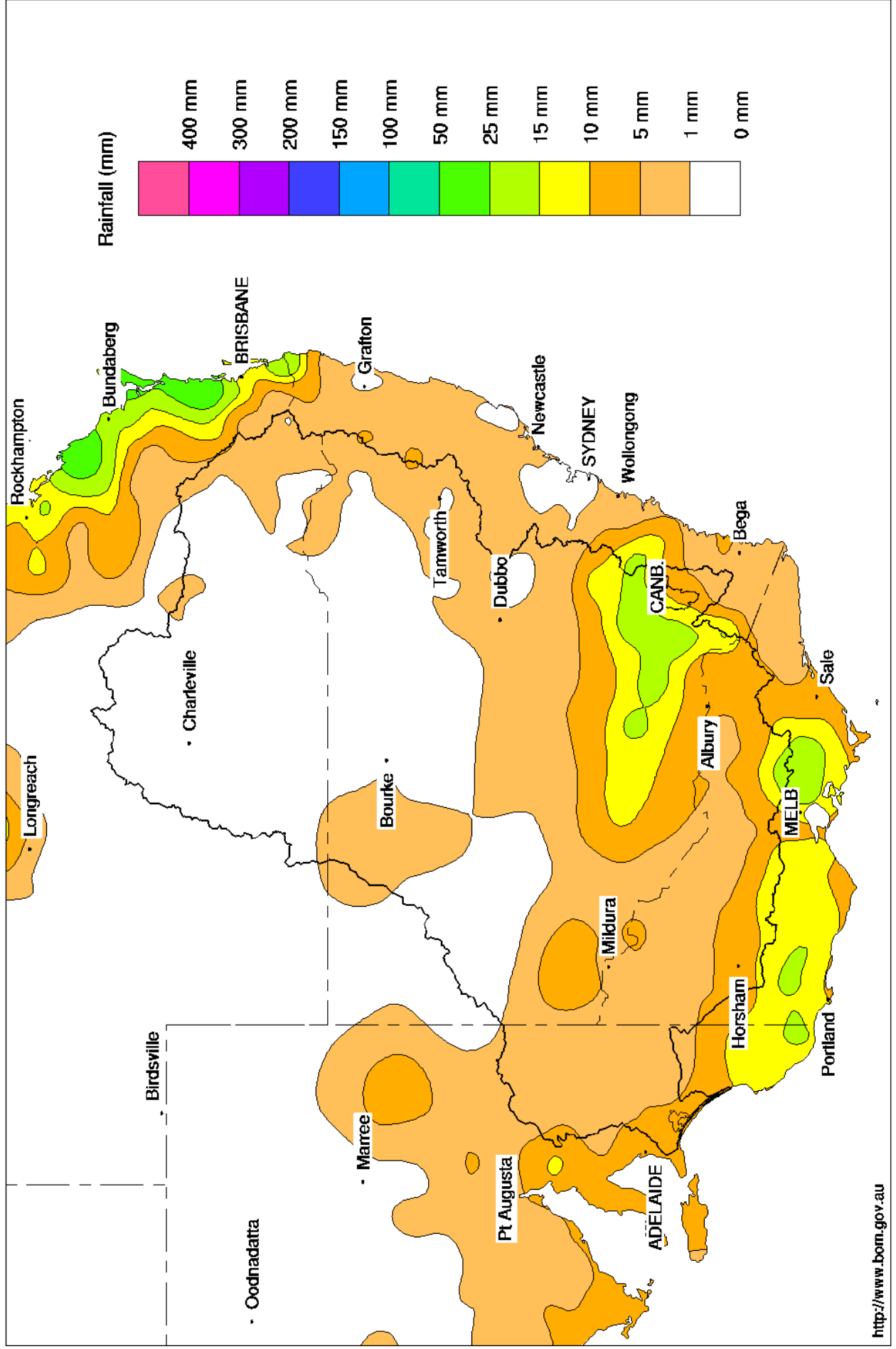
Blue-green algae counts are generally in the low to medium alert level range across most of the River Murray system, with medium to high alert levels present in the lower Darling River downstream of Menindee Lakes. Counts are generally low in South Australia however rising in the lower Lakes. River salinities remain at low levels across the system excluding the lower Darling River and the lower Lakes in South Australia. The low levels are due to low irrigation returns and inflows from the normally more saline tributaries downstream of the Barmah Choke as well as the low salinity flows coming from Hume Reservoir and the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers.

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Murray Daring Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 7th January 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 07 Jan 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	448.06	1 864	48%	80	1 784	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	184.76	1 783	59%	30	1 753	-92
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.49	515	76%	100	415	-7
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		31	2%	640 #	0	-2
Total		9 227		4 192	45%	850	3 951	-101

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **47%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		506	49%	3	503	-10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		785	48%	24	761	-58
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 342	40%	100	1 242	-36

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 06-Jan-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 847	+9	Snowy-Murray	+3	546
Snowy-Murray Component	1 097	+5	Tooma-Tumut	+4	239
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	-1.1	306
			Murray 1 Release	+5	844

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	32.4	364.6
Wakool System loss	0.0	14.0
Western Murray Irrig.	1.5	12.9
Licensed Pumps	8.2	106.1
Lower Darling	0.9	5.8
TOTAL	43.0	503.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	16.9	153
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.9	293
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	8.4	73
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	14
Licensed pumps - SRW	0.0	111
TOTAL	51.9	644

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	49.4	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	49	
Flow last month	224	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	140	110	110
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	120	140	140
Merbein	150	160	140
Burtundy (Darling)	2 580	2 700	1 930
Lock 9	160	160	170
Lake Victoria	230	220	230
Berri	260	260	280
Waikerie	-	370	410
Morgan	380	390	420
Mannum	-	-	440
Murray Bridge	470	460	490
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 210	1 130	1 080
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 140	1 110	1 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 610	1 680	1 550
Goolwa Barrages	1 850	1 960	2 230



River Levels and Flows

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 270	R	1 240	1 350
Jingellic	4.0	1.47	207.99	3 070	F	3 340	5 690
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.13	219.02	3 340	F	2 290	2 440
Heywoods	5.5	3.20	156.83	18 330	R	17 150	11 050
Doctors Point	5.5	3.44	151.91	19 600	R	18 030	12 160
Albury	4.3	2.48	149.92	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.48	129.50	19 000	R	17 660	13 290
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.82	116.86	10 500	S	10 530	13 390
Tocumwal	6.4	2.35	106.19	11 130	R	11 140	14 730
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.75	80.30	4 850	S	5 110	7 410
Swan Hill	4.5	1.01	63.93	4 380	F	5 360	7 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.23	52.35	9 100	F	10 040	10 620
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.04	43.88	10 350	R	10 050	9 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.09	9 300	F	8 810	8 150
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.02	27.78	7 400	R	6 980	6 850
Rufus Junction	-	3.48	20.41	6 630	R	6 680	6 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 960	R	4 410	5 380
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.44	154.67	1 290	R	1 150	1 630
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.32	146.00	1 621	F	1 890	3 940
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.23	92.65	490	R	470	790
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 920	F	2 920	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	3.04	58.42	2 780	S	2 810	2 840
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.84	55.33	1 450	S	1 480	1 360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.14	58.10	1 960	F	2 120	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	F	240	900
Darling at Bourke	-	4.33	-	1 839	F	2 370	810
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	18	S	20	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	4 960	12 400
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.16
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.29	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.69
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.38	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.02

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	0.53	69.88	235
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.1	62.4	1360

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.60	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.67	All closed

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

