

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 13 December 2000

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :BWH

15 December, 2000



Warm and dry conditions prevailed throughout the River Murray catchment, and irrigation demand has remained high along the River Murray. Light rainfall was recorded throughout much of the northern and eastern areas of the Murray-Darling Basin.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been maintained at an average of 20 000 ML/day to meet irrigation requirements as well as environmental requirements for the Barmah-Millewa Forest. Release is now being increased toward channel capacity at Albury in order to meet a recent increase in irrigation demand. Storage in Hume is currently declining at an average of about 15 GL per day, and is now 2 757 GL (91% of capacity).

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced from 18 500 to 16 000 ML/day on 9 December, and then reduce to 15 000 ML/day on 14 December in line with the current flow requirements for the forest specified by the Barmah-Millewa Forum.

Following the passing of the November flow peak, flow in the River Murray at Torrumbarry has further declined to 11 000 ML/day, and will continue to slowly fall next week. Further downstream, flow at Euston has declined from the recent peak of 51 000 ML/day to 46 000 ML/day (a fall in level of 0.4 m), and will continue to steadily fall next week as a result of flow recessions of the Murray and Wakool Rivers.

Floodwater is continuing to progress through the Darling River system, and flow in the Barwon River peaked at Brewarrina on 13 December at about 65 000 ML/day (1.76 m above moderate flood level). Downstream, flow in the Darling River at Bourke has increased from 38 000 to 60 000 ML/day over the week, and is expected to peak at about 80 000 ML/day on about 20 December. Further downstream, inflow to Menindee Lakes has gradually risen to about 15 000 ML/day, and is expected to peak at about 25 000 in late December. Release from Menindee Lakes is being maintained at about 20 000 ML/day in order to reduce the storage volume prior to the arrival of the inflow peak. Inflow and storage will be reviewed next week, however, based on current inflow projections it is expected that reductions in release from Menindee Lakes will commence before the end of December.

Flow in the River Murray at Wentworth, immediately downstream of the Darling junction, peaked at about 58 000 ML/day on 13 December which included a contribution of about 11 000 ML/day from the lower Darling River. Flow to South Australia is again being enhanced by release from Lake Victoria to provide environmental benefits from inundation of the floodplain in South Australia (see copy of Media Release attached). This operation is similar to the operation undertaken with the previous but smaller Murray peak in October. As a result, flow to South Australia has risen to about 61 000 ML/day by 14 December, and is now expected to be increased to a peak of about 64 000 ML/day (a little higher than previously anticipated) over the next couple of days.

In the period July to November inclusive, flow to South Australia totalled 3 190 GL. This included about 720 GL (or 23%) of entitlement flow, 460 GL (or 14%) of additional dilution flow, and the remaining 2 010 GL (or 63%) was 'above entitlement' flow resulting from flood water passing along the River Murray.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager



MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 11 December 2000

Enhancement of Flow in the River Murray in South Australia

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission has agreed to enhance the peak flow to South Australia through the operation of Lake Victoria. River Murray Water General Manager, David Dole, announced this today in conjunction with the SA Department of Water Resources and SA Water. A similar operation of Lake Victoria occurred in October this year and this is the first season that Lake Victoria has been operated to enhance the peak flow to South Australia since it was commissioned in 1928.

Recent rain throughout the River Murray catchment has combined to produce a significant flow in the River Murray as it approaches the South Australian border. Following widespread rain in the upper Murray and tributaries in October 2000, a peak flow in the River Murray is now approaching the Murray-Darling junction at Wentworth. In response to recent widespread flooding in northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, pre-releases from the Menindee Lakes on the Darling River commenced in late November 2000 and this water is now combining with Murray flows at Wentworth. As a result of the confluence of these two flows, the combined peak at Wentworth, immediately downstream of the junction, is forecast at approximately 57 000 ML/day at around 12 December 2000.

This operation at Lake Victoria is similar to the enhancement of a smaller peak flow to South Australia that occurred during October this year. This current enhancement is expected to produce significant environmental benefits from inundation of the River Murray floodplain in South Australia, particularly in the Chowilla area. After the passing of the flow peak, Lake Victoria will be refilled to secure future water availability to South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales in the River Murray system.

South Australian agencies are arranging for monitoring of the floodplain to be undertaken during this event. In addition, monitoring of any impacts on the community and infrastructure will be undertaken.

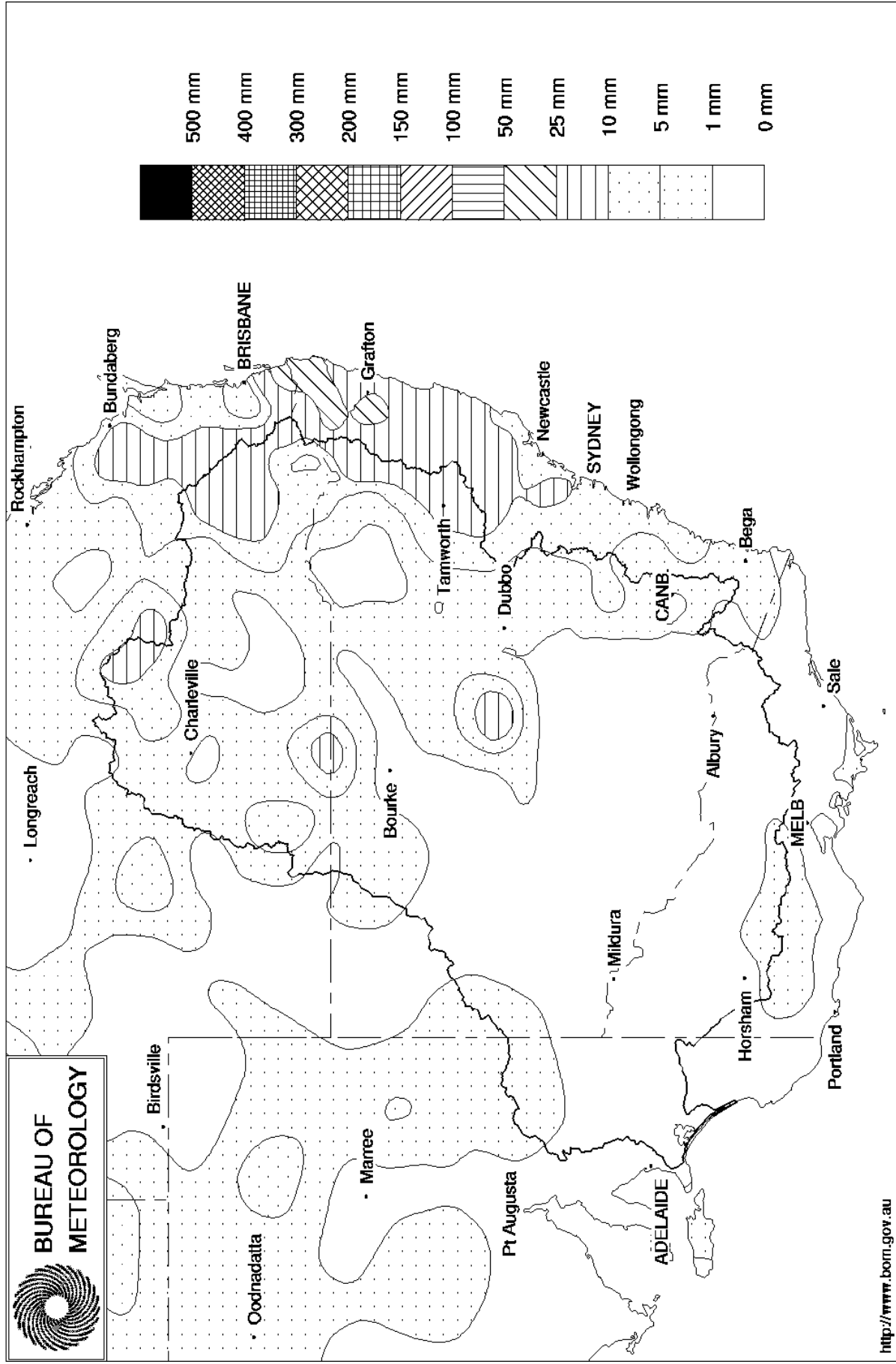
River Murray Water and SA Water will arrange for release from Lake Victoria to be increased to coincide with the arrival of the peak in the River Murray. The peak flow to South Australia in the absence of this operation would have been about 52 000 ML/day. With the supplementary flow from Lake Victoria, the flow to South Australia is expected to peak at about 60 000 ML/day. This peak flow is expected to reach the South Australian border around 12-15 December 2000 and will take about two weeks to reach the Murray Mouth.

For further information contact:

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 13th December 2000

Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Week ending 13-Dec-2000

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level m AHD	Full Supply Capacity GL	Storage Level m AHD	Current Storage		Dead storage GL	Active storage GL	Change for the week GL
				GL	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3906	472.71	3090	79%	80	3010	+6
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	190.57	2757	91%	30	2727	-108
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.22	593	87%	100	493	-39
Menindee		1682 *		1671	99%	480 #	1191	-106
Total		9306		8112	87%	690	7422	-246

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **86%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	872	85%	3	869	-41
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1334	82%	24	1310	-21
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1765	52%	100	1665	-27

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-Dec-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3077	+20	Snowy-Murray	+3	525
Snowy-Murray Component	1533	+9	Tooma-Tumut	+4	288
Target Storage	1510		Nett Diversion	-1.7	237
			Murray 1 Release	+11	855

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	70.2	586.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.4
Western Murray Irrig.	1.4	9.1
Licensed Pumps	9.9	106.6
Lower Darling	14.2	151.1
TOTAL	95.6	857.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	21.7	142.8
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	27.0	281.2
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	8.0	52.2
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	13.0
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.0	69.4
TOTAL	63.2	558.6

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217
Flow this week	383.6
Flow so far this month	651
Flow last month	809

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	160	164	219
Euston	170	173	195
Red Cliffs	230	240	233
Merbein	190	200	193
Burtundy	590	534	429
Lock 9	250	239	221
L. Victoria	290	278	300
Berri	290	296	291
Waikerie	310	300	338
Morgan	330	291	338
Mannum	250	258	336
Murray Bridge	260	279	335
Meningie	1500	1340	1279
Goolwa Barrages	520	568	1495



Week ending 13-Dec-2000

River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage m	Gauge height m	Flow ML/day	Trend	Average flow this week ML/day	Average flow last week ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	2350	R	1310	2840
Jingellic	4.0	1.57	3880	F	4730	8240
Tallando (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.64	1440	F	1590	2000
Heywoods	5.5	3.43	20340	R	19770	24560
Doctors Point	5.5	3.72	23000	R	22270	26610
Albury	4.3	2.77	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.85	22000	F	24340	26640
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.45	16000	S	17100	19570
Tocumwal	6.4	3.11	16760	F	18300	21380
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.29	10747	F	14150	20690
Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.95	2040	F	2920	7236
Swan Hill	4.5	2.44	14050	F	17880	23040
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.44	33917	F	39720	47060
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	5.66	45910	F	48990	51040
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.07	57600	R	55940	47730
Rufus Junction	-	7.28	60399	R	54800	43820
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	n/a	F	36860	32070
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.57	1660	R	1380	1740
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.63	2282	F	2640	3900
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.31	625	R	640	1050
Edward at Liewah	-	3.88	4330	F	5310	6870
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.51	10200	F	14370	20430
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.69	380	F	480	780
Darling at Bourke	-	11.38	60400	R	48560	31700
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	5.29	11600	R	10240	4990
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.14	0	F	3760	8740

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7470	12260
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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	+0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+2.13	-28.25
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.28	+2.84
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+2.53
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+2.72	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.40	+3.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+3.43	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+2.64
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.29	+2.94	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.12	+2.72
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+1.20	+3.59	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+1.81

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.11	0.44	130
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.03	1.07	1320

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	30
Mundoo	26 openings	0.74	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.74	50

