

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 July 2000

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng 21 July, 2000



Light falls of rain were recorded across the southern half of the Basin this week. Falls in the South Australian and Victorian parts of the Basin exceeded 10 mm with only minor falls recorded in southern and central New South Wales.

Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs showed little response to the rain and gradually receded to 2 500 and 15 000 ML/d respectively. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased 16 GL this week and is now 2 182 GL (58% of capacity). Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 4% to 54% of capacity (1 634 GL).

Flows in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers continued to recede throughout the week, minor increases in flow are expected early next week due to rain currently falling. Flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir is therefore expected to be increased next week above the current release of 9 000 ML/d. At this stage releases are not expected to exceed 12 000 ML/d however further rain is forecast and could lead to further increases.

Flow entering the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtakes remained steady at 1 600 and 750 ML/d respectively this week. Whilst there is sufficient flow in the River Murray, the Gulpa Creek offtake will now be maintained at 750 ML/d until late Spring to facilitate bird breeding in Reed Bed Swamp. At Deniliquin, the Stevens Weir pool level has been raised from about 2.0 m to 3.7 m gauge height. Stevens Weir pool will remain at about 3.9 m gauge height in the short term to allow some flow to be passed into the Wakool River system. Coinciding with the refilling of the Stevens Weir pool, the Niemur River offtake was also opened for three days this week to temporarily limit the flow in the Edward River to about 1 000 ML/d, for the purposes of environmental monitoring (by the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre) of several billabongs along the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir.

Inflow to Menindee Lakes is continuing at low rates (currently about 4 000 ML/d at Wilcannia) and is being passed downstream with the lakes at maximum surcharge capacity. Flow in the Darling River at Weir 32 remains at 3 500 ML/d and is expected to stay at about that rate throughout the remainder of July. Flow in the lower Darling at Burtundy is now responding to the releases from Menindee Lakes, rising from 800 to 2 600 ML/d during the week. It is anticipated that flow at Burtundy will level off at about 2 900 ML/d next week.

NSW DLWC will commence replenishment releases to the Great Anabranch of the Darling River on Monday 24 July at a rate of 1000 ML/d. This release is expected to continue at that rate until early August, and will then be cut to 500 ML/d and will remain at that rate until about mid October.

Flow in the mid reaches of the River Murray is 9 500 ML/d at Torrumbarry Weir, 8 800 ML/d at Swan Hill and 11 000 ML/d at Euston Weir. The volume of water currently in transit in the Murray, combined with forecast inflows from the Darling River, is now sufficient to fill Lake Victoria to the full supply level of elevation 27.0 m AHD, with only a small volume of spill of about 50 GL into South Australia. It is now likely that refilling of the Lake will be temporarily slowed or reversed to draw down the Lake and refill using the recession of flows in transit later in the season. When dry conditions return, the Lake will be filled to maximise available resources for next season. The aim of this operation is to minimise the duration of inundation of vegetation at higher levels in the lake, without jeopardising water resources for the coming summer.

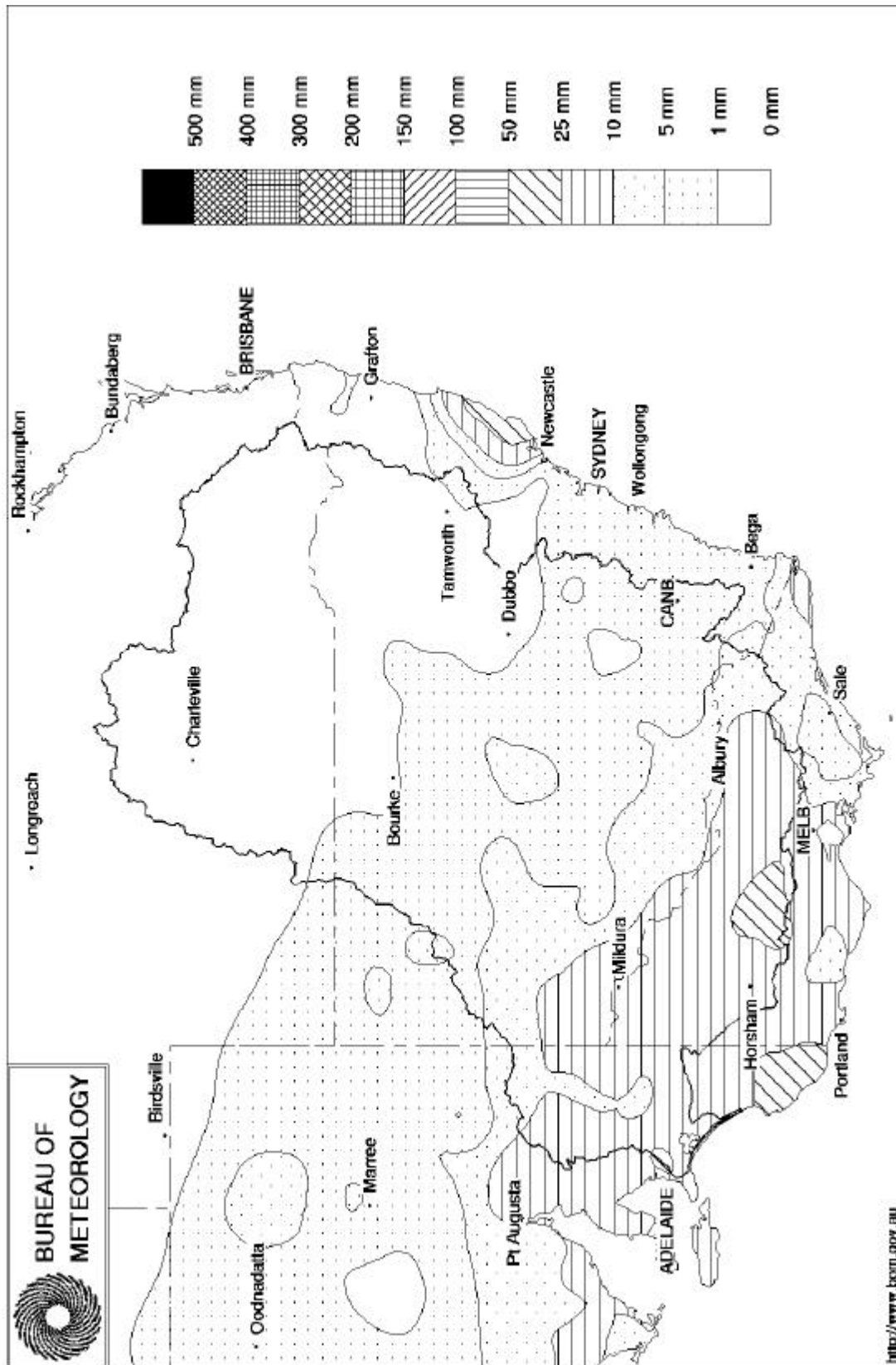
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th July 2000

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	FSL	Full Supply GL	Level m AHD	Storage		Dead storage GL	Active storage GL	Change for week GL
	m AHD			GL	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486	3906	456.93	2262	58%	80	2182	+16
Hume Reservoir	192	3038	183.72	1634	54%	30	1604	+108
Lake Victoria	27	680	25.78	546	80%	100	446	+18
Menindee		1682 *		1998	119%	480 #	1518	-6
Total		9306		6439	69%	690	5749	+137

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 67%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	415	40%	3	412	+5
Blowering Reservoir	1631	800	49%	24	776	+42
Eildon Reservoir	3390	675	20%	100	575	+18

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Jul-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2335	-38	Snowy-Murray	+40	255
Snowy-Murray Component	1151	-37	Tooma-Tumut	+5	51
Target Storage	1170		Nett Diversion	35.4	204
			Murray 1 Release	+44	302

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.0	0.0
Wakool System loss	0.0	0.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	0.2
Licensed Pumps	0.6	1.8
Lower Darling	7.0	6.4
TOTAL	7.6	8.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	0.0
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	0.0
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	0.3
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+U/s)	0.0	0.4
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	4.3
TOTAL	1.7	5.1

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5
Flow this week	47.0
Flow so far this month	124
Flow last month	179

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	160	159	220
Euston	190	174	232
Red Cliffs	220	260	314
Merbein	210	240	300
Burtundy	330	329	416
Lock 9	260	282	342
L.Victoria	320	365	394
Berri	380	360	431
Waikerie	420	430	492
Morgan	490	503	553
Mannum	490	420	507
Murray Bridge	460	533	544
Meningie	-	1240	1259
Goolwa Barrages	1210	1595	1619



River Murray Water

River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
River Murray	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
Khancoban	-	-	6480	F	7360	5820
Jingellic	4.0	2.40	11200	F	12300	12680
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.64	1440	F	1580	1920
Heywoods	5.5	1.26	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.80	2590	R	2900	3700
Albury	4.3	0.89	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.02	3070	F	3630	4700
Yarrowong Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.59	8920	F	10820	11500
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	10383	F	10850	11260
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.98	9510	S	9290	8440
Swan Hill	4.5	1.68	8815	R	8310	8100
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.62	10500	R	9910	8830
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.14	11100	R	10200	8160
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.22	10550	R	9640	8120
Rufus Junction	-	3.47	6121	R	6110	5760
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	6210	F	6040	5590
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.85	2200	R	2460	3050
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.10	3742	F	4470	6000
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.46	845	F	1140	890
Edward at Liewah	-	2.67	2230	R	2020	1140
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.37	290	R	270	270
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.95	610	F	660	280
Darling at Bourke	-	4.40	2520	R	2470	2610
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.65	2570	R	1420	1210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	100	S	100	110

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12810	18930
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Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

Murray	FSL (MAHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (MAHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowong	124.90	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.17	+1.15
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.06	+0.26
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.38	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.83
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.58	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.29
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.09	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.26
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.34	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (MAHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	+0.17	2.44	3760
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.28	0.44	569

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.64	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.79	All closed

