REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 October 2000

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng:bwh **27 October, 2000**

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Widespread moderate to heavy rainfall has resulted in widespread flooding in southern parts of the Basin. Falls of between 50 and 150 mm have been received in the upper Murray and tributary catchments. Bureau of Meteorology Flood Warnings have been issued and remain current for many of the Victorian tributaries of the River Murray as well as the Murray upstream of Barmah and the Edward River. Updates of warnings may be obtained from the Bureau's Website at www.bom.gov.au.

Following rain late last week, and a near full storage, release from Hume Reservoir was increased. This combined with rises in the Kiewa River led to a river level in the River Murray at Albury near minor flood level (4.3 m gauge height) by 21 October. After further significant rainfall on 24 October and Hume storage full, release was increased to 58 000 ML/day to pass flood inflows. Combined with a peak of about 24 000 ML/day from the Kiewa River (near moderate flood level), this resulted in a peak level of the River Murray at Albury of 5.1 m (0.2 m above moderate flood level) by 26 October, and the river level at Albury is now slowly falling. However, as catchments are wet and Hume Reservoir is full, any further heavy rainfall in the near future may lead to renewed rises in downstream river levels.

Heavy rain in the Ovens River catchment produced a peak flow at Wangaratta of about 42 000 ML/day (at moderate flood level) on 26 October. This will combine with the higher River Murray flows upstream, and produce a substantial inflow peak to Lake Mulwala on about 29 October. As a result, release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to 52 000 ML/day on 25 October, and is expected to be increased to near moderate flood level over the next two days.

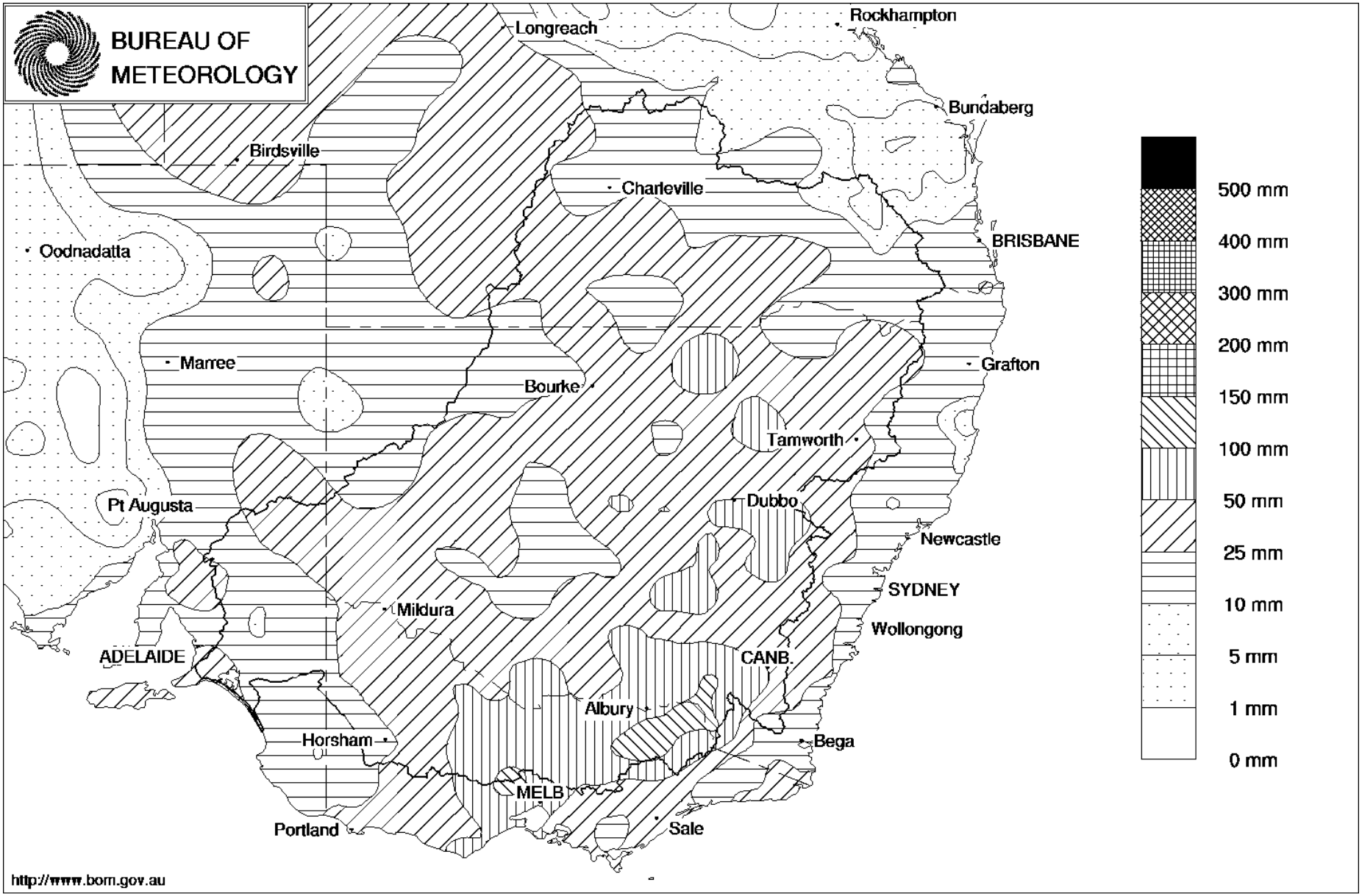
The forecast peak from the Goulburn River to the River Murray (expected by about 31 October with flows in the order of 20 000 ML/day) is much lower than on previous occasions when there have been concurrent significant floods in the River Murray. This is largely because there are no flood releases from Lake Eildon, and this is expected to influence the resulting Murray peak downstream of the Goulburn junction. Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River is currently low at about 500 ML/day, but is expected to rise to more than 5 000 ML/day in early November in response to rainfall in the lower Murrumbidgee catchment. It is currently too early to make a reliable forecast of peak flows in the mid Murray and in South Australia, however, sufficient information will be available next week to enable a preliminary forecast to be made. Current indications are that the peak at Euston will be slightly higher than the peak (35 000 ML/day) experienced in early October.

Observations in floodplain wetlands in along the Murray in South Australia upstream of Lock 5 indicate that environmental benefits have occurred since the recent enhancement of river levels during the passing of the flow peak in mid October. The recent period of increased flow has also reduced the extent of accumulated sand at the Murray Mouth. The recent rises in the Murray downstream of Hume Dam have improved the prospects of achieving some further clearing of the Mouth in coming weeks.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th October 2000

Product of the National Climate Centre



 ID code: IDCRFXMD.2000101920001025.bw.img Issued: 25/10/2000

Week ending 25-Oct-2000

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	FSL	Full Supply	Level	Storage		Dead storage	Active storage	Change for week
	m AHD	GL	m AHD	GL	%	GL	GL	GL
Dartmouth Reservoir	486	3906	468.71	2866	73%	80	2786	+76
Hume Reservoir	192	3038	192.14	3066	101%	30	3036	+56
Lake Victoria	27	680	25.77	545	80%	100	445	+0
Menindee		1682 *		1938	115%	480 #	1458	-5
Total		**9306**		**8414**	**90%**	**690**	**7724**	**+127**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **90%**

\# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026		737	72%	3	734	+74
Blowering Reservoir	1631		1423	87%	24	1399	+63
Eildon Reservoir	3390		1525	45%	100	1425	+66

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Oct-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2782	+91	Snowy-Murray	+9	501
Snowy-Murray Component	1341	+59	Tooma-Tumut	+18	238
Target Storage	1400		Nett Diversion	-9.6	263
			Murray 1 Release	+35	768

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	30.0	341.1
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	3.5
Licensed Pumps	6.5	66.7
Lower Darling	0.1	124.2
TOTAL	**37.0**	**540.0**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	3.6	56.4
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	14.6	209.4
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.5	18.6
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.7	8.3
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.7	41.0
TOTAL	**25.0**	**333.8**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170
Flow this week	222.2
Flow so far this month	823
Flow last month	727

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	190	133	196
Euston	120	122	194
Red Cliffs	180	170	234
Merbein	130	120	189
Burtundy	460	473	420
Lock 9	140	147	229
L.Victoria	290	289	323
Berri	270	275	316
Waikerie	320	320	370
Morgan	320	295	371
Mannum	270	278	370
Murray Bridge	270	303	362
Meningie	1210	1210	1278
Goolwa Barrages	770	1889	1879

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Week ending 25-Oct-2000

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage m	Gauge height m	Flow ML/day	Trend	Average flow this week ML/day	Average flow last week ML/day
Khancoban	-	-	9680	R	9950	6240
Jingellic	4.0	3.66	26150	R	29240	13330
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.06	9230	R	5400	2050
Heywoods	5.5	5.35	49080	R	34150	17280
Doctors Point	5.5	5.90	67300	R	43830	21460
Albury	4.3	4.86	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	5.61	41900	R	30460	21610
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	5.32	52000	R	34090	18210
Tocumwal	6.4	5.02	38010	R	27020	18540
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.11	14430	R	14880	19110
Stevens Weir (d/s)		3.64	5730	R	4291	7450
Swan Hill	4.5	2.71	15960	R	16780	20150
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.34	26100	F	27700	31530
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.33	29850	F	31520	33700
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.74	31500	S	31730	31030
Rufus Junction	-	6.08	30869	F	31740	39880
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	35900	R	35740	31670
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.94	15460	R	7090	3610
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.51	19584	R	17180	4710
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.36	2334	R	1350	1360
Edward at Liewah	-	3.92	4420	F	4710	5650
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.35	6190	F	6790	8700
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.78	460	F	510	610
Darling at Bourke	-	4.23	1150	R	960	1220
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.89	654	F	630	690
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	130	S	200	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	50200	23740

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
Yarrawonga	124.90	+0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.96	+3.77
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+2.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.36	+1.81
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.04	+1.87	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.29	+2.78
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+2.10	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+2.26
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+1.24	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.26	+2.35
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+2.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.16	+1.60

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.44	0.53	210
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.75	0.28	394

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.76	30
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	30
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.80	60

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC