REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 September 2000

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :BWH **21 September, 2000**

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Conditions in upper Murray and tributary catchments were generally warm with little or no rain, and streamflows have steadily receded.

Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir has declined to about 6 GL/day, and storage has risen to 2 620 GL (67 % of capacity), while release has been maintained at the minimum rate of 200 ML/day. RMW planning projections currently indicate that major transfers of water from Dartmouth to augment storage in Hume for irrigation purposes will not be required until about March 2001 if conditions are very dry, and are unlikely to be required this season under wetter conditions.

Release from Hume Reservoir continued in excess of downstream channel capacity most of this week to maintain airspace for mitigation of any further inflow events, and the level of the River Murray at Albury was maintained at 4.2 m (0.1 m below minor flood level) until 18 September. Without Hume Dam in place, the river level at Albury would have peaked on 12 September at about 0.6 m above the actual peak level. As inflow to Hume receded this week, storage reached a peak level of 2 962 GL (76 GL or 0.4 m below full supply level), and has since been drawn down slightly to retain airspace. In response to recent dry conditions and declining inflows, reductions in release from Hume commenced on 18 September aimed at following storage targets with the objective of subsequently filling the storage to maximise future water availability for downstream users. As a result, the river level at Albury will fall to channel capacity (about 3.0 m) by 21 September, and further reductions will be made if there is no further significant rain.

Inflow to Lake Mulwala peaked at 70 000 ML/day on 15 September as a result of the combined effect of the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers and releases from Hume Reservoir. This was passed downstream of Yarrawonga Weir as a peak release of 68 000 ML/day on 15 September, and release has since been reduced to 57 000 ML/day in line with falling inflows. Further downstream, actual and forecast peak river levels are:

River Gauge Location	Date	Peak Flow (ML/day)	Peak Level (m)	Relation to Minor Flood Level (m)
River Murray at Yarrawonga	16/9/00	68 000	6.0	0.4 below
River Murray at Tocumwal	19/9/00	68 000	6.2	0.2 below
Edward River at Deniliquin	(24/9/00)	(23 000)	(5.2) *	(0.6 above)
Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge	17/9/00	19 500	8.1	0.9 below
River Murray at Echuca (AHD)	(25/9/00)	-	(92.3) *	(0.8 below)
River Murray D/S Torrumbarry	19/9/00	28 000	6.5	0.8 below

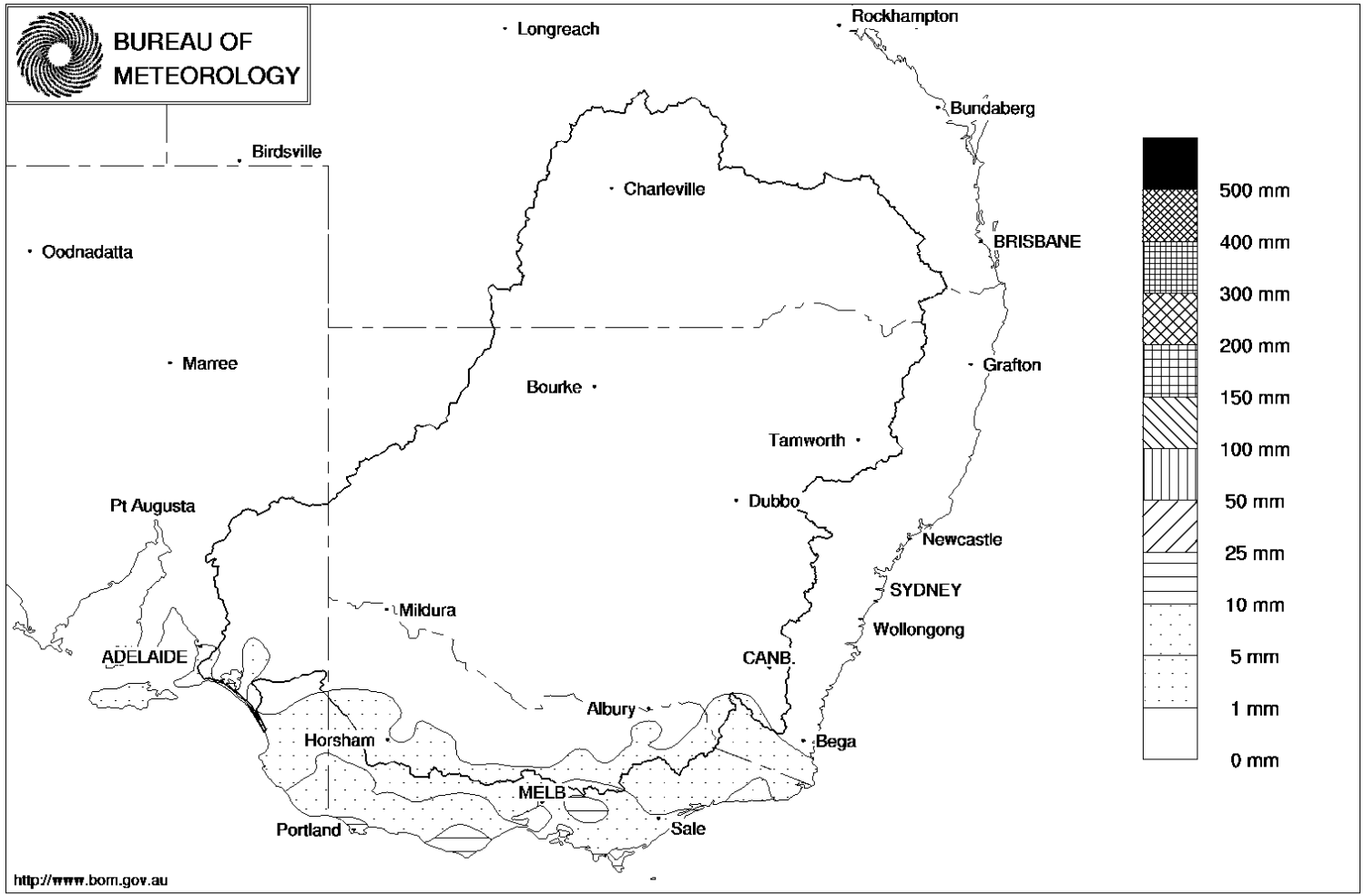
* forecast by Bureau of Meteorology (shown in brackets)

Forecasts for locations downstream of Torrumbarry Weir and Deniliquin will be provided next week, when more information is available. If warm and dry conditions continue, increasing demand for water for irrigation is expected to increase the rate of recession of flows in the River Murray downstream of Yarrawonga Weir and Torrumbarry Weir, and in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th September 2000

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending 20-Sep-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	464.16	2622	67%	80	2542	+51
Hume Reservoir	192	3038	191.50	2938	97%	30	2908	-2
Lake Victoria	27	680	25.62	528	78%	100	428	-9
Menindee		1682 *		1998	119%	480 #	1518	-3
Total		**9306**		**8087**	**87%**	**690**	**7397**	**+37**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **86%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026		624	61%	3	621	+14
Blowering Reservoir	1631		1321	81%	24	1297	+72
Eildon Reservoir	3390		1298	38%	100	1198	+100

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Sep-2000

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2403	+67	Snowy-Murray	+0	489
Snowy-Murray Component	1060	+38	Tooma-Tumut	+20	140
Target Storage	1240		Nett Diversion	-20.4	349
			Murray 1 Release	+19	606

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.0	84.2
Wakool System loss	0.0	4.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	0.8
Licensed Pumps	3.0	30.1
Lower Darling	12.0	103.8
TOTAL	**16.1**	**223.5**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.1	9.1
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	9.9	116.3
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.9	3.5
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	3.6
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.0	23.3
TOTAL	**17.2**	**155.7**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135
Flow this week	195.3
Flow so far this month	486
Flow last month	443

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	220	265	220
Euston	270	232	217
Red Cliffs	230	260	250
Merbein	180	190	204
Burtundy	390	391	402
Lock 9	230	244	250
L.Victoria	340	335	344
Berri	310	314	332
Waikerie	430	410	385
Morgan	370	380	401
Mannum	360	372	393
Murray Bridge	400	365	369
Meningie	1220	1260	1244
Goolwa Barrages	900	1258	1311

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Week ending 20-Sep-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	-	-	6110	R	5480	7380
Jingellic	4.0	2.92	17110	R	20850	28690
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.08	3100	F	3980	4780
Heywoods	5.5	3.56	24310	F	34160	24440
Doctors Point	5.5	4.13	28100	F	38440	31600
Albury	4.3	3.33	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	5.50	40100	F	38990	23890
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	5.58	57300	F	64490	42640
Tocumwal	6.4	6.19	65935	F	61540	32250
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.45	28336	S	26230	17100
Stevens Weir (d/s)		4.83	9890	F	6460	4487
Swan Hill	4.5	3.40	20800	R	19350	17010
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.11	24800	R	23470	20190
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.25	29050	R	28160	24600
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.46	27290	R	25800	21790
Rufus Junction	-	5.84	27075	R	26240	23550
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	26400	F	25840	22060
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.47	4030	F	4730	6940
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.96	12665	F	23340	31380
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	6.77	14621	F	18120	8210
Edward at Liewah	-	3.98	4550	R	4320	3610
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.60	2450	R	2080	1040
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.65	6790	S	6730	6890
Darling at Bourke	-	4.29	1590	F	1860	2220
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.20	1670	F	1690	1750
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.31	250	R	70	70

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	44350	57040

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	+0.68	+3.45
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	+1.67
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.07	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+1.50
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+1.60	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+2.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+1.82	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+1.67
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.81	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+1.69
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.10	+1.49	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+1.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	+0.30	4.49	10100
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.20	4.27	6940

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	40
Mundoo	26 openings	0.87	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	20
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.88	70

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