

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 April 2001

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :am:bwh

5 April, 2001



Warm autumn conditions were experienced throughout the River Murray system for the greater part of the week. No significant rainfall was recorded along the length of the Murray, and consequently irrigation demand increased during the week.

Release from Hume Reservoir was increased late in the week in response to the increased irrigation demand arising from warm weather. Flow in the River Murray at Albury is now 19 000 ML/day, and storage in Hume has fallen to 1 005 GL which is 33% of capacity and 13.4 m below full supply level.

Water level in Lake Mulwala was raised last week in order to store additional water arising from rain induced rejection of irrigation demand. The Lake water level has this week been drawn down to the lower end of its operating range to again provide 'airspace' to conserve resource following any subsequent rain rejection event. Additional inflows to the Murray from storages in the Ovens Valley of up to about 500 ML/day have continued to assist in meeting flow requirements downstream of Yarrawonga Weir, and assist in conserving resources in Hume Reservoir. Total diversion from Lake Mulwala increased from 6 000 to 9 000 ML/day during the week following the warmer weather conditions. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to 8 700 ML/day to meet increased irrigation requirements in the mid Murray - in particular, the diversion order for National Channel has increased to about 3 000 ML/day in response to the warmer weather.

On the Edward River, release from Stevens Weir has been gradually reduced to 250 ML/day (or near the minimum flow) by the end of the week because there is no longer any requirement to augment flows in the Murray from the Edward River. Flow in the mid Murray is now peaking downstream of Euston Weir at 9 500 ML/day, and is expected to recede to around 5 000 ML/day by the end of the week.

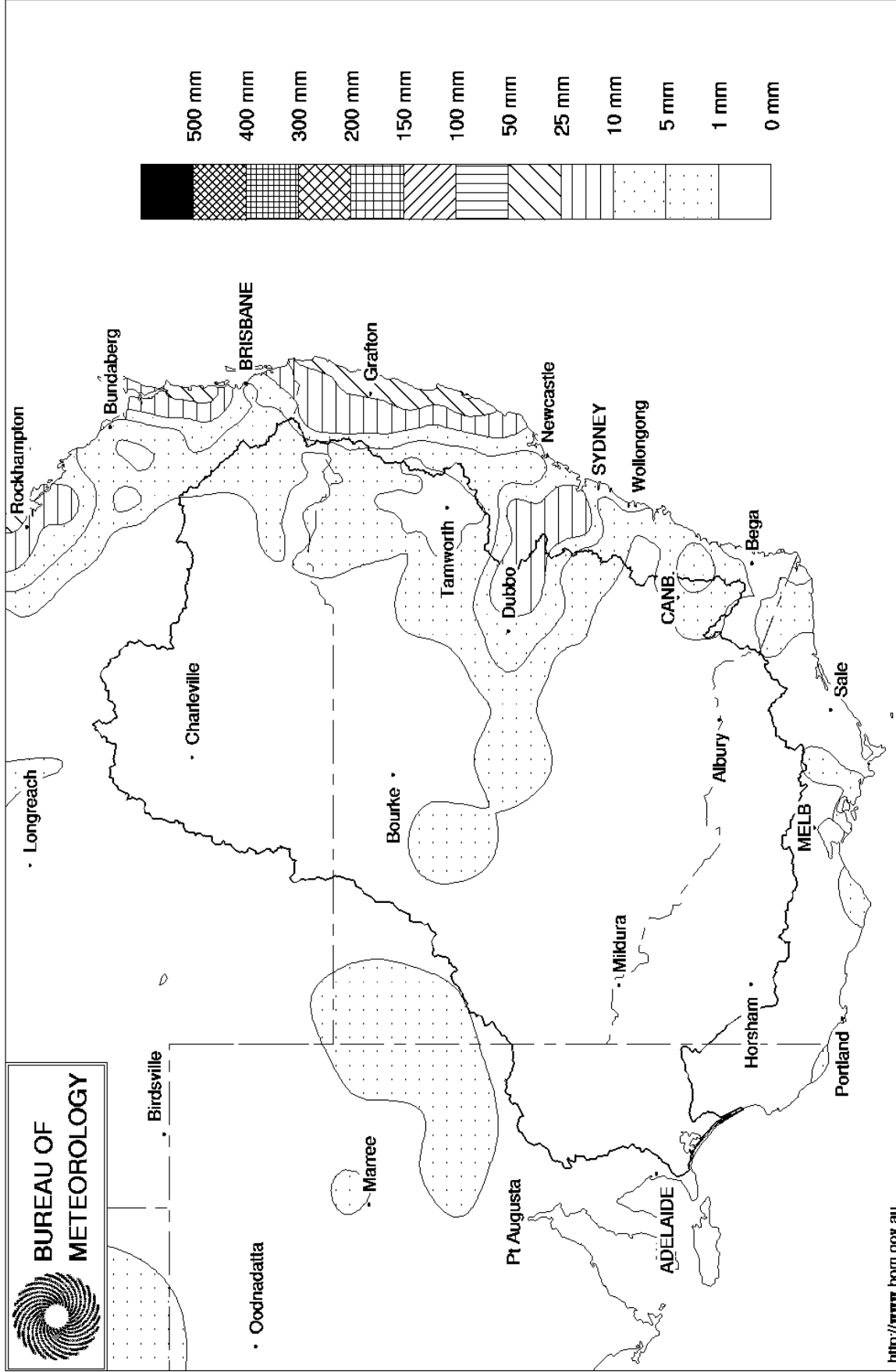
Mildura Weir will be temporarily withdrawn from the River Murray in May 2001 to carry out essential maintenance on Weir trestles. Commencing on 12 May, the water level of the weir pool will be drawn down by about 3.6 m to enable withdrawal and replacement of trestles. It is expected that the weir pool will be refilled to near full supply level by about late May but the actual timing will be dependent on river flows available at the time. The duration of the lowering of the weir pool is as short as possible so as to minimise impacts on water supplies and river navigation. Further details are provided in the attached Media Release.

Flow in the Darling River at Wilcannia receded from 15 700 to 2 800 ML/day during the week as the tail of the water from recent summer flooding in the upper Darling catchment reaches Menindee Lakes. Release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling at Weir 32 (currently 7 400 ML/day) continues to be gradually reduced, and storage in the Lakes has been increased to 1 970 GL or near surcharge capacity for this time of year. It is expected that release from the Lakes will fall to minimum rates by late April.

Flow to South Australia has increased to about 22 000 ML/day, and is now expected to rise to around 25 000 ML/day by the end of the week. This rise in flow is due to the recent increased release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling River, recent rain rejections of irrigation orders in transit along the Murray, and the continuing drawdown of Lake Victoria (refer to Media Release attached).

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th April 2001
 Product of the National Climate Centre



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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 29 March 2001
RISE IN FLOW IN LOWER MURRAY



River Murray Water and South Australia Water today announced that the flow in the River Murray crossing the South Australian border will continue to rise during the next week. This “flush” is a result of higher flows in the River Murray and Lower Darling and the drawdown of Lake Victoria in accordance with current management requirements.

This increase will produce benefits in terms of lower salinity and greater recreational and amenity values in South Australia. In addition, higher flows will provide some benefit to the Murray Mouth. It is now expected that the flow to South Australia will remain above regulated requirement until late April.

The flow in the River Murray at Wentworth Weir is currently 13 200 ML/day and rising. This is due to sustained inflows from the lower Darling River caused by flooding upstream of Menindee Lakes that occurred in early February and March, combined with “rain rejection” of irrigation water in the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys late last week. The flow at Wentworth Weir is expected to peak at about 18 000 ML/day by 8 April, and will then steadily recede unless there is further rain.

Lake Victoria is presently being drawn down to meet objectives which aim to protect significant Cultural Heritage values at the Lake, by promoting vegetation growth to stabilise the foreshore. This operation will see the water level in Lake Victoria lowered to 24.5 m (currently 25.65 m) by the end of April. The current rate of release of 5 300 ML/day net is expected to continue until about mid April.

Under previous management arrangements, water would be drawn from Lake Victoria during autumn in preference to other sources, to meet downstream water supply requirements. These management arrangements were based on a high probability that the Lake could be refilled in the following spring. The drawdown of the Lake to protect Cultural Heritage values is an extension of previous management arrangements and involves negligible additional risk to water resources.

The flow in the River Murray at the South Australian border is currently 19 200 ML/day, and will peak at about 23 500 ML/day by 10 April without further rain. The flow is then expected to recede to the April regulated requirement of 7 500 ML/day (including 3 000 ML/day additional dilution flow) by late April.

River diverters and recreational users are advised to take these flows into consideration in planning their activities.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Monday, 2 April 2001

Mildura Weir Removal



River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today that Mildura Weir will be temporarily removed from the River Murray in mid May/early June 2001 for maintenance.

The weir is to be removed to allow some existing weir trestles to be removed for overhaul, and to be replaced by other trestles. It is necessary to complete this maintenance work after the end of the current irrigation season, and before the commencement of the next irrigation season. The proposed schedule for withdrawal and re-instatement is currently as follows:

Proposed Date	Action
12 May 2001	Commence removal of weir bars and trestles, and commence gradual lowering of weir pool
23 May 2001	Expected date of commencement of refilling of weir pool
29 May 2001 to early June 2001	Expected date of completion of refilling of weir pool to near full supply level. This date will be dependent on available river flows.

The above schedule will be adhered to as far as possible, however some minor variations in timing may be required in response to river conditions and other circumstances that may arise at that time. A further media release will be issued in late April, to confirm the dates or advise of any changes to dates which may be required for the withdrawal and re-instatement process.

Withdrawal of the weir will lead to a lowering of the weir pool level by about 3.6 m below the normal full supply level. If river flow at the time is relatively low, this may lead to temporary but significant increases in river salinity at and downstream of Mildura as a result of increased saline input from the water table adjacent to the weir pool. River operation at the time will be directed toward minimising any increases in river salinity that may occur, particularly in South Australia. However, the opportunities for mitigation of salinity between Mildura and Lake Victoria are limited unless river flows are high at the time.

Limited availability of Lock passage will be provided as far as is possible within the constraints of work requirements during the withdrawal of the weir, and given the low water levels as the weir is removed. It is therefore advised that Lock passage is likely to be unavailable in the period 14 to 27 May inclusive. However, as usual, boat operators are advised to contact the Senior Reservoir Officer in advance to check availability and to arrange a suitable time for a Lockage. Boat operators are advised that navigation upstream of the weir will be more difficult than usual as a result of the lower water levels as the weir is removed.

Any inconvenience to river pumpers and river navigation is regretted, however, the purpose of the weir withdrawal is to ensure the long-term serviceability of the works.

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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	472.84	3098	79%	80	3018	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	178.65	1005	33%	30	975	-70
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.36	501	74%	100	401	-38
Menindee		1682 *		1971	117%	480 #	1491	+44
Total		9306		6574	71%	690	5884	-66

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **68%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	406	40%	3	403	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1631	681	42%	24	657	-10
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1139	34%	100	1039	-25

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Apr-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2960	-18	Snowy-Murray	+9	681
Snowy-Murray Component	1436	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	312
Target Storage	1340		Nett Diversion	8.1	368
			Murray 1 Release	+13	1045

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	36.2	1485.2
Wakool System loss	1.0	34.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	27.6
Licensed Pumps	10.0	331.8
Lower Darling	0.2	289.4
TOTAL	48.2	2168.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	18.2	433.2
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.2	690.6
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.6	141.0
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	51.0
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.2	145.2
TOTAL	46.6	1461.1

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135
Flow this week	139.3
Flow so far this month	81
Flow last month	430

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	190	137	217
Euston	210	227	201
Red Cliffs	260	280	243
Merbein	290	290	223
Burtundy	320	321	414
Lock 9	320	307	267
L. Victoria	340	330	304
Berri	350	381	325
Waikerie	420	410	388
Morgan	420	406	391
Mannum	370	385	406
Murray Bridge	410	434	398
Meningie	1290	1280	1255
Goolwa Barrages	590	679	1191



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	2160	F	2240	2560
Jingellic	4.0	1.46	3070	F	3440	3930
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	790	F	830	940
Heywoods	5.5	3.29	17870	R	13740	9340
Doctors Point	5.5	3.39	19000	R	14570	10510
Albury	4.3	2.41	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.00	15400	R	13910	13620
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.41	7620	S	7290	9430
Tocumwal	6.4	1.98	8378	R	8200	10900
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.09	2604	S	4100	5430
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.56	273	F	561	2089
Swan Hill	4.5	0.91	3690	F	4790	4040
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.92	7434	F	6990	4990
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.93	9650	S	8360	4240
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.69	15870	R	14070	12430
Rufus Junction	-	5.33	20950	R	19420	16620
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	18100	S	18060	15070
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.75	300	R	380	670
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.14	1022	F	1040	660
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	315	F	450	670
Edward at Liewah	-	2.83	2470	F	2590	1900
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.53	564	R	430	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.03	1890	F	2780	1120
Darling at Bourke	-	4.44	2900	R	1680	1170
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	4.97	10500	F	10800	10700
Barwon at Mungindi	-	4.63	4670	R	3470	4800

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2410	3650
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.24	+2.98
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+1.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.98
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+1.87
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+1.05	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+1.07
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.61	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+1.03
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.07	+1.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	+0.61

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.12	1.35	1330
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.43	1810

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	25
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitthere	322 gates	0.80	5

