

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 25 April 2001

Our Ref: MDBC:269 .ng

27 April, 2001



Rain was recorded across all but the western portion of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Falls of between 25 and 50 mm were received along the Great Divide in Victoria and New South Wales with falls reducing towards the central parts of the Basin.

Only minor responses have been seen in tributary inflows to the River Murray, however the rain has significantly reduced irrigation demands. Total demand at the major irrigation offtakes at Yarrawonga and Torrumbarry Weirs declined from 10 000 to 2 700 ML/day.

In response to this reduction in demand, release from Hume Reservoir was progressively reduced to 4 000 ML/day by 25 April and will be further reduced to target the minimum required flow at Albury of 1 200 ML/day by Sunday 29 April. If conditions remain dry, as is the current forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology, release from Hume may need to be slightly increased next week to meet end of season irrigation demands.

ANZAC day saw the first rise in storage in Hume Reservoir since the reservoir reached capacity in November 2000. Storage reached a minimum on 24 April of 796 GL (26% of capacity) with total MDBC storage on this day of about 6 200 GL (66% total system capacity). This compares favourably to last year when storage in Hume reached a minimum of 712 GL on 14 April 2000, with a total MDBC storage on this day of about 4 700 GL. Whilst storage in Hume is currently rising, it is possible that increased demand next week may require a further draw on the reservoir. River Murray Water will provide a plot in next week's report showing how the current volumes in store compare with recent years.

At Yarrawonga Weir, release downstream has been reduced to 6 000 ML/day and will be reduced further next week. The supply of irrigation water to Mulwala Canal has been extended by a week and will now continue until 8 May unless conditions are wet. Supply to Yarrawonga Main Channel is expected to cease on 15 May. Flow to the Edward River, via the Edward and Gulpa Offtakes, has been reduced from about 1 250 to 750 ML/day and will be further reduced next week.

Release downstream of Euston Weir remained steady at about 3 000 ML/day during the week, and will increase next week as rejected irrigation orders are passed downstream. Without further rain it is expected that release will reach about 6 000 ML/day by early May.

Confirming the advanced notice provided in early April, Mildura Weir pool will be progressively drawn down from 12 May to allow some of the Weir trestles to be removed and replacement trestles installed. It is expected that the normal weir pool level will be reinstated by late May. River Murray Water shall issue a further media release next week confirming the timetable.

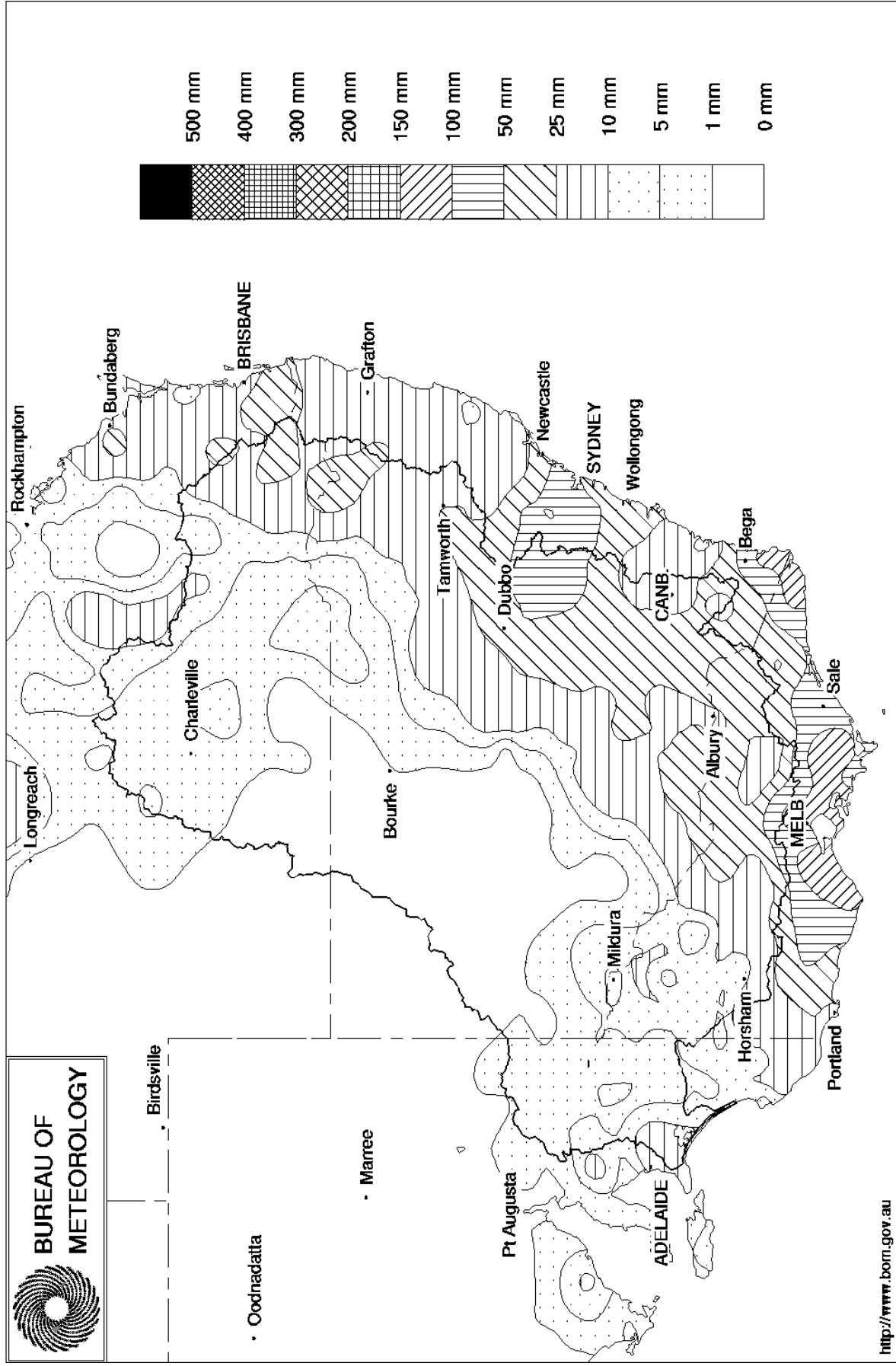
Lake Victoria has now been drawn down with the objective of enhancing the growth of vegetation, to protect significant cultural heritage sites above a level of 24.5 m from erosion. The Lake will remain drawn down for the next two to three months, and will then be refilled in late winter/spring. The risk of not subsequently refilling the Lake to secure water resources is negligible. Flow to South Australia has now been reduced to the current requirement of 7 500 ML/day, after exceeding regulated requirements (entitlement plus additional dilution flow) since January 2001.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 25th April 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



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	472.80	3095	79%	80	3015	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	176.64	796	26%	30	766	-34
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.03	364	53%	100	264	-15
Menindee		1682 *		1918	114%	480 #	1438	-4
Total		9306		6173	66%	690	5483	-53

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **64%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	406	40%	3	403	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1631	642	39%	24	618	-4
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1054	31%	100	954	-7

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 24-Apr-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2935	+1	Snowy-Murray	+9	716
Snowy-Murray Component	1395	-9	Tooma-Tumut	+1	315
Target Storage	1340		Nett Diversion	8.5	401
			Murray 1 Release	+16	1083

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July	Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	18.4	1572.5	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	7.2	471.1
Wakool System loss	1.1	37.5	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.9	759.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	29.3	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	149.5
Licensed Pumps	8.9	362.8	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	54.8
Lower Darling	0.3	288.9	Licensed pumps - SRW	3.2	154.9
TOTAL	29.2	2291.0	TOTAL	37.4	1590.1

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135
Flow this week	73.3
Flow so far this month	442
Flow last month	430

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	180	146	217
Euston	220	204	199
Red Cliffs	220	220	242
Merbein	220	230	225
Burtundy	420	407	412
Lock 9	340	326	271
L.Victoria	340	334	306
Berri	360	354	326
Waikerie	390	380	387
Morgan	380	359	389
Mannum	340	354	404
Murray Bridge	370	393	398
Meningie	1250	1240	1255
Goolwa Barrages	580	585	1144



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	-	-	1290	F	2090	2270
Jingellic	4.0	1.45	3000	F	3200	2790
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.43	880	F	810	750
Heywoods	5.5	1.99	4170	F	8950	12290
Doctors Point	5.5	2.17	5160	F	9270	12700
Albury	4.3	1.18	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.02	8670	F	12170	14170
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.19	5990	S	6920	8240
Tocumwal	6.4	1.87	7613	F	8240	9160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.06	5893	R	4130	3330
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.78	481	F	492	262
Swan Hill	4.5	0.88	3430	R	2960	2460
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.00	3725	R	3500	3300
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.89	3290	F	3130	3510
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.97	6120	R	5890	9660
Rufus Junction	-	3.58	6977	R	9800	16480
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	9820	F	14560	18370
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.85	440	R	390	330
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.94	613	R	490	690
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.47	860	R	620	540
Edward at Liewah	-	1.38	800	F	810	1030
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.42	352	R	310	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.19	860	R	680	540
Darling at Bourke	-	4.77	6060	F	6090	4790
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.92	3080	F	3670	5580
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.41	500	F	610	2040

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2180	1800
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	+0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+1.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.87
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.33	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.41
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.08	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.44
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.25	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.25

Murrumbidgee	FSL (MAHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.11	0.99	760
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.03	0.70	857

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.88	9
Mundoo	26 openings	0.80	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.87	5

