REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 August 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :bwh:ng **16 August, 2001**

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Very little rain was recorded in the Basin this week. Falls of between 1 and 5 mm were recorded along the Great Divide in Victoria and southern New South Wales, and slightly heavier falls of up to 10 mm were recorded in the upper Murray with stream flows showing little response.

Release from Hume Reservoir was increased from the minimum requirement of 600 ML/day to about 6 500 ML/day during the week to assist in meeting increasing diversion demands. Storage in Hume increased by 27 GL early in the week, but is now steady as inflows are currently equal to release plus evaporative loss from the storage. Significant rain will be required in the Hume catchment to produce further rises in storage.

Following the rain of last week and early this week, there were minor increases in inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers to the River Murray with peaks of 2 000 and 3 000 ML/day respectively early this week. These inflows are now slowly receding, however, rain forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology may produce further rises next week.

Diversion from Lake Mulwala to Mulwala Canal increased from 500 to 2 500 ML/day in preparation for the coming irrigation season. Diversion to Yarrawonga Main Channel commenced on Friday 10 August and is currently at about 500 ML/day. Flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to about 6 000 ML/day in response to increasing demands and river losses downstream, as well as declining inflows from the Murrumbidgee River.

On the Edward River, refilling of Stevens Weir pool has continued, and the weir pool level has risen 1.5 m to about 1.3 m below Full Supply Level. The level is forecast to approach Full Supply Level later in August to allow channel filling diversions to commence.

Diversion to National Channel from the Torrumbarry Weir pool has increased to about 3 000 ML/day (about 70% of capacity). Flow in the Murray downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has remained steady at about 2 000 ML/day in order to maintain a river level at Swan Hill gauge slightly above the minimum required level of 0.6 m.

Flow downstream of Euston Weir receded from 6 000 to 4 200 ML/day this week, and is expected to continue to recede then level out near 3 000 ML/day by the end of next week.

Transfers from Menindee Lakes to Lake Victoria to supplement flows in the River Murray and augment storage in Lake Victoria are scheduled to commence on 16 August (*see attached Media Release*). These transfers are being initiated under existing 'harmony' operating rules for both storages, which are aimed at minimising evaporative losses, and also providing additional dilution flow to South Australia when system storage volumes are above specified levels. The rate of transfer will be kept under review in conjunction with flow conditions on the Murray and storage in Lake Victoria. If there is a significant improvement in conditions along the Murray, release from Menindee will be reduced to conserve resources.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

River Murray Water
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Tuesday, 14 August 2001
Increase in Release from Menindee Lakes

River Murray Water announced today that release from Menindee Lakes will be increased in order to supplement resources in the River Murray.

This increase in release is being made as part of the combined operation of Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria to minimise evaporation losses from the storages. In addition this transfer will ensure there is sufficient storage in Lake Victoria to assist in meeting water requirements in South Australia for the remainder of the irrigation season.

Commencing Friday 17 August, flow at Weir 32 will be progressively increased from the current flow of 500 ML/day (1.6 m gauge height) to reach 3 000 ML/day (2.0 m gauge height) by about Monday 20 August.

Further downstream, the river height at Burtundy will increase from the current level of 0.9 m gauge height to about 1.8 m by the end of August.

The release requirement from Menindee Lakes will be kept under continual review according to flows in the River Murray. If conditions remain dry along the River Murray, further increases in release from Menindee Lakes are likely. However, if flows in the River Murray upstream of the Darling River junction increase significantly, release from Menindee Lakes will be reduced to conserve resources.

River pumpers and other river users are advised to take account of the effects of the changed river levels and conditions.

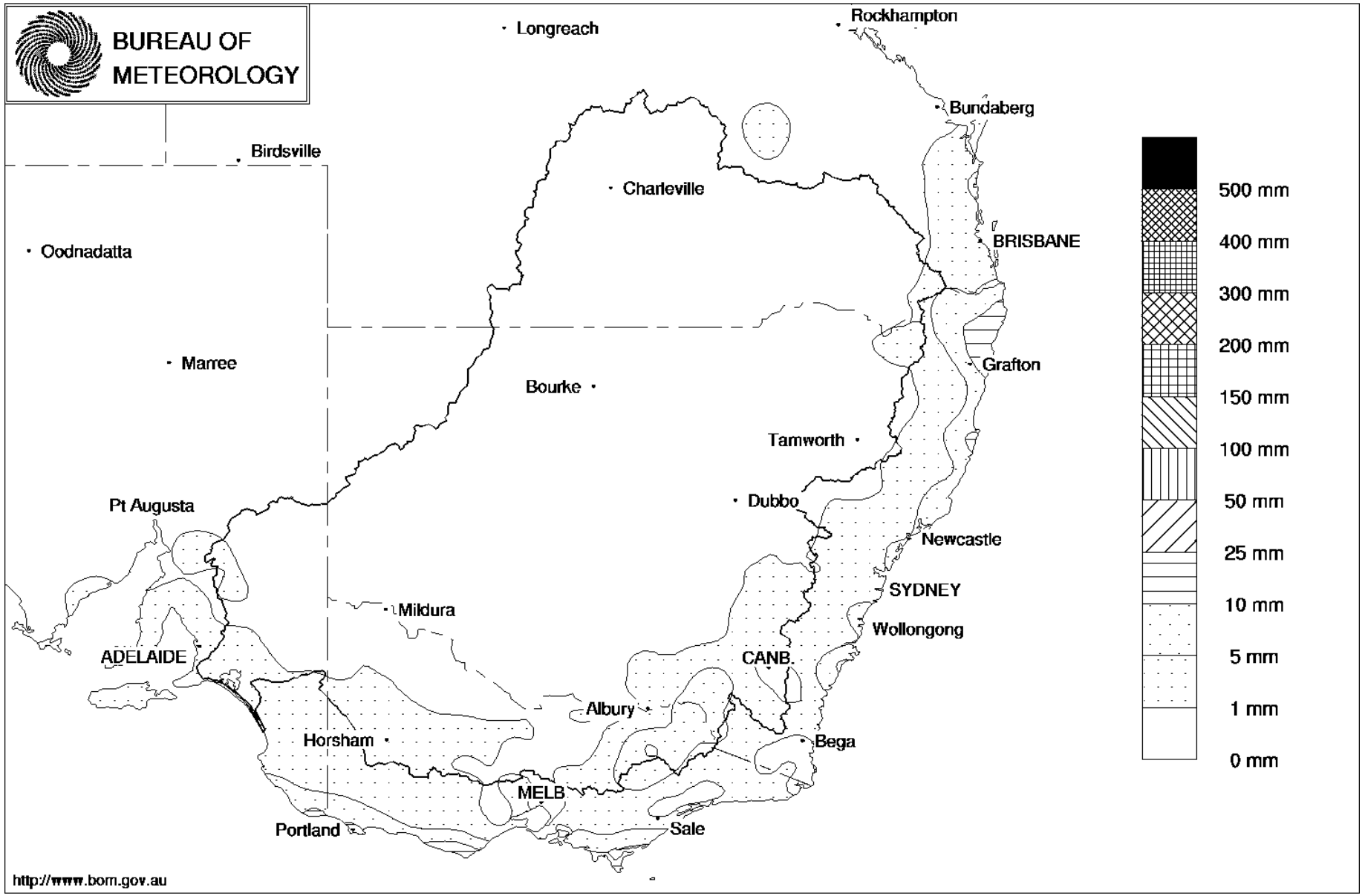
For further information contact:

Keith Bashford
Media Liaison Officer
Ph: 02 6279 0581
E-mail: keith.bashford@mdbc.gov.au
(Keith Bashford is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Daniel Connell
Media Liaison Officer
Ph: 02 6279 0129
E-mail: daniel.connell@mdbc.gov.au
(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th August 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



 ID code: IDCRFXMD.2001080920010815.bw.img Issued: 15/08/2001

Week ending 15-Aug-2001

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level m AHD	Full Supply Capacity GL	Storage Level m AHD	Current Storage GL	Current Storage %	Dead storage GL	Active storage GL	Change for the week GL
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3906	474.45	3191	82%	80	3111	+9
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	183.13	1553	51%	30	1523	+27
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.07	368	54%	100	268	-5
Menindee		1682 *		1961	117%	480 #	1481	-11
Total		**9306**		**7073**	**76%**	**690**	**6383**	**+20**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **74%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026		444	43%	3	441	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1631		1013	62%	24	989	+2
Eildon Reservoir	3390		1146	34%	100	1046	+16

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Aug-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2595	+6	Snowy-Murray	+11	372
Snowy-Murray Component	1157	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	58
Target Storage	1190		Nett Diversion	6.2	314
			Murray 1 Release	+15	442

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	9.2	9.6
Wakool System loss	0.1	0.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	0.5
Licensed Pumps	0.9	5.3
Lower Darling	0.2	0.7
TOTAL	**10.6**	**16.1**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.3	2.1
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.8	37.6
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.1	1.7
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	14.6
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.5	13.8
TOTAL	**24.7**	**69.8**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124
Flow this week	49.0
Flow so far this month	105
Flow last month	202

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	200	184	302
Euston	300	276	265
Red Cliffs	310	300	321
Merbein	260	280	283
Burtundy	390	385	387
Lock 9	340	337	326
L.Victoria	350	349	353
Berri	420	416	415
Waikerie	510	510	553
Morgan	530	547	547
Mannum	550	559	559
Murray Bridge	590	583	577
Meningie	1150	1160	1158
Goolwa Barrages	1460	1249	1005

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Week ending 15-Aug-2001

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	-	-	3020	F	3020	2370
Jingellic	4.0	1.85	6080	R	6220	5130
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.53	1070	S	1170	1030
Heywoods	5.5	2.20	6530	R	3820	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.50	8250	R	5580	2250
Albury	4.3	1.44	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.81	7370	R	4480	2490
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.18	5910	R	5370	4780
Tocumwal	6.4	1.58	5016	S	4980	4360
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.96	2017	S	2030	2120
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.40	164	F	164	181
Swan Hill	4.5	0.63	1750	R	1830	2360
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.75	2702	F	2940	4030
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.04	4160	F	4850	6630
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.85	4690	F	6020	7140
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	6736	S	6640	6610
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	5240	F	5990	5470
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.54	1600	R	1580	1640
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.64	2310	F	2670	1390
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.30	610	S	560	490
Edward at Liewah	-	1.37	790	F	890	950
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.28	154	F	200	330
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.19	860	F	1280	2110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.49	3350	R	2280	890
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.90	699	S	730	710
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.29	210	F	340	1500

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8000	6510

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	-0.27	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.23
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.81
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.21	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.33
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.12	+0.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.00

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.01	831
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.00	0.82	1000

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.78	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.80	10

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