

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 July 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :bwh

12 July, 2001



Widespread rainfall was recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin in all States except Queensland. Falls were mainly in the range 10 to 25 mm, while falls of 25 to 50 mm were received in parts of the upper Murray catchment.

Minor increases in inflows to upper Murray storages resulted in the middle of the week following the rain, and inflows are now receding. There has been little response in streamflow in tributaries of the Murray downstream of Hume Reservoir.

Following minor increases in inflow to Lake Mulwala, release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased from 3 000 to 3 500 ML/day, which is a relatively low flow for this time of the year. Further downstream, flow in the Murray between Barmah and Swan Hill is slowly declining, and flows are currently about 2 500 and 3 400 ML/day at those locations respectively. Flow in the River Murray at Euston is currently peaking at about 7 000 ML/day from the rain of mid June, and is expected to fall to about 6 000 ML/day early next week. Flow at Wentworth has increased from 6 000 to 7 300 ML/day and is expected to remain fairly steady until 15 July, and then decline gradually.

Storage level in Lake Victoria has remained near steady at about 3.0 m below full supply level because flow upstream in the Murray has generally been in balance with Lake evaporation plus the release required to meet downstream flow requirement for South Australia.

Flow downstream of Lock 7 was temporarily increased on 9 July to assist the passage of some river vessels associated with the Centenary of Federation celebrations underway along the River Murray (see copy of Media Release attached). This manipulation of flow was carried out without changing the total monthly flow requirement for South Australia for July as flows on some days early in the month were adjusted to a rate slightly below the average requirement for this month. Consequently, the operation had no impact on water availability for South Australia, Victoria or New South Wales.

Since early June, salinity levels have increased from 8 000 to about 20 000 EC in Barr Creek, a tributary of the Loddon River. However, there has been no flow or saline input to the Loddon River, and hence to the River Murray, from Barr Creek in recent weeks as a result of operation of Barr Creek pumps to divert highly saline water to Lake Tutchewop as part of the Barr Creek Salt Interception Scheme.

Salinity in the River Murray at Swan Hill increased from 250 to 340 EC late in the week as a result of increased saline input from nearby upstream Victorian tributaries. Further downstream near Mildura, river salinity has remained low in the range 200 to 240 EC. River salinity near the South Australian border has declined from 460 to 300 EC during the week.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE



Monday, 9 July 2001 Temporary Increase In River Murray Flow To South Australia

River Murray Water and the South Australian Water Corporation (SA Water) announced today that the River Murray flow to South Australia will be temporarily increased to assist navigation of river boats between Lock 6 and Lock 7 associated with Centenary of Federation celebrations.

A flotilla of over 100 boats, including paddle steamers, paddle boats, house boats and other leisure craft departed from Goolwa on 30 June. These vessels are currently travelling upstream along the River Murray as part of the "Great Paddlesteamer, Heritage and Leisure Boat Voyage 2001", a Centenary of Federation event.

Many of these vessels have already passed through Lock 7 on their way upstream. Passage through Warrakoo, a naturally shallow section of the River Murray near the South Australian border, was assisted by marker buoys placed by SA Water staff to delineate deeper channels. However, several deeper draughted vessels at the rear of the fleet are expected to pass Warrakoo at about midday tomorrow 10 July. To assist passage of these vessels past Warrakoo, flow to South Australia will be temporarily increased without exceeding the required total volume of flow for the month of July.

Commencing late this afternoon, releases from Lake Victoria will be increased by about 2 000 ML/day, thereby increasing flow to South Australia to about 8 500 ML/day. The increased release will be maintained until tomorrow afternoon, by which time the larger vessels are expected to have passed Warrakoo. This manipulation of flow is being managed without affecting the flow requirements for South Australia for July 2001, or water availability in the River Murray system. Since 1 July, the flow to South Australia has averaged about 6 130 ML/day, slightly under the current required rate of 6 500 ML/day (3 500 ML/day Entitlement plus 3 000 ML/day Additional Dilution Flow).

Navigability in the River Murray upstream of Mildura in coming weeks will be largely dependent on the draught of individual vessels, due to the low flows caused by recent dry conditions along the River Murray and tributaries downstream of Hume Dam. Flow in the River Murray at Euston is presently 7 200 ML/day. Rainfall experienced over the last few days has been insufficient to produce significant increases in inflows from tributaries upstream of Euston, as rainfall totals were low and catchments are relatively dry. Without further rain, the flow at Euston is expected to gradually recede to about 6 000 ML/day and then remain steady for the next 2-3 weeks.

For further information contact:

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(Keith Bashford is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Daniel Connell

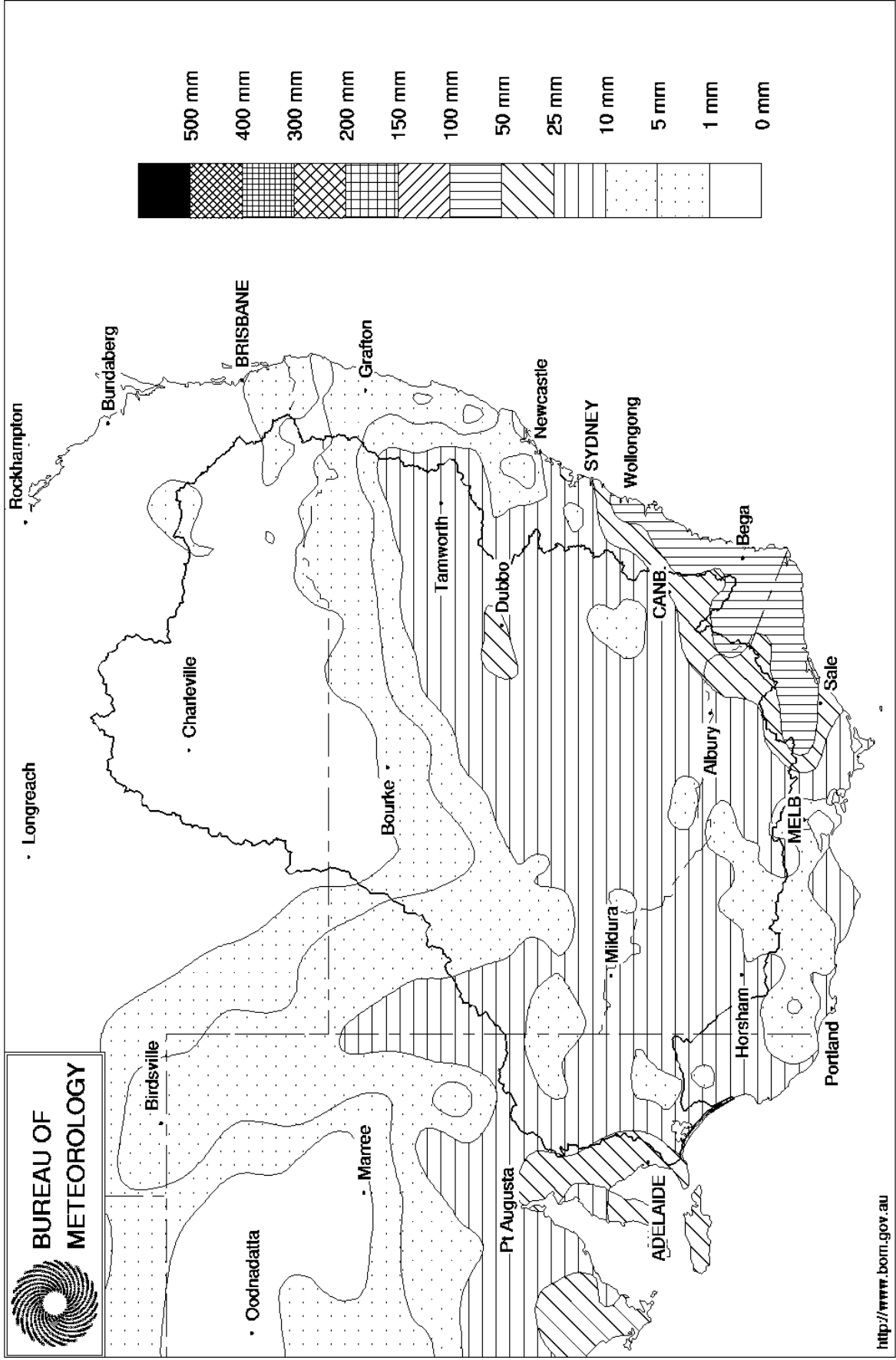
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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th July 2001
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending 11-Jul-2001

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 | 473.72 | 3149 | 81% | 80 | 3069 | +9 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3038 | 181.43 | 1330 | 44% | 30 | 1300 | +51 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 680 | 24.02 | 362 | 53% | 100 | 262 | +2 |
| Menindee | | 1682 * | | 1977 | 118% | 480 # | 1497 | +2 |
| Total | | 9306 | | 6818 | 73% | 690 | 6128 | +63 |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 71%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1026 | 414 | 40% | 3 | 411 | +2 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1631 | 902 | 55% | 24 | 878 | +28 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3390 | 1090 | 32% | 100 | 990 | +6 |

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Jul-2001

| Storage (GL) | Current storage | Weekly change | Diversion | This week | From 1st May |
|------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 2571 | +6 | Snowy-Murray | +18 | 319 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 1151 | - | Tooma-Tumut | +4 | 36 |
| Target Storage | 1170 | | Nett Diversion | 13.5 | 283 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +23 | 364 |

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Wakool System loss | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 0.0 | 0.1 |
| Licensed Pumps | 0.9 | 1.7 |
| Lower Darling | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| TOTAL | 1.0 | 1.9 |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Yarrowonga Main Channel (net) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 3.8 | 3.8 |
| Licensed pumps - SRW | 1.7 | 2.6 |
| TOTAL | 6.0 | 6.9 |

Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Entitlement this month | 108.5 |
| Flow this week | 47.0 |
| Flow so far this month | 72 |
| Flow last month | 106 |

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 340 | 271 | 220 |
| Euston | 220 | 230 | 207 |
| Red Cliffs | 350 | 330 | 256 |
| Merbein | 290 | 280 | 238 |
| Burtundy | 430 | 425 | 413 |
| Lock 9 | 320 | 317 | 284 |
| L. Victoria | 350 | 348 | 314 |
| Berri | 480 | 469 | 349 |
| Waikerie | - | - | 402 |
| Morgan | 570 | 584 | 413 |
| Mannum | 440 | 452 | 408 |
| Murray Bridge | 480 | 479 | 406 |
| Meningie | 1120 | 1110 | 1233 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 1780 | 1866 | 1239 |



Week ending 11-Jul-2001

River Levels and Flows

| | Minor Flood stage m | Gauge height m | Flow ML/day | Trend | Average flow this week ML/day | Average flow last week ML/day |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| River Murray | | | | | | |
| Khancoban | - | - | 4320 | F | 3820 | 4650 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 2.10 | 8400 | F | 7000 | 6810 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 1.46 | 950 | F | 990 | 740 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 1.26 | 600 | S | 600 | 600 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 1.82 | 2710 | R | 2230 | 1780 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 0.93 | - | F | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 0.90 | 2510 | F | 2380 | 2150 |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 0.81 | 3560 | S | 3150 | 3560 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 1.24 | 3368 | R | 3300 | 3930 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 1.34 | 3221 | S | 3380 | 3890 |
| Stevens Weir (d/s) | | 0.82 | 527 | F | 612 | 795 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 0.90 | 3380 | F | 3630 | 4080 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 2.46 | 4862 | F | 5020 | 4950 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 1.53 | 6910 | F | 6930 | 5800 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 3.06 | 7350 | F | 6640 | 4780 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 3.51 | 6558 | F | 6030 | 5670 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | - | 5700 | R | 5480 | 4670 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 1.80 | 2070 | R | 1710 | 1320 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 8.13 | 1000 | F | 990 | 1060 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.27 | 553 | R | 490 | 600 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 1.79 | 1180 | F | 1240 | 840 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 0.45 | 402 | R | 370 | 310 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 1.37 | 1060 | F | 1410 | 1490 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.21 | 1020 | S | 1040 | 880 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.89 | 654 | S | 640 | 610 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.33 | 290 | R | 260 | 330 |

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 6290 | 4790 |
|---|------|------|

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 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------|-------|----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Yarrowonga | 124.90 | -0.21 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.08 | +1.19 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | +0.00 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.18 | +0.20 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | -0.01 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.07 | +0.22 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.00 | +0.19 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | +0.04 | +0.74 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.04 | +0.42 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | +0.03 | +0.24 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.08 | +0.11 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.03 | +0.26 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | +0.08 | +0.22 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | +0.05 | +0.04 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (M AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. metres | Flow ML/day |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -0.11 | 1.38 | 1570 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | +0.04 | 1.61 | 2050 |

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

| | Openings | Level | Status |
|----------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.82 | All closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.82 | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed |
| Tauwitchere | 322 gates | 0.79 | 4 |

