

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 30 May 2001

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng

31 May, 2001



Light to moderate falls of rain were received in the South Australian, Victorian and New South Wales portions of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Falls were generally less than 10 mm however heavier falls of up to 25 mm were received at each end of the River Murray – that is at the Barrages and in the headwaters of Hume Reservoir. Streamflows again showed little or no response as the catchments remain quite dry.

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 48 GL to 973 GL (32% of capacity). Over recent weeks with dry conditions, the major proportion of inflows to Hume have been contributed from the Snowy Mountains Hydro Electric Scheme via Murray 1 Power Station. Release from Hume Dam remains at the minimum requirement of 600 ML/day, and flow at Albury-Wodonga has now returned to the minimum of 1 200 ML/day after temporarily reaching 2 000 ML/day in response to fluctuations in the Kiewa River resulting from hydro-electric power generation.

Flow downstream of Yarrowonga Weir has remained at the minimum requirement of 1 800 ML/day since 14 May (a total of 18 days) due to very low tributary inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. The flow downstream of Yarrowonga has not remained at minimum rates for such a long period since May/June 1998, when flow remained at 1 800 ML/day for 45 days continuously.

On the Edward River, flow downstream of Stevens Weir is currently 400 ML/day and is expected to reduce next week and steady at between 200 and 250 ML/day. Stevens Weir is now fully drawn down, to allow vegetation on the banks of the Edward River upstream to dry out before the Weir is raised for water supply purposes next season. In addition, the Stevens Weir gates have been fully raised, and at the upstream end of the Edward River, the Edward River and Gulpa Creek offtake regulators have effectively been 'stripped' to allow unrestricted fish passage along the Edward River.

Flow in the River Murray at Euston has risen in response to channel drainage flows from Victorian and New South Wales irrigation systems and is expected to remain fairly steady at about 5 500 ML/day throughout most of next week.

The water level in Mildura Weir pool was further raised during the week, and is now near full at only 0.1m below Full Supply Level.

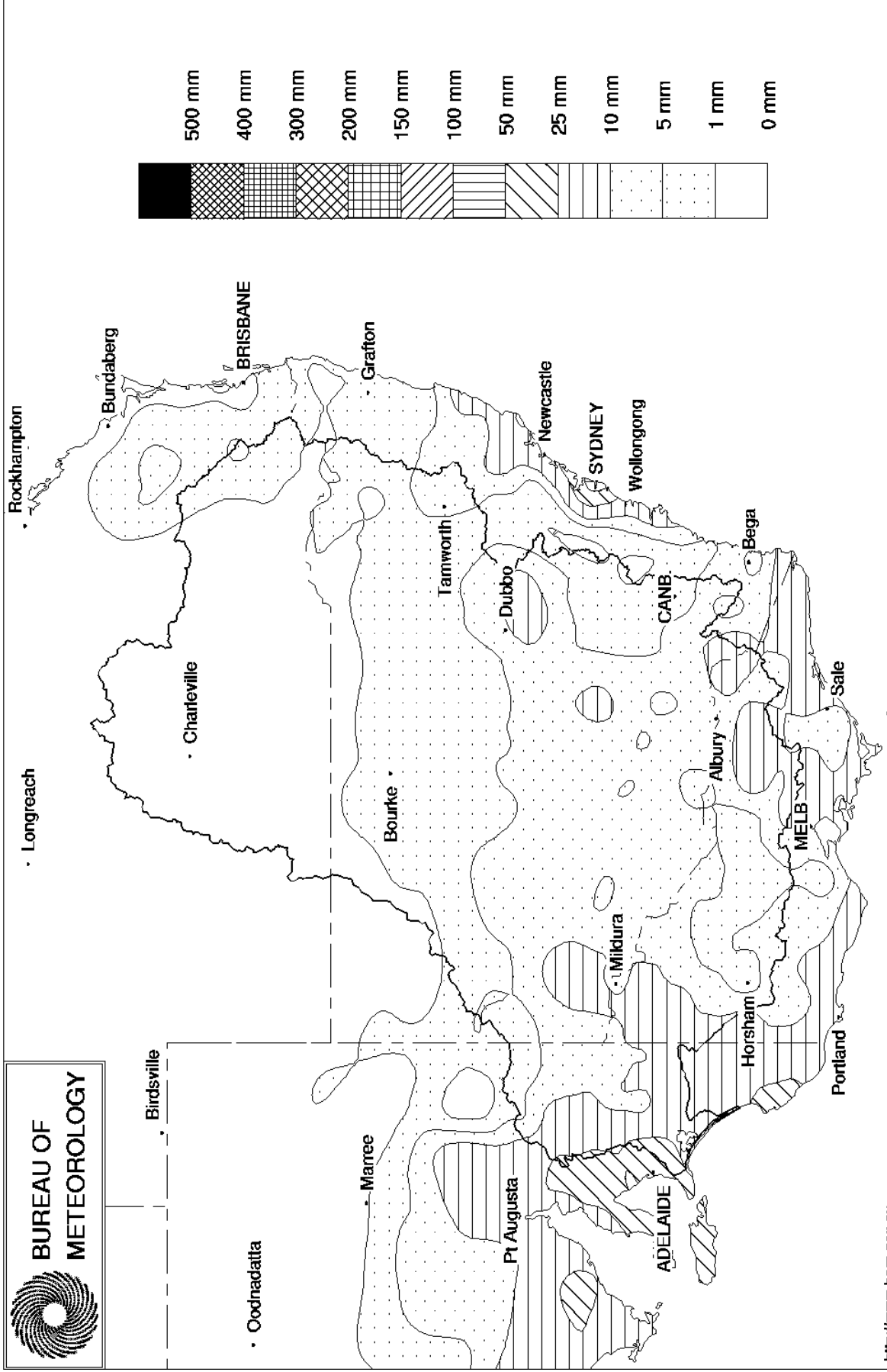
As a result of the Mildura Weir drawdown, and hence increased drainage of groundwater from the river banks as the water level upstream of Mildura Weir was lowered, salinity in the River Murray at Merbein reached a peak of 500 EC and is now 450 EC and receding.

Flow to South Australia has now been reduced to the entitlement requirement of 3 000 ML/day to facilitate the "run of river" salinity survey reported last week. The salinity survey will commence on 4 June, once water levels in weir pools and backwaters have stabilised. As a result of the reduction in flow to South Australia, storage in Lake Victoria will rise gradually over coming weeks.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Daring Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 30th May 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending 30-May-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	472.79	3095	79%	80	3015	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	178.36	973	32%	30	943	+48
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.56	317	47%	100	217	+0
Menindee		1682 *		1959	116%	480 #	1479	-6
Total		9306		6344	68%	690	5654	+43

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **66%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026		404	39%	3	401	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1631		743	46%	24	719	+21
Eildon Reservoir	3390		1044	31%	100	944	-10

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 29-May-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2716	-62	Snowy-Murray	+42	152
Snowy-Murray Component	1245	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	5
Target Storage	1290		Nett Diversion	41.2	147
			Murray 1 Release	+44	166

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-1.3	1577.3
Wakool System loss	0.2	38.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	30.9
Licensed Pumps	2.2	381.7
Lower Darling	0.1	290.1
TOTAL	1.3	2318.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	0.0	481.5
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	788.8
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.1	155.8
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.7	60.6
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.8	163.9
TOTAL	6.6	1650.5

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93
Flow this week	30.5
Flow so far this month	219
Flow last month	479

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	240	212	214
Euston	250	227	201
Red Cliffs	300	360	250
Merbein	450	470	234
Burtundy	420	432	414
Lock 9	280	272	274
L. Victoria	340	343	310
Berri	440	399	333
Waikerie	480	470	393
Morgan	450	442	396
Mannum	480	455	402
Murray Bridge	410	432	396
Meningie	1170	1150	1244
Goolwa Barrages	2340	2546	1170



Week ending 30-May-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	-	-	6490	F	6350	6410
Jingellic	4.0	1.97	7160	F	6900	6890
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.38	770	F	780	800
Heywoods	5.5	1.29	600	S	620	650
Doctors Point	5.5	1.54	1210	S	1370	1530
Albury	4.3	0.70	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.70	1650	R	1690	1720
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.47	1800	S	1810	1830
Tocumwal	6.4	0.99	2270	F	2330	2430
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.16	2649	F	2990	3220
Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.71	407	F	642	1173
Swan Hill	4.5	0.95	3690	F	3800	3810
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.55	5176	R	5040	4480
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.30	5570	S	5450	4710
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.77	2960	F	3280	5680
Rufus Junction	-	2.68	2046	R	3790	5860
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	3540	F	4180	5070
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.91	520	F	640	750
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.87	490	F	420	410
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	433	S	530	710
Edward at Liewah	-	2.18	1610	R	1360	970
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.48	459	F	490	520
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.61	310	S	290	220
Darling at Bourke	-	4.22	1090	S	1220	1350
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.90	699	S	700	740
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.39	450	F	500	730

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1830	2140
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.28	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.22	+0.36
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.03	-0.06
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.12	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.45
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.13	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	-0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.09	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.05	+0.15	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.01

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.11	0.63	310
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.75	0.26	373

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.80	3

