

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 7 November 2001

*Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng:bwh*

9 November, 2001



Widespread rain fell throughout the Murray-Darling Basin, with light falls of up to 10 mm recorded in the west, and heavier falls of between 10 and 50 mm recorded in the southern, central and northern portions of the Basin. Falls of up to 100 mm were recorded in parts of the upper Paroo and Warrego catchments in Queensland.

Streamflows in the upper Murray responded to the rain with inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir peaking at about 7 500 ML/day. With release currently being maintained at 4 000 ML/day, Dartmouth storage decreased by 4 GL and is now 89% of capacity. Inflow to Hume Reservoir increased to 16 000 ML/day by the end of the week, and without further rain is expected to peak at about 20 000 ML/day early next week. Release from Hume was increased from 600 to 7 500 ML/day early in the week to meet increasing demand, but is currently being reduced again in response to the rain received late this week. Storage in Hume increased by 75 GL, and is now 78% of capacity.

Tributary inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers showed little response to the rain, and are continuing to recede. Irrigation demands from Lake Mulwala have reduced slightly, however without further rain are expected to increase again next week. Flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 13 000 to 7 200 ML/day, and is expected to remain at this level early next week before being increased to meet downstream demands.

Flow downstream of Stevens Weir has been increased from 600 to 1 600 ML/day to provide sufficient water to enable a trial watering of the Weraï Forest for environmental benefit in forest wetlands. This operation is being undertaken in conjunction with the New South Wales Murray Wetlands Working Group, and may continue for much of November. Flows entering and returning from the forest will be measured, and any additional release from Hume Reservoir required to achieve the required watering of the forest wetlands will be debited to the NSW Murray environmental water account. In response to the increased flow along the Edward River, flow downstream of Yarrawonga has been accordingly reduced to ensure that target flows in the Murray downstream of the Wakool River are not exceeded.

Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River has receded from 3 800 to 1 500 ML/day, and is expected to fall further next week. However, the recent rainfall may produce a minor rise later in November. Flow in the River Murray at Euston peaked at 10 500 ML/day, and without further significant rain is forecast to gradually recede to about 4 000 ML/day by late November.

Release from Menindee Lakes has been reduced from 7 000 to about 5 000 ML/day in response to increased flows along the River Murray, and storage has declined by 60 GL to 1 351 GL. Under the combined operating rules for Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria, the November trigger level for provision of additional dilution flow to South Australia is 1 300 GL. This storage level is expected to be reached by the end of next week, at which time the additional dilution flow to SA is scheduled to cease. The pattern of flow to South Australia is currently being modified to achieve a small flow peak for environmental benefit. This operation is being undertaken without changing the volume of flow which South Australia is entitled to receive this November (see Media Release attached).

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**Wednesday, 7 November 2001**

**Temporary Enhancement of Flow in the River Murray in South Australia**

River Murray Water, the Department for Water Resources and the South Australia Water Corporation today announced that the pattern of flow to South Australia during November will be varied to provide a short “flush” rather than a steady constant flow. This will have all of the environmental benefits of varied flow rather than constant flow, and will provide a wetting and drying cycle to the littoral zone downstream of the Lock and Weirs. The additional flow will also allow fish passage through Lock and Weir No. 7.

Conditions in the River Murray catchment upstream of the Darling River Junction have been relatively dry since autumn, and as a result, South Australia’s flow has remained fully regulated during winter and spring 2001. South Australia’s Department for Water Resources and SA Water have agreed on a strategy with River Murray Water that will vary the flow to South Australia in November to mimic a small flush in the River Murray, rather than deliver a steady flow throughout the month. This operation will not change the flow volume that South Australia will receive during November, but ensures that it will provide the maximum environmental benefit. Weirs along the River Murray in South Australia will be operated to preserve the peak flow as much as possible as it moves downstream.

Under the ‘harmony’ operating rules for Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria, South Australia receives Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) of 3 000 ML/day above minimum entitlement when the storage in Menindee Lakes is above trigger levels. The provision of additional dilution flow is made possible because the harmony operation of the two storages to meet part of supply South Australia’s flow requirements results in evaporation savings.

Additional dilution flow to SA has been supplied since April 2000, apart from a temporary cessation in June 2001 to assist the conduct of a detailed survey of river salinity. Storage in Menindee Lakes is currently forecast to fall below the November trigger for ADF (1 300 GL) on about 13 November, at which time the ADF is scheduled to cease. Hence, in addition to the November Entitlement volume of 180 000 ML, South Australia is entitled to receive an extra 39 000 ML as ADF, or a total of 219 000 ML this November.

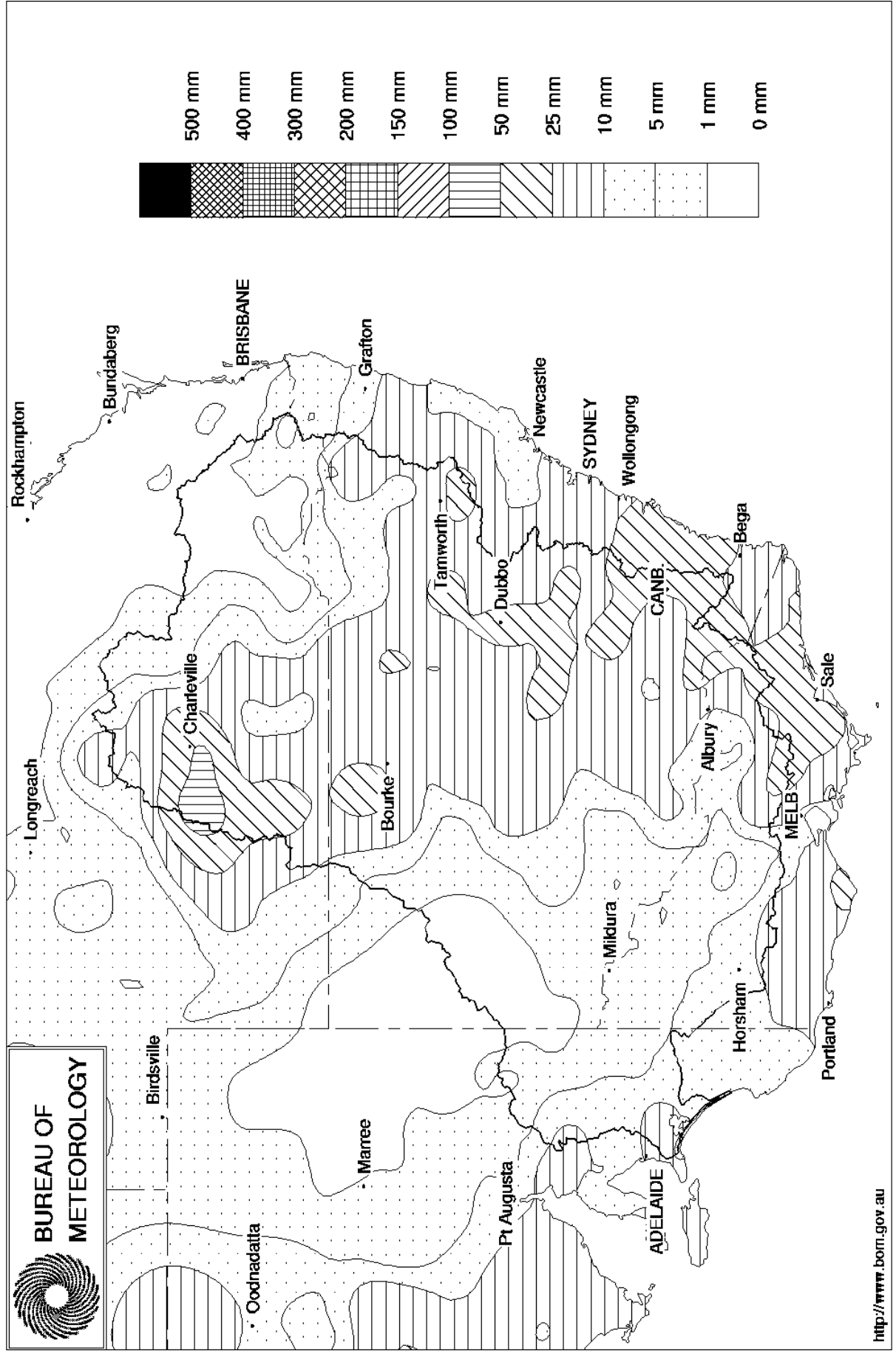
Since 1 November, flow to South Australia has been maintained at an average of about 7 000 ML/day. Commencing Thursday 8 November, releases from Lake Victoria will be increased to raise flow to South Australia to a peak of about 13 000 ML/day by Sunday 11 November. Flow to South Australia will then be gradually reduced to 6 000 ML/day (equivalent to South Australia’s average November Entitlement flow) by Friday 16 November, and will remain at this rate for the remainder of November. This operation will fully utilise all of SA’s entitlement and ADF for November.

For further information contact:

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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 7th November 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending 07-Nov-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	479.19	3475	89%	80	3395	-4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	188.43	2366	78%	30	2336	+75
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.90	559	82%	100	459	+39
Menindee		1682 *		1351	80%	480 #	871	-60
<b>Total</b>		<b>9306</b>		<b>7750</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>7060</b>	<b>+50</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **82%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	519	51%	3	516	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1631	1016	62%	24	992	-32
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1459	43%	100	1359	+11

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 06-Nov-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3100	+36	Snowy-Murray	+7	433
Snowy-Murray Component	1430	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	179
Target Storage	1450		Nett Diversion	2.1	254
			Murray 1 Release	+19	674

### Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	38.2	391.1
Wakool System loss	0.6	6.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	4.7
Licensed Pumps	7.6	89.5
Lower Darling	3.9	7.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51.1</b>	<b>498.9</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	15.5	118.1
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	15.6	227.5
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.7	28.0
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	24.2
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.4	58.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>456.0</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180
Flow this week	49.2
Flow so far this month	49
Flow last month	266

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	210	193	250
Euston	200	221	273
Red Cliffs	310	320	341
Merbein	310	330	314
Burtundy	450	443	403
Lock 9	410	400	370
L. Victoria	380	385	362
Berri	440	432	416
Waikerie	500	490	499
Morgan	500	483	504
Mannum	490	491	511
Murray Bridge	530	513	555
Meningie	1170	1230	1156
Goolwa Barrages	750	732	1425



**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
<b>River Murray</b>						
Khancoban	-	-	4750	F	4230	5180
Jingellic	4.0	2.33	10460	R	9180	11880
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.60	6010	R	5830	6090
Heywoods	5.5	2.11	6440	F	4220	950
Doctors Point	5.5	2.60	9270	R	7180	5840
Albury	4.3	1.54	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.26	10200	R	6900	7540
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.35	7170	R	7730	13870
Tocumwal	6.4	1.83	6388	R	8610	12040
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.10	5821	F	6200	6720
Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.53	1440	R	884	602
Swan Hill	4.5	1.25	5650	F	5920	6260
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.97	6755	F	7160	6780
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.70	7950	F	9620	7060
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.58	14780	S	13880	12070
Rufus Junction	-	3.52	6617	R	6680	8400
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	5130	R	6450	7830
<b>Tributaries</b>						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.28	3230	R	3250	4410
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.49	5075	R	6090	11720
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.31	625	S	750	920
Edward at Liewah	-	1.68	1070	F	1220	1210
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.60	715	S	690	650
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.36	1050	F	1530	2410
Darling at Bourke	-	4.11	530	R	440	470
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	3.53	6460	F	6680	7720
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	100	S	90	30

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	13550	18300
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (M AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (M AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrawonga	124.90	+0.05	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.22
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.13
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.19
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.35	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.02	+0.77
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.07	+0.94	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.24
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+0.26	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.18	+0.27	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.23

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.20	0.76	469
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.01	0.21	324

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.96	5
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.89	5

