

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 21 November 2001

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :djcbwh

23 November, 2001



Rainfall was recorded throughout the Murray-Darling Basin in all but the central western portion, and the highest isolated falls were between 25 and 50 mm in some of the eastern areas of the Basin.

Inflows to both Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs showed little response following the recent rain, and are currently 2 900 ML/day and 11 700 ML/day respectively and slowly receding. Storage in Dartmouth (3 453 GL, 88% of capacity) and Hume (2 416 GL, 80% of capacity) will decline next week unless there is a significant increase in inflows, or significant reduction in release.

Release from Dartmouth is now being varied over a two week cycle on a trial basis to introduce a wetting and drying cycle for the river bank aimed at providing environmental benefits (*see Media Release attached*). Under this program, release is being varied between about 3 200 and 4 800 ML/day at an average rate of about 4 000 ML/day, however, the actual release rates may be slightly different if there is significant rain in tributaries downstream of Dartmouth.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been increased from 11 300 to 15 400 ML/day, and is expected to be increased next week if there is no further significant rain in irrigation areas.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased from 7 500 to 8 300 ML/day, and is likely to be further increased next week to meet rising demands. Flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir has been maintained at 2 100 ML/day for the trial watering of wetlands in the Werai Forest, however, it is expected that it will be gradually reduced to normal regulated requirements over the coming week as the trial concludes. The additional flows required for the trial watering will be debited to the NSW Murray Wetlands environmental account.

Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River has averaged 500 ML/day over the last week, and is expected recede late next week. Flow in the River Murray at Euston Weir continued to recede to 5 500 ML/day, and is forecast to slowly recede to about 4 000 ML/day next week. The program of pulsing of release from Euston Weir, which has been undertaken in recent years to assist in reducing flow fluctuations due to high rates of weekend pumping, will be recommenced in the near future in view of the lower flows in the mid Murray.

Release to the lower Darling River from Menindee Lakes was gradually increased from 5 000 ML/day to 7 500 ML/day this week. If conditions remain dry along the Murray, release from Menindee Lakes is expected to be maintained at this rate until early December, after which it is expected to gradually recede as discharge capacity declines as water levels gradually fall in Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla. Releases from Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla are being made in preference to release from Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo so that sufficient water reserves are maintained in those Lakes to provide for local New South Wales water supply needs into the future.

Flow to South Australia has been reduced to 5 900 ML/day this week following completion of last week's manipulation of flow for environmental purposes, and will be maintained near this rate for the remainder of November to provide the required flow for the month.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 16 November 2001

Minor Variation in Dartmouth Release Pattern for Environmental Benefit



River Murray Water announced today that the current program of transfers from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir will be modified to include a variation for environmental benefit.

The flow downstream of the Dartmouth Pondage Dam has been maintained at a constant flow of 4 000 ML/day since 18 October. These releases have been made according to combined operating rules that allow for “harmony” operation of the two storages, and are likely to be maintained at about this flow until mid-late December if conditions remain dry.

Rather than continue to release at a constant flowrate of 4 000 ML/day over an extended period, a small variation will be introduced from next Monday to simulate the response to a rainfall event. This will be based on a fortnightly cycle, with a short rise over two days, followed by a slow recession over 12 days. Flow will be varied from a minimum of 3 200 ML/day to a maximum of 4 800 ML/day. As a result, the water level at Colemans gauge will vary by a total of 250 mm, with a similar fluctuation at Tallandoon assuming inflows from Snowy Creek and other minor tributaries downstream of Dartmouth Dam remain relatively constant. If rainfall causes a flush in these tributaries coinciding with a planned increase in releases, the release program may be modified to prevent inconvenience to diverters.

The magnitude of the variation in flow and water level is relatively small, and as a result is not expected to inconvenience diverters.

The pattern of varied flows is expected to reduce the potential for erosion in the Mitta Mitta River compared with constant flows. In addition, the varied flow pattern is expected to benefit the ecology of the River by providing some wetting and drying of vegetation and biofilms located in the riparian zone, as well as stimulating fish migration.

Environmental monitoring will be undertaken over the next few weeks to assess the benefit of the varied flow pattern. At the suggestion of the Mitta Mitta Catchment Water Services Committee, River Murray Water will also contact riparian landholders directly next week seeking feedback on the trial.

The flow at Colemans gauge is currently 4 000 ML/day (2.08 m gauge height). Commencing Monday 19 October, the flow will be increased to 4 800 ML/day (2.20 m). The flow at Colemans will then be gradually reduced until it reaches 3 200 ML/day (1.95 m) on Sunday 2 December, following which the pattern will be repeated. Based on current forecasts, this will cause the flow at Tallandoon (currently 5 200 ML/day, 2.46 m gauge height) to rise to about 6 000 ML/day (2.59 m) Monday, then recede slowly to about 4 400 ML/day (2.33 m) by Sunday 2 December (without further rain).

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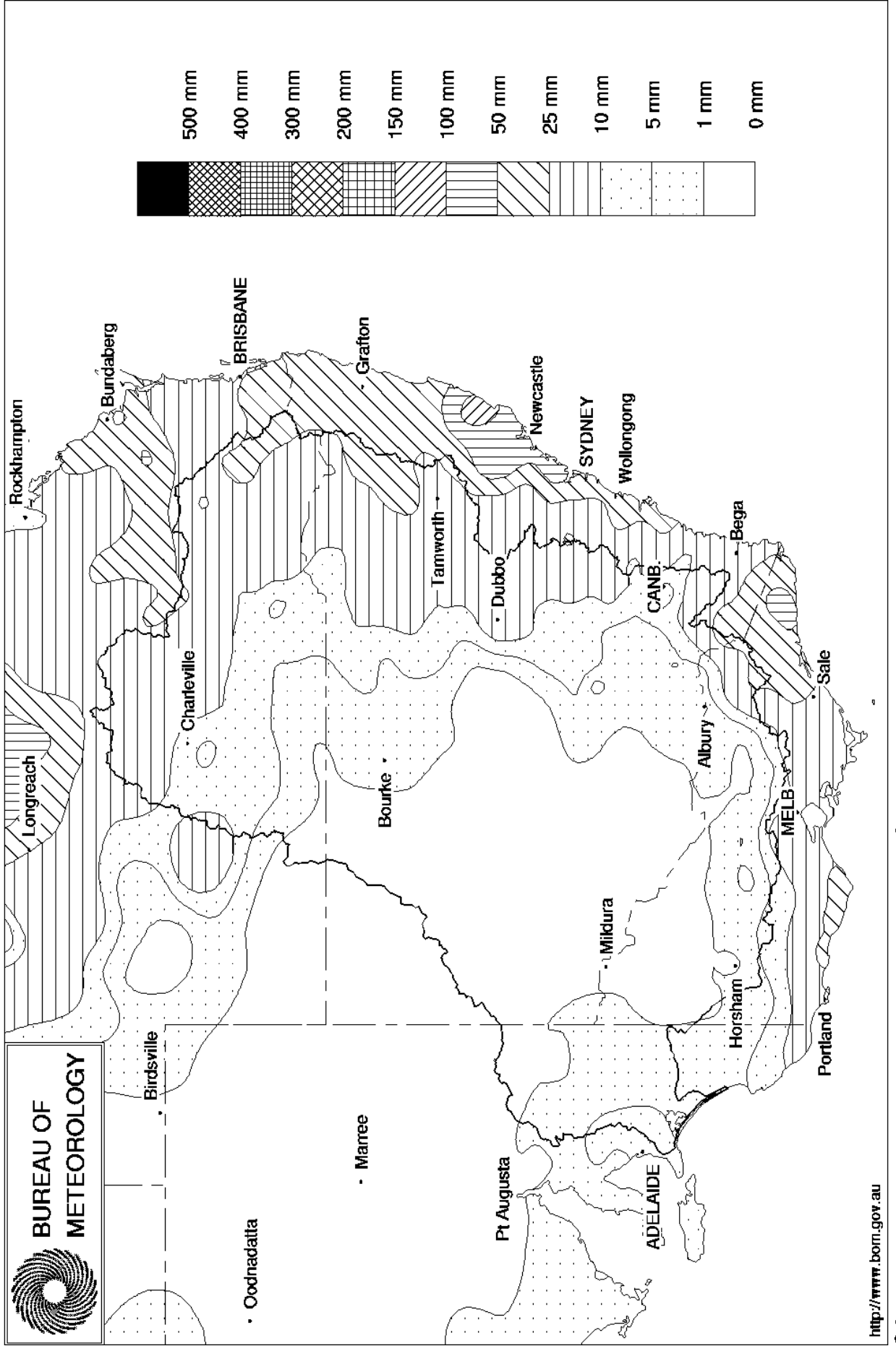
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Murray-Darling Basin Commission

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 21st November 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	478.84	3454	88%	80	3374	-15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	188.71	2416	80%	30	2386	-13
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.12	583	86%	100	483	+15
Menindee		1682 *		1235	73%	480 #	755	-57
Total		9306		7687	83%	690	6997	-70

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **81%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	514	50%	3	511	-13
Blowering Reservoir	1631	940	58%	24	916	-34
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1470	43%	100	1370	-1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 20-Nov-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3165	+26	Snowy-Murray	+1	436
Snowy-Murray Component	1469	-	Tooma-Tumut	+8	190
Target Storage	1450		Nett Diversion	-6.6	245
			Murray 1 Release	+11	700

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	36.4	464.6
Wakool System loss	0.7	8.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	6.5
Licensed Pumps	8.4	107.0
Lower Darling	3.8	15.1
TOTAL	50.2	601.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	16.7	142.4
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.8	261.6
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.1	39.0
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	26.3
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.4	67.1
TOTAL	47.4	536.3

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180
Flow this week	42.7
Flow so far this month	167
Flow last month	266

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	210	226	245
Euston	210	206	265
Red Cliffs	260	260	332
Merbein	250	240	307
Burtundy	500	477	411
Lock 9	370	375	371
L.Victoria	390	393	366
Berri	450	454	420
Waikerie	530	530	505
Morgan	550	532	506
Mannum	500	497	509
Murray Bridge	530	536	552
Meningie	-	-	1160
Goolwa Barrages	1090	1103	1361



Week ending 21-Nov-2001

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
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	4010	S	2540	3360
Jingellic	4.0	1.80	5640	F	6060	9560
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.55	5690	F	5360	5450
Heywoods	5.5	2.97	15360	R	12410	6310
Doctors Point	5.5	3.20	16400	R	13590	8750
Albury	4.3	2.17	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.88	14500	R	13710	8880
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.51	8340	R	7650	7300
Tocumwal	6.4	1.92	6997	R	6820	6690
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.26	2973	R	3230	4960
Stevens Weir (d/s)		2.04	2130	F	2124	1899
Swan Hill	4.5	0.80	2730	F	3590	5200
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.42	4725	F	5320	6220
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.29	5510	F	5810	7340
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.11	8620	F	9220	12080
Rufus Junction	-	3.41	6013	R	5780	10260
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	4370	F	6520	5990
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.32	1210	R	1500	2680
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.61	2227	F	2650	3950
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	399	F	500	600
Edward at Liewah	-	2.53	2040	R	1740	1010
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.47	439	S	480	630
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.09	750	R	570	490
Darling at Bourke	-	4.10	490	F	540	580
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.79	4760	R	4780	5550
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	120	S	70	100

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10240	15100
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.11
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.49
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.47	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.12	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.15
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.09	+0.19	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.14

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	+0.00	1.17	1130
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.01	0.12	244

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.88	2
Mundoo	26 openings	0.85	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.86	5

