

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 April 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng

24 April, 2002



Light falls of rain were recorded across the eastern half of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Streamflows in both the upper Murray and Darling catchments remain low. As a result of recent dry conditions, significant falls of rain will be needed to generate significant increases in flows in those catchments.

Storage in Hume Reservoir continues to be drawn down, however at a slower rate this week, to meet current but receding irrigation demand. Storage declined by 27 GL to 313 GL (10% of capacity). Release has been reduced from 10 000 to about 6 000 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga as downstream irrigation demand has gradually reduced. Rain forecast for early next week may further reduce irrigation demand, and lead to further reductions in release from Hume.

Flow to South Australia is currently being maintained near the average April entitlement flow of 4 500 ML/day, and will be gradually reduced to the May entitlement of 3 000 ML/day at end of April.

Drawdown of Lake Mulwala

As announced by River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water in late March, Lake Mulwala will be drawn down at the end of the irrigation season for the purpose of undertaking remedial works on the main embankment and spillway structures of Yarrawonga Weir.

The commencement date of the drawdown will be dependent upon conditions at the time. The latest that the drawdown will start is 15 May, however it may start earlier if wet conditions lead to cessation of irrigation demand from Lake Mulwala. As previously announced, the drawdown will not commence any earlier than 29 April. However, in view of the current low irrigation demand from the Lake, the water level of the Lake is currently being drawn down by a small amount for operational and water conservation reasons, which is usual for this time of year. Advice of the commencement date for the major drawdown will be provided in a further media release in coming weeks, and the timing will be dependent on the timing of reduction in irrigation demand, particularly for Yarrawonga Main Channel. Timing of refilling of the Lake in July will be advised at a later time.

Removal of Mildura Weir

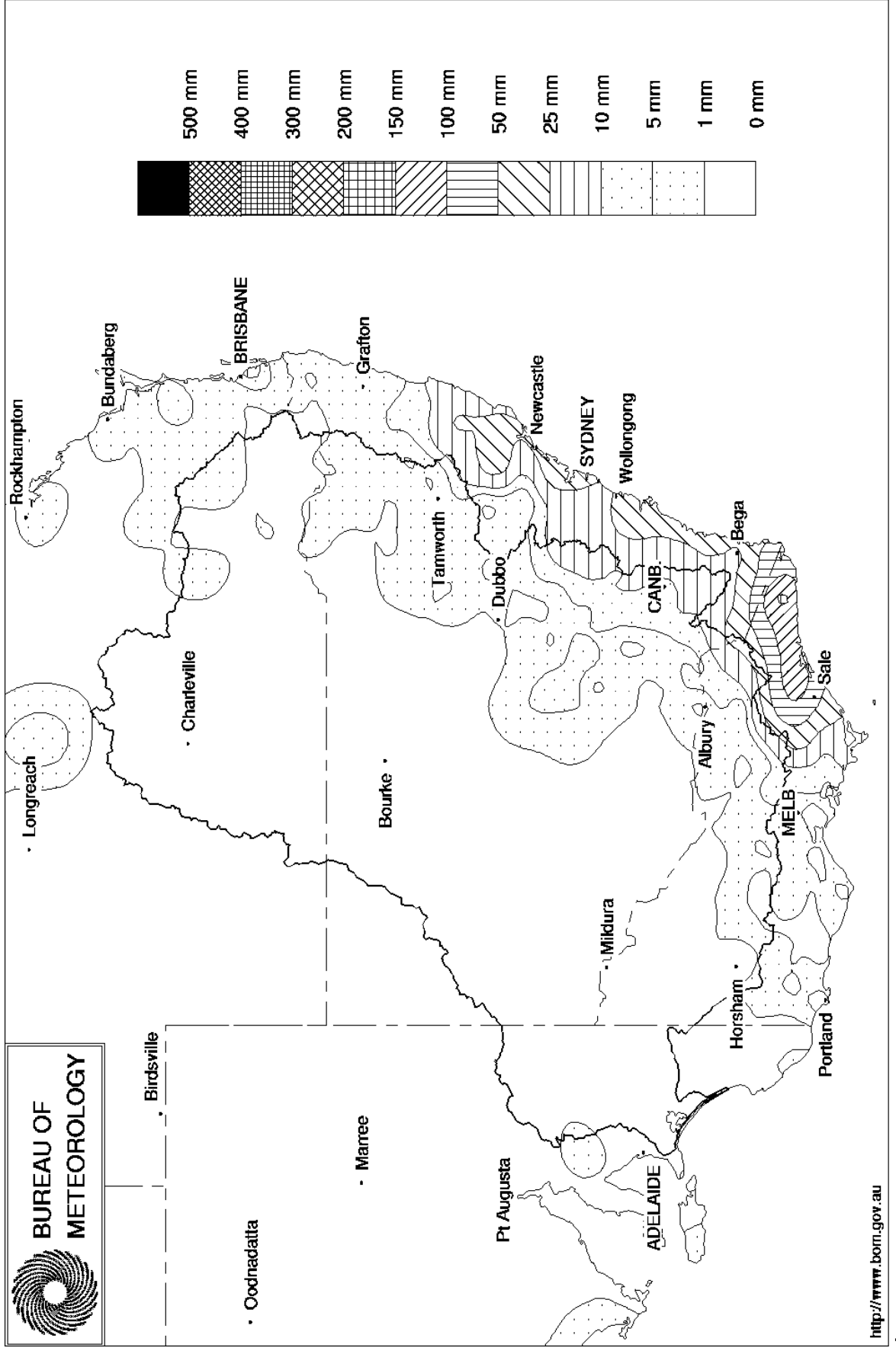
In late March, River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced that Mildura Weir would be removed from the river, with draw down of the weir pool commencing 13 May, for the purpose of replacing several weir trestles with newly fabricated trestles.

Over the last week, it has become evident that the drawdown of the weir pool will be slightly delayed, owing to additional work required to complete fabrication of the new weir trestles. It is now likely that the drawdown will not commence until at least 20 May, and may be as late as 27 May. The duration of low weir pool levels, which may temporarily affect extraction of water, will be minimised consistent with maintenance requirements and river flows at the time. Further advice will be issued via a media release by mid next week.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th April 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 24 Apr 2002

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead storage (GL)	Active storage (GL)	Change for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	476.53	3 314	85%	80	3 234	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.66	313	10%	30	283	-27
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.34	295	43%	100	195	+9
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		432	26%	640 #	0 **	-4
Total		9 306		4 355	47%	690	3 713	-25

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **43%** **

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

** Note : Archive storage calculation has been corrected.

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	240	23%	3	237	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	219	13%	24	195	+21
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	696	21%	100	596	-21

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Apr-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversions	This week	From 1 May 2001
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 904	-8	Snowy-Murray	+0	739
Snowy-Murray Component	1 328	-	Tooma-Tumut	+4	231
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	-4.5	508
			Murray 1 Release	+0	1 050

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	18.9	1 496.6
Wakool System loss	0.2	37.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	27.9
Licensed Pumps	11.4	400.3
Lower Darling	3.3	119.2
TOTAL	34.2	2 081.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	7.4	513
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.5	806
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.8	148
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	69
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.2	175
TOTAL	30.6	1 710

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	29.8	(4 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	107	
Flow last month	187	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	90	153	184
Euston	160	143	212
Red Cliffs	170	180	282
Merbein	180	190	277
Burtundy	810	795	507
Lock 9	280	314	398
Lake Victoria	390	417	407
Berri	550	522	474
Waikerie	-	-	559
Morgan	650	644	561
Mannum	620	623	551
Murray Bridge	750	661	596
Meningie	-	-	1 223
Goolwa Barrages	1 370	1 415	1 450



Week ending Wednesday 24 Apr 2002

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	450	F	450	440
Jingellic	4.0	1.22	207.74	1 400	S	1 330	1 220
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	880	S	900	890
Heywoods	5.5	2.12	155.75	5 330	S	5 760	10 640
Doctors Point	5.5	2.24	150.71	5 760	F	6 190	10 830
Albury	4.3	1.26	148.70	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.75	127.77	7 010	R	8 470	12 900
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.00	116.04	4 720	S	5 270	6 610
Tocumwal	6.4	1.54	105.38	5 150	F	5 710	6 750
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.17	79.72	2 780	F	2 930	3 150
Swan Hill	4.5	0.79	63.71	2 850	S	3 050	2 980
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.28	51.40	4 820	F	5 520	5 610
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.20	43.04	5 400	F	6 170	6 260
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.92	5 640	F	5 950	4 840
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.89	27.65	5 380	S	5 660	4 670
Rufus Junction	-	2.96	17.71	3 570	R	3 660	4 040
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 140	R	3 280	2 660
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.78	154.01	330	F	340	420
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.78	145.46	345	S	370	340
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	433	S	470	500
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	230	S	260	690
Edward at Liewah	-	1.99	57.37	1 390	F	1 840	2 660
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.52	55.01	542	R	620	630
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.72	56.68	400	R	420	1 080
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.31	-	250	F	270	190
Darling at Bourke	-	4.12	-	570	R	380	350
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.79	-	310	S	330	370

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 370	1 790
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+0.67
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.25	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.04
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.12	+0.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.23

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.27	0.72	70.07	421
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.09	0.21	61.51	324

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.54	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.55	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.59	All closed



AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level