

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 December 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

12 December, 2002



Rainfall

Good falls were recorded in much of the northern and eastern areas of the Murray-Darling Basin, with highest falls of between 50 and 100 mm in some areas. However, rainfall along the River Murray was only between 1 and 5 mm in most areas, with higher falls of between 10 and 25 mm about the ranges in southern New South Wales and north-east Victoria.

Maintenance Inspection at Hume Dam

An inspection of the trash racks on the upstream side of the irrigation outlets at Hume Dam is scheduled for Wednesday 18 December. All release from Hume Reservoir is to be temporarily shut down for a short period of about three hours to facilitate the inspection of the trash racks by divers. An assessment of the level of debris on the racks will be undertaken to determine if excess debris needs to be removed at a later date. The duration of cessation of discharge from Hume is being minimised to ensure that there is no impact on downstream flow requirements, nor any adverse impact on river levels. River levels downstream are anticipated to temporarily fall over a couple of hours by about 0.5 to 1.0 m near Hume, and about 0.3 m at Albury/Wodonga, and then return to previous levels.

This program of work is being undertaken to ensure that there are no significant obstructions to the outlets, and to maximise the outlet capacity prior to Hume storage level falling to very low levels in early 2003 as projected under continuing dry conditions. Current storage in Hume is 364 GL or 12 % of capacity and slowly declining.

Hume to Lake Victoria Transfer Rate Reduced

In consultation with the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment, River Murray Water is now beginning to reduce the rate of transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria via the Barmah-Millewa Forest. However, transfer to Lake Victoria is continuing within channel capacity downstream of Yarrawonga Weir, and at channel capacity downstream of Stevens Weir on the Edward River. Accordingly, release from Hume has been reduced from 22 200 to 17 600 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga. Corresponding flow reductions are being made at Yarrawonga Weir where release is being gradually reduced from 15 000 ML/day to the normal channel capacity rate of about 10 300 ML/day for the Barmah-Millewa Forest by 15 December.

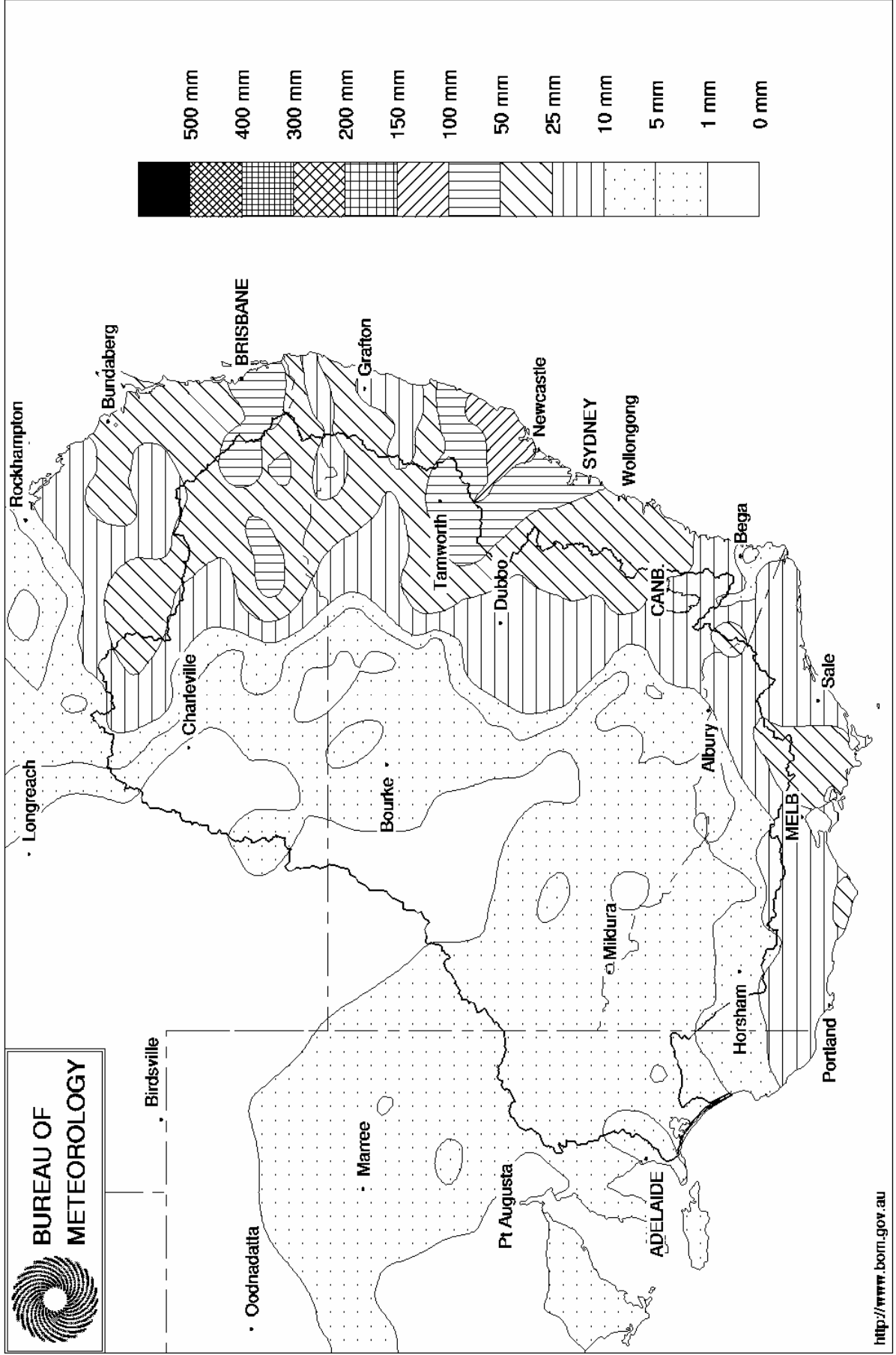
Lake Victoria

With flow to South Australia being maintained at the December entitlement rate of 7 000 ML/day, storage in Lake Victoria has risen by 2 GL to 541 GL or 80 % of capacity. Recent cooler conditions, and a resulting reduction in diversions and losses in the middle reaches of the Murray, has resulted in Lake Victoria storage being slightly higher than previously anticipated. If dry conditions continue, storage in the Lake is forecast to remain steady until mid December before being slowly drawn down to assist in supplying South Australia's entitlement flows over the remainder of the irrigation season.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th December 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 11 Dec 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 in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	453.43	2 099	54%	80	2 019	-69
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.44	364	12%	30	334	-61
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.74	541	80%	100	441	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		155	9%	640 #	0	-9
Total		9 306		3 160	34%	850	2 794	-137

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **33%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	288	28%	3	285	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	173	11%	24	149	-33
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	649	19%	100	549	-20

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Dec-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 125	-21	Snowy-Murray	+1	253
Snowy-Murray Component	1 566	+10	Tooma-Tumut	+0	180
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	0.8	72
			Murray 1 Release	+6	500

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.9	298.8
Wakool System loss	0.5	20.6
Western Murray Irrig.	1.0	11.6
Licensed Pumps	4.1	106.0
Lower Darling	3.9	84.2
TOTAL	16.4	521.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	12.7	252
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.4	475
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.7	66
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	29
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.4	82
TOTAL	46.7	905

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	50.5	(7 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	77	
Flow last month	181	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	60	60	90
Euston	80	80	140
Red Cliffs	80	90	160
Merbein	80	90	160
Burtundy (Darling)	950	950	880
Lock 9	110	110	210
Lake Victoria	310	300	330
Berri	260	280	380
Waikerie	410	430	530
Morgan	490	520	590
Mannum	610	610	650
Murray Bridge	680	680	720
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 060	1 020	980
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 230	1 080	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 960	1 620	1 480
Goolwa Barrages	3 130	3 420	3 330



Week ending Wednesday 11 Dec 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	-	-	-	960	F	2 060	1 260
Jingellic	4.0	1.34	207.86	2 220	F	3 120	2 590
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.20	220.09	10 020	S	10 040	9 940
Heywoods	5.5	3.17	156.80	17 520	F	20 600	19 910
Doctors Point	5.5	3.29	151.76	17 600	F	20 870	20 810
Albury	4.3	2.31	149.75	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.79	129.81	21 500	F	22 360	21 140
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.36	117.40	15 000	S	14 990	15 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.90	106.74	14 800	S	14 750	14 880
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.87	81.42	8 980	S	9 100	9 170
Swan Hill	4.5	1.63	64.55	8 420	S	8 440	8 220
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.91	53.03	11 790	S	11 850	11 170
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.36	44.20	12 510	S	12 430	11 500
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.20	8 880	F	8 510	8 080
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.22	27.98	9 440	R	8 880	8 590
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 450	F	6 560	5 820
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 640	R	3 690	3 900
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.70	153.93	250	F	410	430
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.74	145.42	298	F	340	440
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	433	R	390	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 900	S	2 910	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	3.03	58.41	2 780	F	2 800	2 790
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.89	55.38	1 660	S	1 670	1 510
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.91	56.87	453	F	370	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	40	F	50	40
Darling at Bourke	-	3.59	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.50	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 480	2 260
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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	-0.15	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.18	+1.14
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.40	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.58	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.26
No. 9 Kullnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.10	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.20
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.30	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.20	0.62	69.97	315
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.01	61.31	162

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.62	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.61	All closed

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

