

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 27 February 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

28 February, 2002



Widespread rain fell over almost the entire Murray-Darling Basin this week, and a large area in the north of the Basin received 50 to 100 mm. Current advice, however, indicates that there will be little increase, if any, in inflows to Menindee Lakes as a result of the rain in the Darling River system catchment.

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been maintained at the low rate of 600 ML/day, a little above minimum release rate of 200 ML/day. With some rain in the Dartmouth Reservoir catchment, Dartmouth storage volume has remained near steady this week and current storage is 3 340 GL (86% of capacity).

Release from Hume was increased significantly this week from 13 000 to 20 000 ML/day to meet rising demand, and further increases expected next week. As a result, after the effect of inflows, storage in Hume has been drawn down by 77 GL to 1 156 GL (38% of capacity).

Following the reduced diversions last week as a result of rain, irrigation demand has risen this week along the mid Murray, and further increase in demand is expected next week unless there is a significant change in weather conditions. Total diversion from Lake Mulwala has increased from 6 200 to 9 000 ML/day, and this trend is expected to continue as existing irrigation advance orders now total 12 200 ML/day (93% of maximum possible from Lake Mulwala). Release from Yarrawonga Weir was temporarily reduced to 8 500 ML/day in response to reduced demand early in the week, but has since been increased to 10 400 ML/day (channel capacity for the forest downstream) to meet increased demand.

At Torrumbarry Weir, diversion to National Channel increased from 3 300 to about 3 500 ML/day. Flow downstream of Torrumbarry has declined from 4 000 to 3 000 ML following reduction in flow at Yarrawonga last week. Consequently, the level of the Murray at Swan Hill (currently 0.8 m gauge height) is expected to temporarily fall to near the minimum level (0.6 m) by about 4 March, and then begin to rise.

Maintenance work on the lock chamber at Euston Weir continued this week, and it is currently expected that the upstream pool level (currently 16 cm below FSL) will return to full supply level by about 3 March. The pool will then be temporarily drawn down again in to assist in meeting flow requirements along the mid Murray following recent increases in demand. Release from Euston Weir is 4 400 ML/day and slowly declining.

Under the combined operating rules for Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria, transfers from Menindee Lakes to the Murray are no longer required, therefore release from Menindee Lakes has continued to be reduced this week toward minimum flow rates (*see Media Release attached*).

In mid February, a significant number of dead fish was reported in smaller lakes which adjoin Lake Wetherell, the most upstream lake of the Menindee Lakes scheme. These upstream lakes are not regulated and are connected to the Darling River, but water levels recede when the level of Lake Wetherell is low which has occurred in recent months. The NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation recently confirmed that with the recent fish kills, only Carp are present. Large native fish usually move back to the Darling River as the level of Lake Wetherell recedes, and are generally not trapped, although some smaller native fish may be trapped when this occurs. Currently, there is sufficient water in Lakes Pamamaroo, Menindee and Cawndilla to sustain fish populations in those lakes for about eight months at least.

DAVID DOLE  
General Manager

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Release from Menindee Lakes Reduced to Minimum Rates



River Murray Water announced today that release from Menindee Lakes is being reduced to minimum requirements in line with the combined operating rules for Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes.

As transfers from Menindee Lakes to the River Murray are no longer required for the remainder of the season, release from Weir 32 has been gradually reduced in recent weeks. Release from Weir 32 (currently 800 ML/day) is being further gradually reduced over the next two days to the minimum requirement for March of 350 ML/day. This release rate will be maintained throughout March, and will then be reduced to minimum requirement of 300 and 200 ML/day in April and May respectively.

Storage in Menindee Lakes is currently 512 GL or 30% of nominal capacity. Under the operating agreement between the Murray-Darling Basin Commission and New South Wales Department of Land and Water Conservation, control of release from Menindee Lakes reverts to NSW once the combined storage in the Lakes falls below 480 GL. This is currently expected to occur in about mid March 2002. The last time that storage fell below 480 GL for a significant period of time was for the four month period November 1994 to February 1995.

Control of Menindee Lakes will next return to River Murray Water when the storage has risen above 640 GL. It is not possible to predict when this will occur because it is dependent on future inflow conditions. However, based on the current storage volume and historical inflow statistics, there is about a 50% chance that storage will reach 640 GL by end of October 2002. There is about a 30% chance that storage will reach 1 200 GL (about 70% of nominal capacity) by end of October; and about a 20% chance that storage will reach surcharge capacity (about 2 000 GL) by end of October 2002.

A further media release will be issued when there is a significant change to the operation plan for the lakes.

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(Daniel Connell is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)



## Week ending Wednesday 27 Feb 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	476.96	3 340	86%	80	3 260	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.99	1 156	38%	30	1 126	-77
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.84	446	66%	100	346	-2
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		512	30%	480 #	32	-27
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 306</b>		<b>5 454</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>690</b>	<b>4 764</b>	<b>-106</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **55%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	271	26%	3	268	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	366	22%	24	342	-32
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	969	29%	100	869	-29

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 26-Feb-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2001
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 031	-16	Snowy-Murray	+21	690
Snowy-Murray Component	1 348	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	221
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	20.9	470
			Murray 1 Release	+24	992

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	34.3	1 161.1
Wakool System loss	0.5	26.4
Western Murray Irrig.	1.0	23.1
Licensed Pumps	15.4	276.1
Lower Darling	5.3	97.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>1 584.4</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	18.4	387
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.2	602
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.0	127
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.7	57
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.0	145
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55.3</b>	<b>1 317</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.2	
Flow so far this month	190	
Flow last month	220	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	120	155	202
Euston	130	137	228
Red Cliffs	220	220	300
Merbein	220	260	293
Burtundy	460	547	467
Lock 9	390	427	409
Lake Victoria	460	455	394
Berri	500	511	462
Waikerie	600	590	549
Morgan	610	609	543
Mannum	600	604	533
Murray Bridge	650	652	569
Meningie	1 380	1 370	1 223
Goolwa Barrages	1 540	1 556	1 426



Week ending Wednesday 27 Feb 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	-	-	-	3 560	F	3 910	4 280
Jingellic	4.0	1.71	208.23	4 970	R	5 530	6 170
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.49	218.38	960	R	930	1 350
Heywoods	5.5	3.45	157.08	20 180	R	15 990	14 240
Doctors Point	5.5	3.58	152.05	21 300	R	16 960	14 740
Albury	4.3	2.63	150.07	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.39	129.41	18 300	R	16 230	16 670
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 400	R	9 020	9 190
Tocumwal	6.4	2.14	105.98	8 760	R	8 670	8 670
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.23	79.78	2 980	R	3 640	4 790
Swan Hill	4.5	0.80	63.72	2 980	F	3 720	4 740
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.25	51.37	4 710	F	5 890	6 640
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.14	42.98	4 680	F	6 570	6 040
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.98	6 520	F	5 470	3 970
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	6 860	R	6 500	5 550
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	17.75	6 740	R	6 500	6 580
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 040	S	4 070	4 000
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.82	154.05	380	F	600	440
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.75	145.43	305	F	340	310
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	463	R	500	550
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 190	F	1 250	1 350
Edward at Liewah	-	1.81	57.19	1 200	F	1 450	1 810
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.69	55.18	968	R	890	830
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.92	56.88	580	F	790	870
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.39	-	450	R	100	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.12	-	570	F	530	160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	-	-	1 592	R	1 720	2 210

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 210	3 560
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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	-0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+1.22
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.17	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.18	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.67
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.36	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.02

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.32	0.71	70.06	410
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.03	0.19	61.49	305

### Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.63	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.69	All closed

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

