

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 17 July 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng:bwh

19 July, 2002



Only light falls of rain were recorded in the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Falls were generally between 1 and 5 mm along the Great Divide in New South Wales, with falls of between 5 and 10 mm in Victoria and South Australia. Conditions were dry elsewhere in the Basin.

Based solely on historical inflow statistics, and existing storage in Menindee Lakes, RMW has recently estimated that there is currently about a 30% chance of Menindee Lakes returning from NSW to MDBC control (i.e. reaching 640 GL or 38% of capacity) by October 2002.

The Bureau of Meteorology's most recent outlook for rainfall (for the period August to October) indicates a swing toward higher chances of drier than median conditions in eastern and southern Australia (*copy attached, or see via Internet http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain_ahead.shtml*). For this period, however, the Bureau notes that the reliability of the outlook model is low for all areas except Queensland.

Streamflows in the upper Murray have receded, with combined inflow to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs falling from about 23 000 to 15 000 ML/day. Combined storage in Dartmouth and Hume increased by 72 GL, and storage in Hume is currently at 27% of capacity. Transfer of water from Dartmouth to Hume is continuing at an average rate of 6 500 ML/day with a two week cycle of variation between 7 500 and 5 500 ML/day for environmental objectives with a variation in river level of 0.35 m in the Mitta Mitta River at Tallandoon, without significant rain in tributary streams.

Combined inflows to the Murray from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers receded from 6 000 to 3 500 ML/day as a result of recent dry conditions. Consequently, increased release from Hume Reservoir for preparation of the start of the irrigation season, and to assist in refilling Lake Mulwala, commenced on 18 July (*see Media Release attached*). If conditions remain dry, flow at Albury/Wodonga is expected to reach about 11 000 ML/day by Wednesday 24 July. However, release rates from Hume will be reduced at any time to conserve resources if there is a significant increase in flow in downstream tributaries.

Lake Mulwala water level rose by 1.7 m over the week, and will be raised a further 3 m by mid August in readiness for the commencement of the irrigation season. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been maintained near 4 000 ML/day, and without significant rain, is expected to be held near this rate next week to meet downstream requirements.

Diversion to National Channel from the Torrumbarry Weir pool is expected to commence on 19 July for filling channels and storages in Torrumbarry Irrigation system. As a result, flow in the Murray downstream of Torrumbarry Weir (currently at about 4 500 ML/day) will decline to about 2 000 ML/day next week. The river level at Swan Hill is expected to fall from the current level of 1.0 m gauge height toward the target minimum level of 0.6 m late in July.

Inflow to the River Murray from the Murrumbidgee River increased from 700 to 1 800 ML/day during the week and is now gradually receding. Without further rain in the Murrumbidgee catchment it is expected that the flow at Balranald will fall to about 400 ML/day by the end of July.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 16 July 2002

Commencement of Release from Hume Reservoir in Preparation for Start of Irrigation Season



River Murray Water announced today that release from Hume Reservoir will be increased commencing Thursday 18 July in preparation for the commencement of the irrigation season, and to assist in the refilling of Lake Mulwala.

Conditions in the River Murray system have generally been dry since March. Combined inflow to the whole system (including inflow to Menindee Lakes) has been equivalent to the driest year in every ten years on average. In the upper Murray, inflow in this period has been equivalent to the driest year in three over the long term (about a 65% chance of exceedance). Over the last week, inflows to Lake Mulwala from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers have receded, and it is now necessary to supplement this with additional release from Hume Reservoir in order to achieve a suitable water level in Lake Mulwala in preparation for the coming irrigation season. In addition, flow requirements downstream of Yarrawonga are increasing due to orders for diversions for filling of storages in the Torrumbarry Irrigation System.

Commencing Thursday 18 July, release from Hume Reservoir will be gradually increased from the current (minimum) release of 600 ML/day in the range of 11 000 ML/day at Albury by about Wednesday 24 July if conditions remain dry. This will result in the water level at Albury increasing from the current gauge height of 0.75 m to about 1.8 m. However, the release rate from Hume will be reduced to conserve resources if there is a significant increase in flows in downstream tributaries, particularly the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers.

The timing of the commencement of these regulated releases from Hume is similar to that of several other seasons over the last ten years as follows: in 1997, release commenced on 19 July; and in 1995 and 1994 releases commenced on 20 July and 22 July respectively.

If conditions in late winter-early spring are dry, major transfers from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria will be necessary to supplement storage in Lake Victoria to ensure that South Australia's entitlement flow can be met over the remainder of the season. Further details on the need for such transfers will be provided in future media releases.

For further information contact:

Alison Hicks

Media Liaison Officer

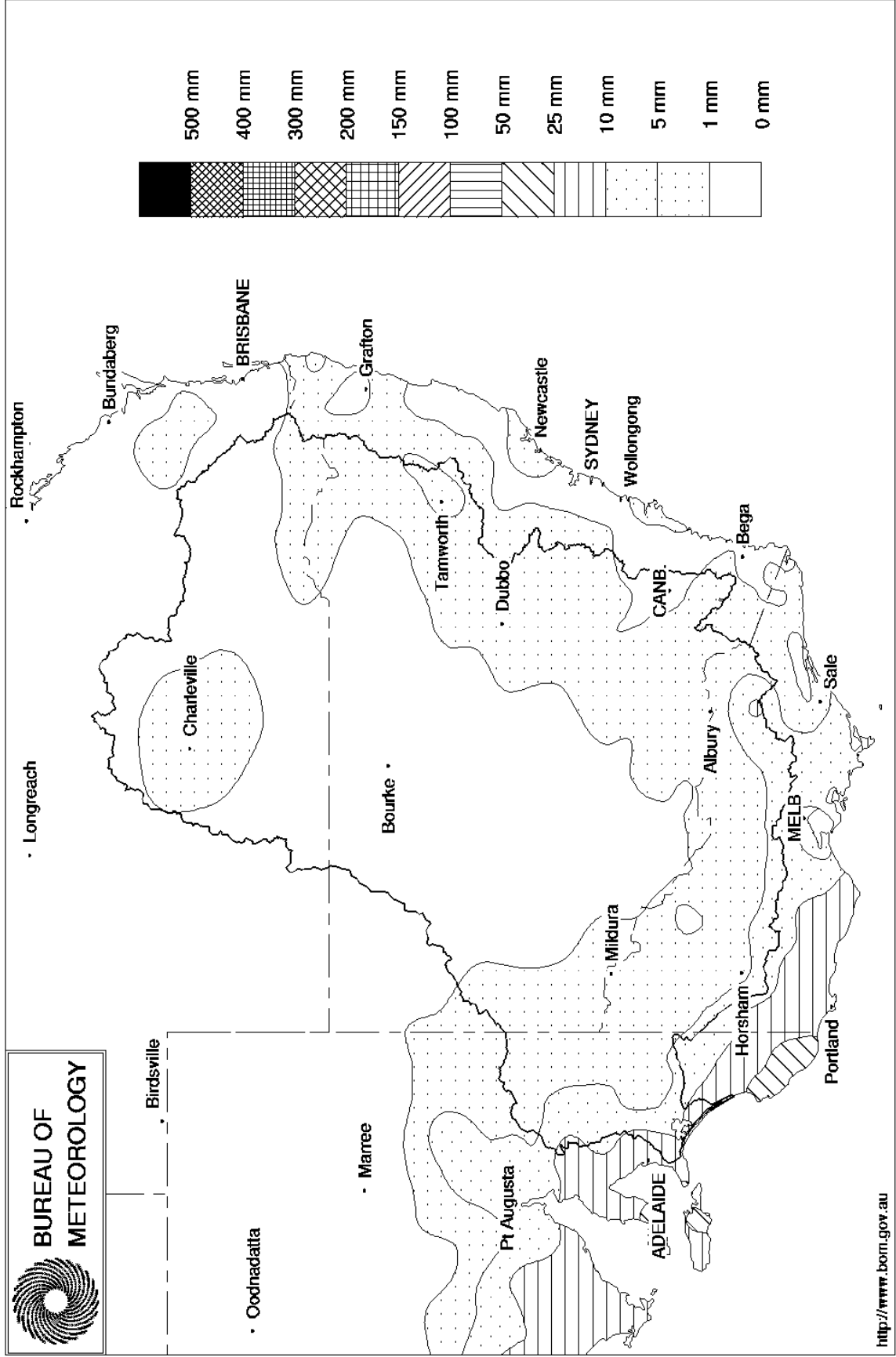
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(Alison Hicks is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 17th July 2002

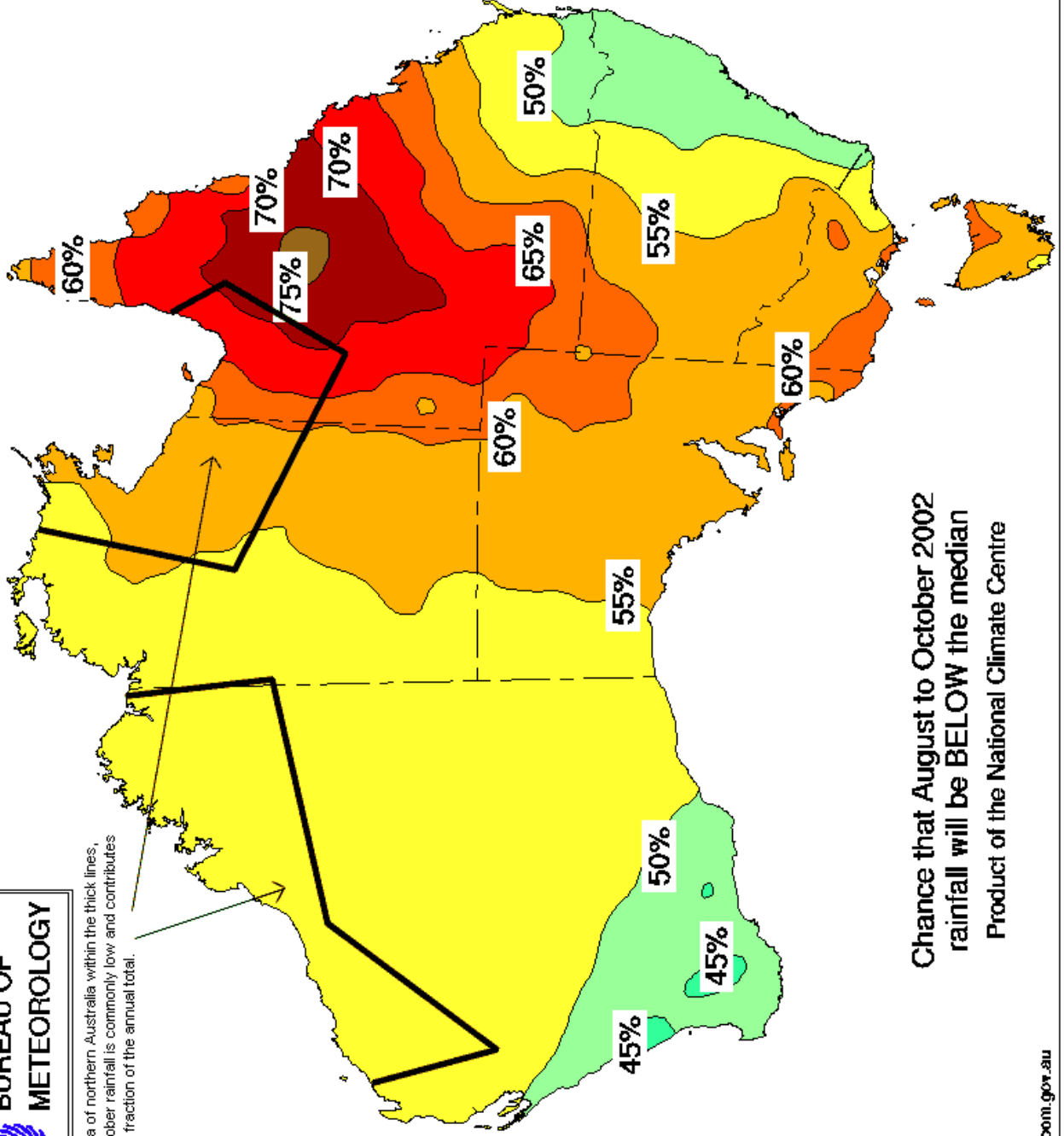
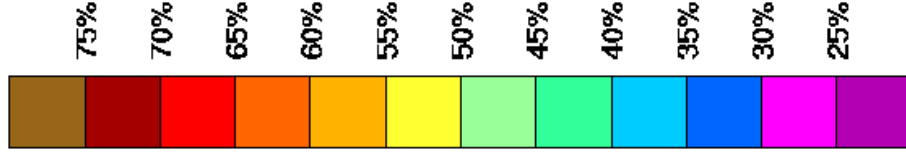
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>



For that area of northern Australia within the thick lines, August-October rainfall is commonly low and contributes only a small fraction of the annual total.



Chance that August to October 2002 rainfall will be BELOW the median
Product of the National Climate Centre

Week ending Wednesday 17 Jul 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	474.65	3 203	82%	80	3 123	-36
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.82	815	27%	30	785	+108
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.57	419	62%	100	319	+15
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		387	23%	640 #	0	-4
Total		9 306		4 823	52%	850	4 226	+83

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **50%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		280	27%	3	277	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		535	33%	24	511	+36
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		781	23%	100	681	+20

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 16-Jul-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversions	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 861	-4	Snowy-Murray	+12	102
Snowy-Murray Component	1 361	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	57
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	6.6	44
			Murray 1 Release	+17	169

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	- 4.6
Wakool System loss	0.7	.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.3
Licensed Pumps	0.9	2.5
Lower Darling	3.7	8.3
TOTAL	5.5	7.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.9	4
TOTAL	2.2	6

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	24.8	
Flow so far this month	59	
Flow last month	90	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	200	198	183
Euston	210	181	204
Red Cliffs	210	210	266
Merbein	190	180	256
Burtundy	830	821	579
Lock 9	240	232	364
Lake Victoria	390	381	407
Berri	520	506	487
Waikerie	680	680	588
Morgan	670	671	602
Mannum	640	638	569
Murray Bridge	700	699	618
Meningie	1 310	N/A	1 268
Goolwa Barrages	5 830	5 781	1 999



Week ending Wednesday 17 Jul 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	-	-	-	2 510	F	2 530	4 420
Jingellic	4.0	1.79	208.31	5 560	F	6 630	10 340
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.79	219.68	7 330	F	7 950	6 910
Heywoods	5.5	1.22	154.85	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.65	150.12	1 740	R	1 940	2 430
Albury	4.3	0.77	148.21	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.76	126.78	1 900	F	2 260	2 370
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.80	115.84	4 020	R	4 260	4 540
Tocumwal	6.4	1.29	105.13	3 990	F	4 350	3 920
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.66	80.21	4 550	F	4 530	4 160
Swan Hill	4.5	1.00	63.92	4 380	R	4 050	4 340
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.18	51.30	4 470	S	4 610	5 500
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.27	43.11	5 780	R	5 720	6 760
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.84	4 340	F	4 810	5 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.89	27.65	5 030	F	5 520	5 600
Rufus Junction	-	2.83	18.38	3 040	F	3 020	2 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 690	S	2 640	2 470
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.45	154.68	1 300	R	1 520	2 010
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.64	146.32	2 310	F	3 070	3 230
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	463	F	490	480
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	230	F	280	220
Edward at Liewah	-	1.04	56.42	530	S	530	540
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.27	54.76	144	S	150	150
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.91	57.87	1 730	F	1 450	1 070
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.23	-	100	S	110	110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	190	S	190	220
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	90	S	90	120

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	10 360	12 240
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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	-3.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+0.52
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.07
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.32
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.03	+0.25	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.07	+0.15	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+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	-0.06	2.04	71.39	2950
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.21	62.51	1510

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.68	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.73	All closed

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

