

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 March 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

21 March, 2002



Warm and dry conditions continued along the River Murray, and water demand along the mid Murray continues to be greater than the capacity to supply along the Murray and from tributaries. Consequently, the restrictions to diversions (of about 10%) introduced on 15 March by New South Wales and Victoria, in consultation with River Murray Water, remain in place for the River Murray between Yarrawonga and Wentworth. As no rain is currently forecast, restrictions are expected to continue into next week.

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir was temporally increased from 600 ML/day to 3 000 ML/day commencing 18 March specifically for the purpose of electricity generation. Release has since been reduced to about 1 800 ML/day by 20 March, and is now being gradually reduced to 600 ML/day in response to reduced electricity demand.

Storage in Hume Reservoir declined by 160 GL to 712 GL or 23 % of capacity. Release from Hume Reservoir is being maintained at high regulated rates to meet demand, and was at channel capacity at Albury (25 000 ML/day) at the end of the week following a minor rise in flow in the Kiewa River as a result of increased electricity generation at Mt Beauty power station.

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala has continued at capacity, and is expected to remain at capacity next week if conditions remain dry. Release from Yarrawonga Weir is being maintained at channel capacity (10 400 ML/day) whilst high demand continues along the mid Murray.

Following the introduction of restrictions, release from Torrumbarry Weir has been increased from 2 900 to 3 400 ML/day, and a further slight increase is expected next week. Further downstream, the river level at Swan Hill has increased (currently 7 cm above the target minimum level of 0.6 m) and is forecast to rise slightly next week.

Additional inflows from the Murrumbidgee River have declined and flow at Balranald returned to the minimum flow of 200 ML/day on 20 March. As a result, together with declining Murray flow upstream of the Murrumbidgee Junction, the water level of the Euston Weir pool is now being drawn down to assist in meeting downstream flow requirements. Euston pool level is forecast to fall by as much as 40 cm full supply level (FSL) late next week. Release from Euston Weir was pulsed on 19 March to assist in meeting expected higher demand downstream over the coming weekend.

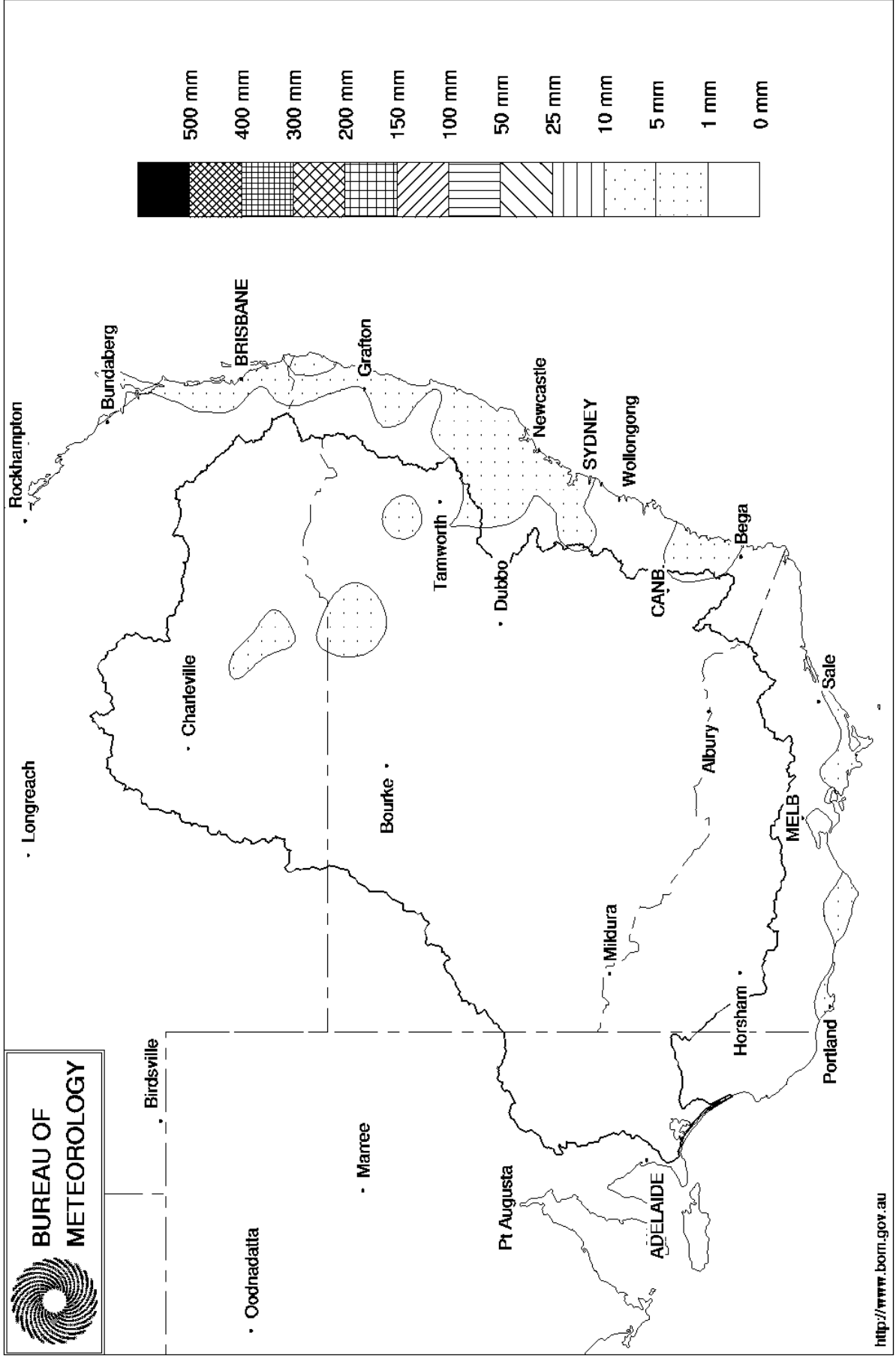
Release from Mildura Weir averaged about 1 500 ML/day this week, and flow is expected to continue at this rate, or slightly above, next week. The water level of Mildura Weir pool is currently 2 cm below FSL, and may be further drawn down next week to assist in meeting downstream flows.

Storage in Lake Victoria has been drawn down by 39 GL to 356 GL or 52 % of capacity, whilst continuing to assist in meeting the March entitlement flow to South Australia of 6 000 ML/day.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th March 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending Wednesday 20 Mar 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	476.77	3 328	85%	80	3 248	-4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.75	712	23%	30	682	-160
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.95	356	52%	100	256	-39
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		471	28%	640 #	- 169	-10
Total		9 306		4 867	52%	690	4 017	-213

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **47%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		249	24%	3	246	-18
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		253	16%	24	229	-40
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		827	24%	100	727	-47

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Mar-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2001
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 961	-34	Snowy-Murray	+17	739
Snowy-Murray Component	1 311	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	221
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	16.8	518
			Murray 1 Release	+18	1 048

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	68.7	1 352.2	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	21.6	451
Wakool System loss	1.6	31.5	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	27.4	688
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	25.5	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.7	138
Licensed Pumps	18.3	327.7	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.1	63
Lower Darling	3.0	112.4	Licensed pumps - SRW	4.3	157
TOTAL	92.4	1 849.3	TOTAL	59.1	1 498

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	
Flow this week	42.6	(6 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	120	
Flow last month	198	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	90	124	194
Euston	210	202	222
Red Cliffs	240	220	292
Merbein	210	210	286
Burtundy	530	504	470
Lock 9	380	377	406
Lake Victoria	470	461	401
Berri	530	522	467
Waikerie	-	610	555
Morgan	620	618	550
Mannum	610	609	540
Murray Bridge	740	741	582
Meningie	N/A	N/A	1 223
Goolwa Barrages	1 490	1 434	1 432



Week ending Wednesday 20 Mar 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	-	-	-	1 390	F	1 440	1 840
Jingellic	4.0	1.30	207.82	1 940	F	2 070	3 710
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.98	218.87	2 660	F	1 410	840
Heywoods	5.5	3.69	157.32	24 420	R	23 770	24 250
Doctors Point	5.5	3.88	152.35	25 000	R	23 960	24 290
Albury	4.3	2.99	150.43	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.12	130.14	24 200	R	23 970	24 760
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 400	S	10 400	10 390
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	9 770	S	9 810	9 740
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.35	79.90	3 380	F	3 350	3 090
Swan Hill	4.5	0.67	63.59	2 100	R	1 840	1 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.52	50.64	2 550	R	2 640	2 720
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.71	42.55	2 560	R	2 340	2 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.84	1 870	F	1 520	1 840
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.76	27.52	1 720	R	1 480	2 260
Rufus Junction	-	3.35	18.31	5 680	F	5 680	5 410
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 050	R	3 320	3 300
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.38	154.61	1 180	R	560	340
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.65	145.33	181	S	210	550
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	463	R	430	370
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 390	F	1 280	1 200
Edward at Liewah	-	1.45	56.83	860	F	1 010	1 290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.27	54.76	144	S	150	310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.49	56.45	220	F	440	700
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	170	S	160	240
Darling at Bourke	-	4.22	-	1 090	F	1 030	700
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.84	-	470	S	480	770

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 000	1 950
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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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+1.03
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.05	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.02	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.58
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.12	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	-0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.01
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.01	+0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.12

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.75	0.67	70.02	366
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.84	0.13	61.43	252

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.52	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.52	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.57	All closed

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

