

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

**Wednesday, 8 May 2002**

*Our Ref : MDBC:269 :brc*

**10 May, 2002**



Conditions were mostly dry across the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with light falls of rain recorded in Queensland and northern New South Wales. Dry and warm conditions along the River Murray have maintained, and in some cases increased, irrigation demand at major offtakes. Hence, release from Hume Reservoir has been maintained at about 5 500 ML/day.

Sustained release from Hume has continued over most of the irrigation season with little except when significant rain occurred in February. In addition, late season irrigation release from Hume, coupled with low inflows, have resulted in the water level of Hume Reservoir falling to the lowest seen since 1983. Storage in Hume on 8 May was 252 GL (8.3% of capacity) compared with the lowest in 1983 of 222 GL (7.3% of capacity). However, it is not unusual for the level in Hume to be low at the end of an irrigation season, as storage in Hume has been drawn down below 300 GL four times in the last twenty years. Without significant rain, it is expected that the level in Hume will continue to fall to between 235 and 240 GL in mid May before gradually rising. Despite the low storage in Hume, and the relatively high level of Dartmouth Reservoir, the probability of each storage spilling next spring is about 25%.

Release from Hume will be reduced late next week as the Victorian irrigation season closes. Diversion via the NSW major gravity diversion offtakes - Mulwala Canal and Wakool Canal - ended this week. The annual end-of-season drawdown of Stevens Weir on the Edward River commenced this week following the end of diversions to Wakool Canal. Lake Mulwala is currently about 0.4 m below full supply level, and is expected to remain at about this level until 15 May. Diversion to Yarrowonga Main Canal is expected to cease on 15 May if conditions remain dry, allowing drawdown of Lake Mulwala to commence for remedial works on the Weir. Release from Yarrowonga Weir is currently about 3 800 ML/day, and may be further reduced prior to commencement of the drawdown of Lake Mulwala.

Warm and dry conditions have produced a sharp rise in demand for irrigation water in the Torrumbarry Irrigation System via National Channel prior to the end of the irrigation season. This has resulted in a low flows at Torrumbarry Weir. In response, Torrumbarry Weir pool has been lowered by 20 cm to supplement downstream flow. In addition, Goulburn-Murray Water has released additional water from the downstream storages in the Torrumbarry system, particularly Lake Kangaroo. This has increased returns to the River Murray via Little Murray Weir, and has been used to assist in meeting target minimum flow requirements at Swan Hill. Relatively high irrigation demands in the Torrumbarry system are expected to continue over the next 7 to 10 days unless there is rain. Hence, the level of the River Murray at Swan Hill is expected to remain near the target minimum of 0.6 m until about mid May, and is then expected to increase as water arrives as a result of the drawdown of Lake Mulwala.

With low flows in transit along the mid Murray and lower Murrumbidgee River, Euston Weir pool will be temporarily lowered by up to 15 cm over the next two weeks (if conditions remain dry), to ensure that downstream irrigation demands and minimum flow requirements are met.

The drawdown of Mildura Weir is now expected to commence in the week beginning 20 May (refer to media release attached). Increased flows arising from the drawdown of Mildura Weir and Lake Mulwala will be re-regulated in Lake Victoria and used to assist in meeting South Australia's entitlement flow.

DAVID DOLE  
General Manager

# MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 3 May 2002

## Mildura Weir Removal to Commence in Week Beginning 20 May 2002



River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today that the temporary removal of Mildura Weir will now be delayed until the week commencing 20 May, owing to minor delays in the fabrication of new weir trestles.

The weir is to be removed after the end of the current irrigation season, to allow some existing weir trestles to be removed for overhaul, and to be replaced by newly manufactured trestles. The proposed schedule for withdrawal and re-instatement is currently as follows:

Proposed Date	Action
20 May 2002	Commence removal of weir bars and trestles, and commence gradual lowering of weir pool
31 May 2002	Expected date of commencement of refilling of weir pool
approx 7 June 2002	Expected completion of refilling of weir pool to near full supply level. <b>However, refilling may take longer than this if flows are very low.</b>

The above schedule will be adhered to as far as possible, however some minor variations in timing may be required. **If any minor delays in the delivery of the newly fabricated replacement weir trestles occur, the program above may be delayed by up to 7 days.** Final confirmation of the schedule will be provided in mid May.

The weir pool level will be lowered by about 3.6 m below the normal full supply level. If river flow at the time is relatively low, this may lead to temporary but significant increases in river salinity at and downstream of Mildura as a result of increased saline input from the water table adjacent to the weir pool. River operation at the time will be directed toward minimising any increases in river salinity that may occur.

Limited availability of Lock passage will be provided as far as is possible within the constraints of work requirements, however, boat operators should plan on Lock passage being unavailable for most of the period 20 May to 7 June inclusive. **In addition, the Lock will be periodically closed from 7 May to allow the new weir trestles to be transported across the Lock to Lock Island.** As usual, boat operators are advised to contact the Senior Reservoir Officer in advance to check availability and to arrange a suitable time for a Lockage. Boat operators are advised that navigation upstream of the weir will be more difficult than usual as a result of the lower water levels as the weir is removed.

Due to Occupational Health and Safety requirements, public access to the Recreation Park and Lock Island will be restricted during transport of the new trestles across the Lock chamber. The Recreation Park and Lock Island will also be closed for the duration of the drawdown.

Any inconvenience is regretted, however, the purpose of the weir withdrawal is to ensure the continued serviceability of the works.

### For further information contact:

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**Roly Miller**

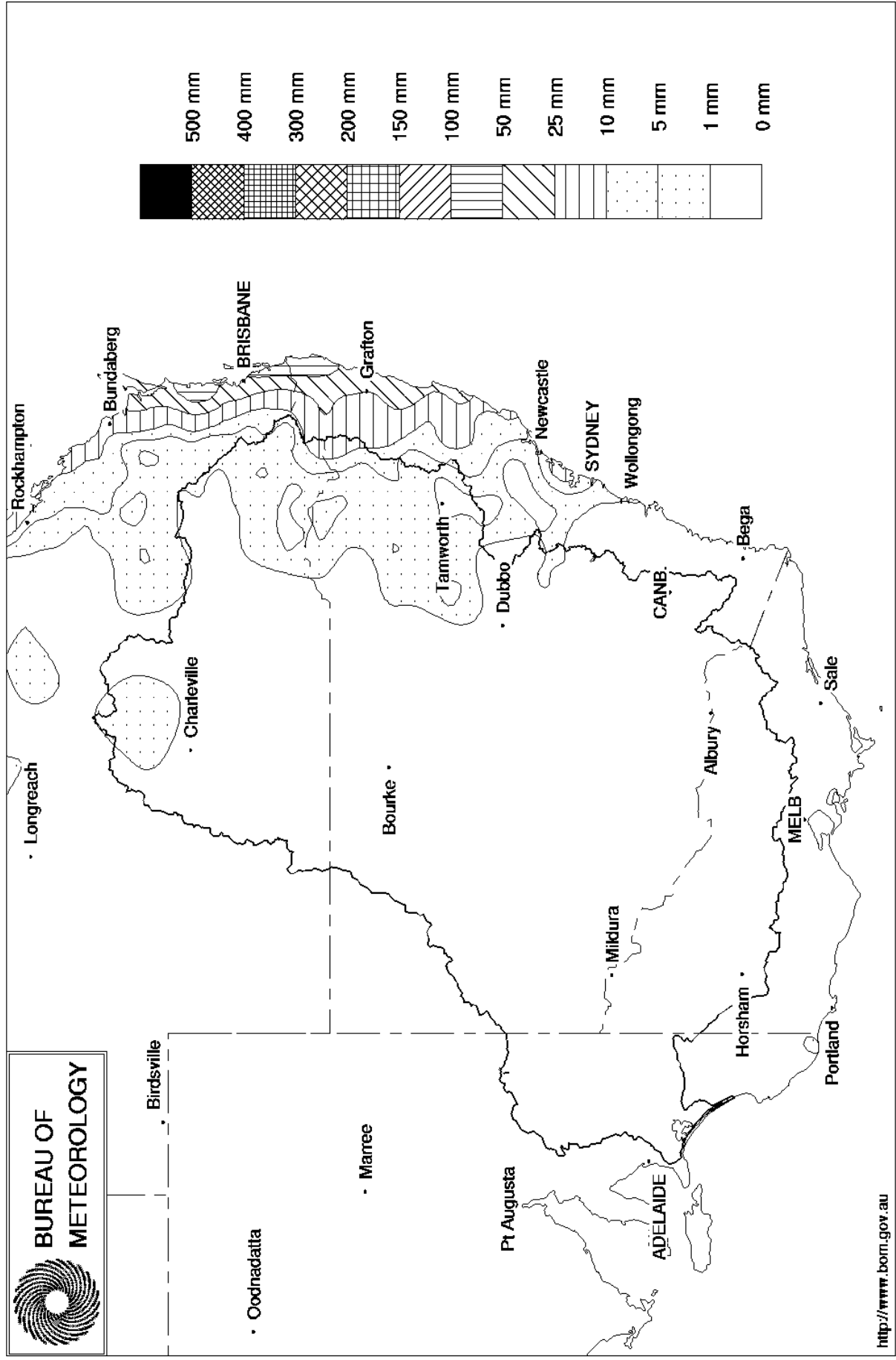
Senior Reservoir Officer – Mildura Weir

Ph: 035023 1396

Note: These contacts are *not* to be quoted as spokesperson

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 8th May 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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## Week ending Wednesday 08 May 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	476.45	3 309	85%	80	3 229	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.59	252	8%	30	222	-28
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.32	293	43%	100	193	+2
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		421	25%	640 #	0	-5
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 306</b>		<b>4 276</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>3 645</b>	<b>-34</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

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

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		239	23%	3	236	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		212	13%	24	188	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		673	20%	100	573	-11

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 07-May-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 877	-22	Snowy-Murray	+7	7
Snowy-Murray Component	1 328	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	6.4	6
			Murray 1 Release	+9	9

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	14.6	1 535.2
Wakool System loss	2.2	42.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.6	28.9
Licensed Pumps	8.6	418.3
Lower Darling	2.0	123.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28.0</b>	<b>2 148.2</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	12.0	534
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.8	831
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.9	151
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	71
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.8	178
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>1 765</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(3 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	20.7	
Flow so far this month	24	
Flow last month	133	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	110	131	181
Euston	200	189	210
Red Cliffs	220	210	278
Merbein	180	170	271
Burtundy	830	822	522
Lock 9	240	242	391
Lake Victoria	420	364	406
Berri	530	530	477
Waikerie	650	650	564
Morgan	670	657	565
Mannum	620	619	554
Murray Bridge	670	663	602
Meningie	1 480	1 410	1 225
Goolwa Barrages	1 410	1 398	1 448



A Business Unit of MDBC

## Week ending Wednesday 08 May 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	-	-	-	880	F	620	450
Jingellic	4.0	1.23	207.75	1 470	R	1 180	1 270
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.44	218.33	830	F	850	1 110
Heywoods	5.5	2.11	155.74	5 450	R	5 860	6 510
Doctors Point	5.5	2.22	150.69	5 590	R	5 980	6 950
Albury	4.3	1.21	148.65	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.55	127.57	5 850	F	7 020	7 790
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.85	115.89	3 790	R	3 240	4 460
Tocumwal	6.4	1.22	105.06	3 470	R	3 570	4 800
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.82	79.37	1 680	R	1 780	2 650
Swan Hill	4.5	0.58	63.50	1 640	R	1 850	2 600
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.55	50.67	2 630	F	3 020	4 050
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.72	42.56	2 990	F	3 310	4 720
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.78	2 640	F	3 280	4 760
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.79	27.55	2 160	F	3 200	4 600
Rufus Junction	-	2.74	17.64	2 400	R	2 410	3 720
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	1 360	F	1 420	2 760
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.71	153.94	250	R	240	280
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.78	145.46	345	S	360	370
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.15	92.57	368	S	360	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	720	F	320	220
Edward at Liewah	-	1.11	56.49	590	S	650	1 010
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.41	54.90	336	F	380	520
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	280	R	310	360
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.28	-	190	S	200	190
Darling at Bourke	-	4.04	-	280	F	400	630
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	230	S	260	300

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 280	2 500
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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	-0.44	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.43
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.15	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	-0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.26
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.15	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.02
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.10	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-0.27

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.15	0.7	70.05	398
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.19	0.19	61.49	305

### Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.61	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.62	All closed



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