REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 2 October 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng:bwh **4 October, 2002**

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Update on Drought Conditions

Generally dry conditions prevailed across the Murray-Darling Basin, however, rainfall of up to 20 mm was recorded in the upper Murray but had little impact on streamflows. The continuing dry conditions are illustrated by rainfall for the six month period April to September 2002 inclusive which has been very much below average for most of the Basin (*see map attached*). Despite part of the upper Murray receiving near average rainfall, streamflows have generally remained very low.

Uncontrolled runoff in the upper Murray and tributary catchments over the period May to September 2002 inclusive has been much lower than median, but higher than experienced in 1982 (*see attached table*). Recent dry conditions following the rainfall event of mid September have resulted in a continuing recession of tributary inflows. Coupled with a recent increase in irrigation demand, this has led to total Commission storage again beginning to fall (*see attached diagram*). Total active storage has fallen by 32 GL to 45% of capacity, which is the lowest seen this time of year in the period since Dartmouth Reservoir began filling for the first time in late 1977.

New South Wales recently requested additional water from the Snowy Mountains Scheme to assist supplies to participating NSW irrigators. After considering river operations planning and water management implications for the River Murray system, the Commission recently agreed in principle to that request. Negotiations are continuing between irrigators, Department of Land and Water Conservation, and Snowy Hydro Ltd., as to whether an additional release from the Snowy Scheme will be taken up by NSW irrigators this season (*see attached Media Release*).

Rise in Irrigation Demand

Release from Hume Reservoir has been increased from 17 500 to 21 000 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga to meet rising irrigation demand, and is expected to remain near this level next week if conditions remain dry. Diversion from Lake Mulwala increased by about 1 000 ML/day to 8 300 ML/day (about 60% of capacity). Release from Yarrawonga Weir is being maintained at an average of 14 000 ML/day in order to meet downstream needs as well for ongoing transfer to Lake Victoria.

Diversion from Torrumbarry Weir pool to National Channel increased from 3 400 to 3 800 ML/day. Despite this increase in diversion, flow at Torrumbarry has remained at about 6 500 ML/day as the increased rate of transfer through Barmah-Millewa Forest begins to take downstream of the forest.

Transfer of Water to Lake Victoria

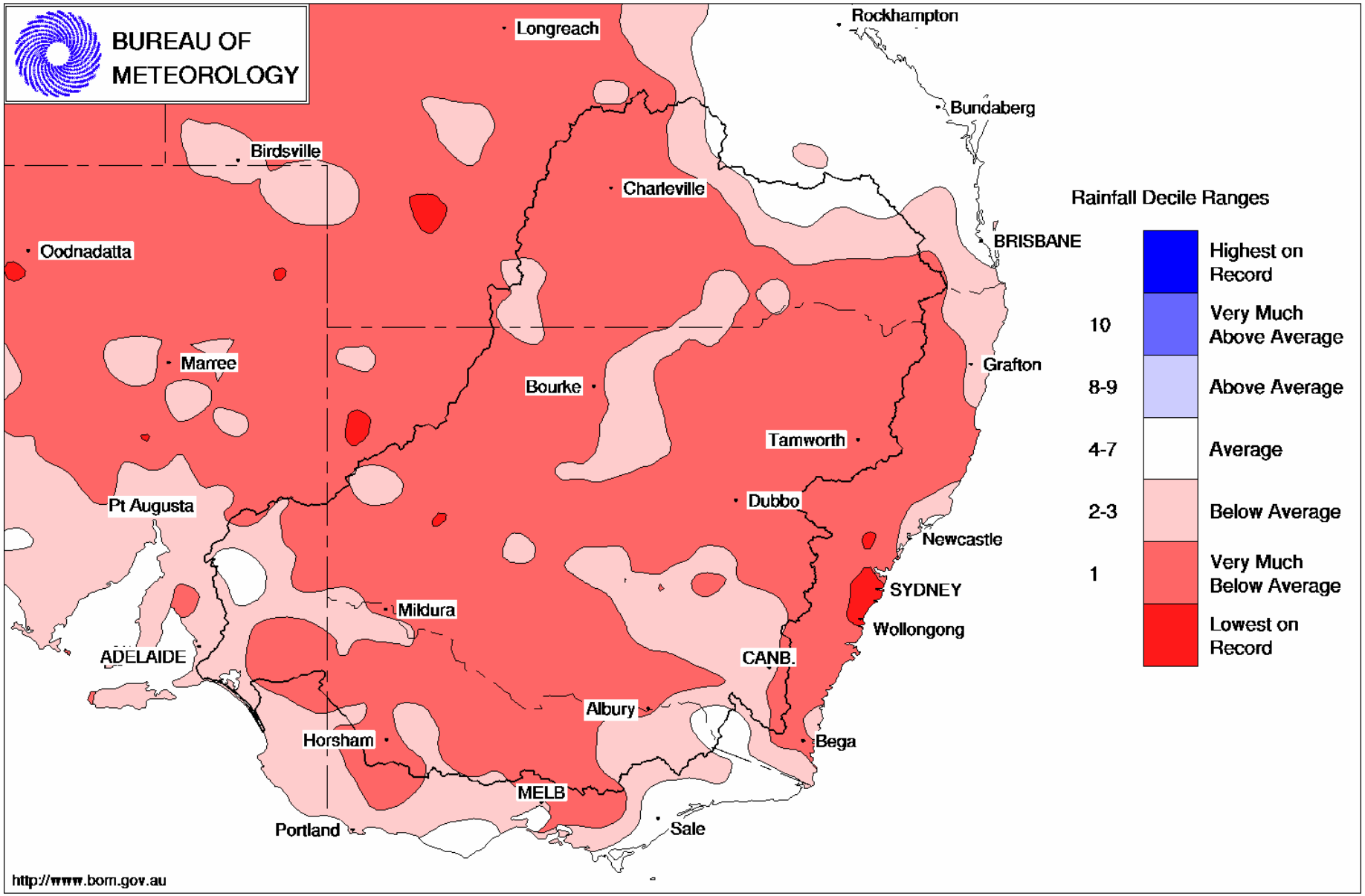
Flow downstream of Euston Weir peaked at about 10 900 ML/day on 28 September in response to rain earlier in September. Flow is currently 10 200 ML/day and is expected to fall to about 9 000 ML/day by mid October if conditions remain dry.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 22 GL to 409 GL (60% of capacity), and is expected to gradually rise throughout October with the continuation of transfer of water from Hume Reservoir.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles 1 April to 30 September 2002

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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MEDIA RELEASE
October 1, 2002

Additional Release from Snowy Scheme
for NSW Murray Irrigators supported by MDBC

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) today agreed to a NSW Government request for additional releases from the Snowy Mountains Scheme to assist supply to participating NSW Murray irrigators.

MDBC Acting Chief Executive, Kevin Goss, said the Commission had agreed to appropriate water management arrangements so that there would be no impact on water availability to Victoria or South Australia, nor any adverse environmental impact.

Mr Goss said the Commission had now agreed to a proposal whereby additional releases from the Snowy Scheme would be made in harmony with the timing of demand for water by irrigators in NSW.

River Murray Water General Manager, David Dole, said the Commission responded quickly and positively to the recent proposal to enable the commercial elements to be resolved as soon as possible between NSW and Snowy Hydro Limited.

"The release would be an advance on future years' Murray entitlements from the Snowy Scheme. Special accounting arrangements would be established to assign the water to NSW on the basis that there would be no residual impact on either Victoria or South Australia, and that the water would be paid back by NSW when conditions allow in future." Mr Dole said.

A previous proposal to source additional water by flooding the Mitta Mitta Valley to supply NSW Murray irrigators facing shortfalls in their annual water allocations, was unanimously declined by the Commission in mid September.

Protracted flooding, additional water losses and the inevitable impact and damage to the Mitta Mitta River environment, were factors in the Commission's decision to decline that proposal.

Further information about the MDBC is available on the website www.mdbc.gov.au .

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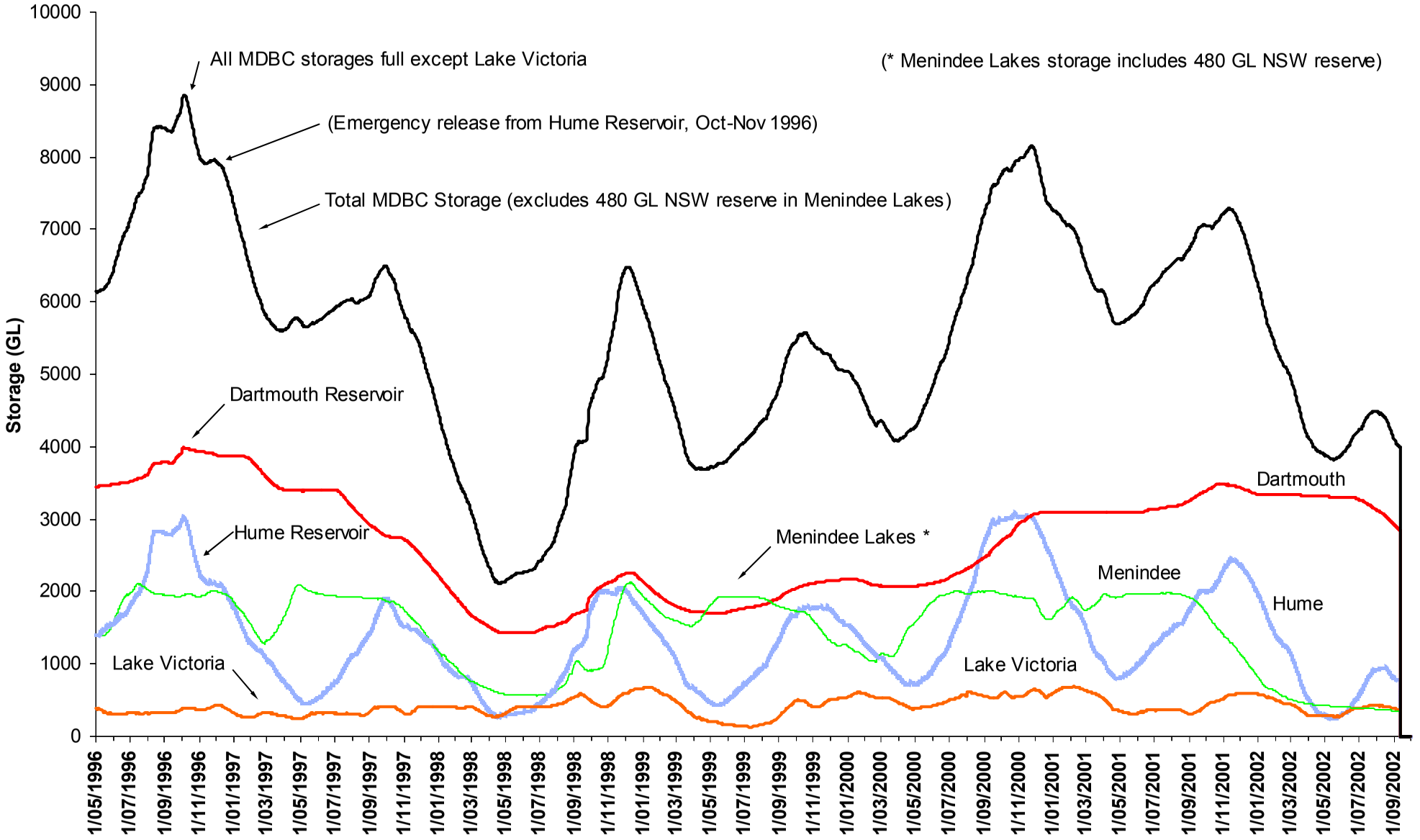
Upper Murray and Tributary Catchment Inflows

Catchment	Area (sq km)	Inflow for May to September Inclusive					
		Median Inflow (GL)	Equivalent runoff (mm)	1982 Inflow (GL)	Equivalent runoff (mm)	2002 Inflow (GL)	Equivalent runoff (mm)
Dartmouth	3561	445	125	162	45	240	67
Hume Unregulated*	10700	1260	118	292	27	620	58
Kiewa	1655	311	188	130	78	179	108
Ovens	6239	925	148	139	22	260	42
Totals		**2941**		**723**		**1299**	

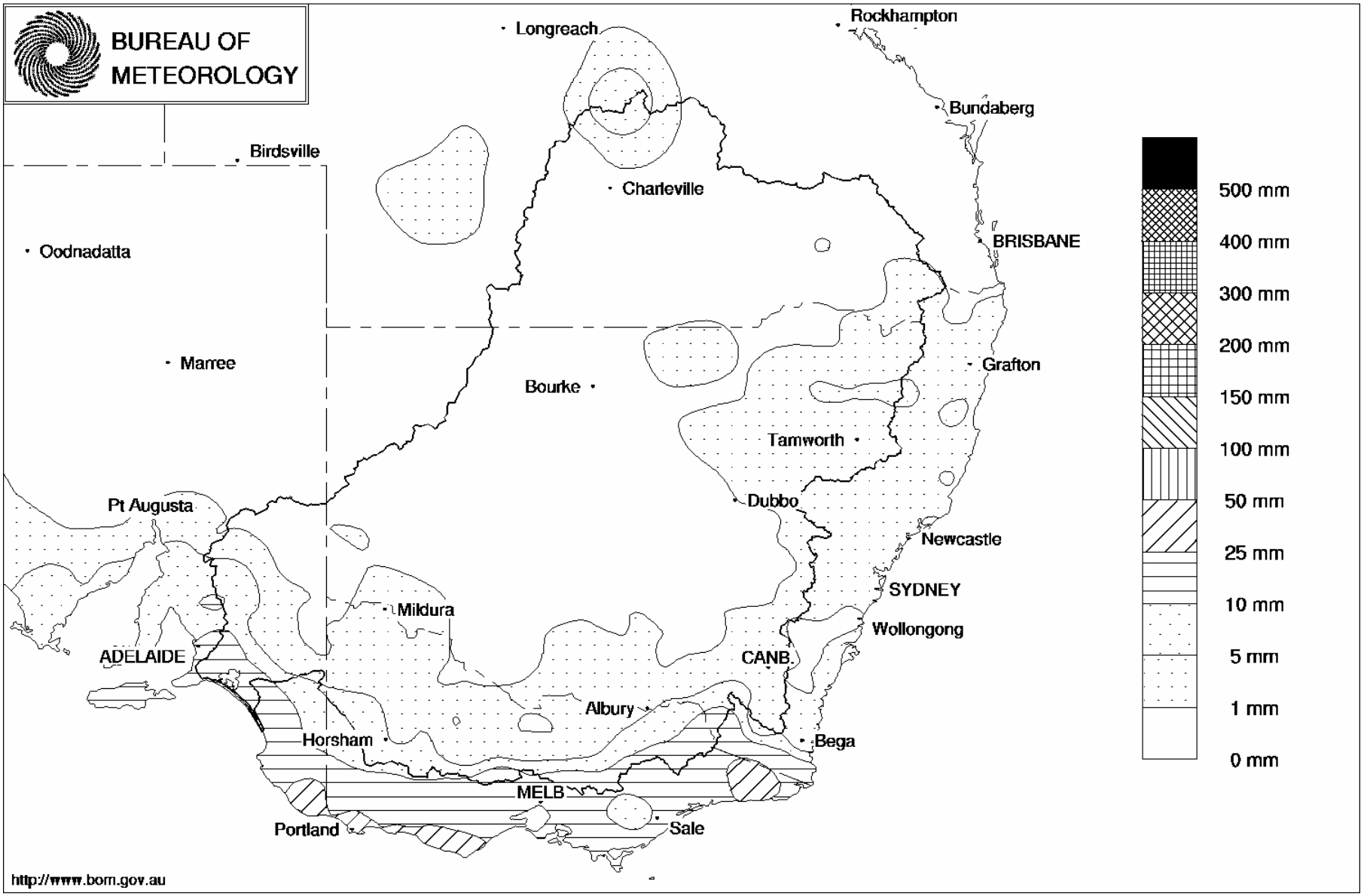
* Excludes releases from Dartmouth Dam and Snowy Scheme

MDBC Storages : 1 May 1996 to 3rd October 2002



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 2nd October 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending Wednesday 02 Oct 2002

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Storage for the week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	466.02	2 720	70%	80	2 640	-48
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	177.27	860	28%	30	830	+0
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.48	409	60%	100	309	+22
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		318	19%	640 #	0	-7
Total		**9 306**		**4 307**	**46%**	**850**	**3 779**	**-32**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **45%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		346	34%	3	343	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		452	28%	24	428	-30
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		799	24%	100	699	-6

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 01-Oct-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 142	+35	Snowy-Murray	+1	182
Snowy-Murray Component	1 481	-	Tooma-Tumut	+11	153
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	-10.1	28
			Murray 1 Release	+20	369

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	17.7	209.9
Wakool System loss	0.1	11.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	3.9
Licensed Pumps	7.4	59.0
Lower Darling	1.0	50.6
TOTAL	**26.7**	**335.0**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	20.4	105
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	26.4	271
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.5	21
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.3	11
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.6	31
TOTAL	**57.2**	**440**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170
Flow this week	36.1
Flow so far this month	11
Flow last month	136

(5 200 ML/day)

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	80	86	112
Euston	130	206	185
Red Cliffs	290	190	209
Merbein	180	130	214
Burtundy	820	822	821
Lock 9	180	235	275
Lake Victoria	380	375	360
Berri	430	430	419
Waikerie	560	560	577
Morgan	570	575	627
Mannum	660	666	660
Murray Bridge	720	728	731
Meningie	1 450	1 490	1 444
Goolwa Barrages	3 400	3 432	3 880

River Murray Water
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Week ending Wednesday 02 Oct 2002

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 520	F	4 460	6 030
Jingellic	4.0	1.85	208.37	6 080	F	8 360	12 200
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.19	220.08	9 960	S	9 940	10 000
Heywoods	5.5	3.31	156.94	19 410	F	18 110	10 180
Doctors Point	5.5	3.54	152.01	20 800	F	19 860	12 610
Albury	4.3	2.60	150.04	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.77	129.79	21 300	R	19 010	14 990
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.23	117.27	13 900	S	13 990	13 710
Tocumwal	6.4	2.76	106.60	13 660	S	13 750	13 300
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.20	80.75	6 450	R	6 460	7 530
Swan Hill	4.5	1.20	64.12	5 650	S	6 130	6 740
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.44	52.56	9 550	F	9 930	9 750
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.02	43.86	10 220	R	10 600	9 950
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	31.10	8 370	F	8 260	7 150
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.07	27.83	8 910	F	8 790	7 730
Rufus Junction	-	3.21	18.57	5 050	R	4 620	3 920
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 910	S	2 910	3 240
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.64	154.87	1 670	R	2 030	2 880
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.58	146.26	2 141	R	2 530	4 790
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	450	R	450	620
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 890	S	2 900	2 900
Edward at Liewah	-	3.01	58.39	2 750	F	2 810	2 820
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.89	55.38	1 760	F	1 800	1 430
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.58	56.54	290	R	380	1 020
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	70	R	50	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	220	S	210	110
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.63	-	7	R	0	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	12 960	20 490

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	-0.24	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+0.88
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.30	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.48
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.43	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.02	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.22	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	-0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.18	0.57	69.92	269
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.31	0.14	61.44	261

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.78	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.84	All closed

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

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