

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 September 2002

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

20 September, 2002



Rainfall produces minor improvements in upper Murray flows

Much needed rainfall blanketed most of the Murray-Darling Basin this week with falls between 50 and 100 mm recorded about the ranges. However, there has been only a minor response in streamflows because antecedent catchment conditions were very dry. Minor streamflow rises have been recorded in the Dartmouth and Hume catchments, and in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. There has been very little increase in flow in the lower Goulburn and lower Murrumbidgee Rivers. Despite these temporary flow increases, and without further rain this month, the forecast total inflow to the River Murray system (including Menindee Lakes) for September is very low and is exceeded 9 years in 10 in the long term.

Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir increased from 1 800 ML/day to about 5 800 ML/day, and the rate of fall of storage volume has temporarily reduced. Following increased flows in tributaries downstream of Dartmouth Dam, release from Dartmouth was temporarily reduced this week in order to maintain flow near channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River (10 000 ML/day at Tallandoon).

The gradual decline in Hume storage was arrested late this week, and storage began to rise as inflow increased to a peak of about 24 000 ML/day (which includes transfer of more than 9 000 ML/day from Dartmouth) while Hume release was reduced because of increased flow in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers. Storage in Hume is 767 GL (25% of capacity), and is forecast to increase next week.

Combined diversion from Lake Mulwala decreased significantly from 7 100 to 4 200 ML/day (32% of capacity) with the most significant reduction being at Yarrawonga Main Channel. However, diversion from Torrumbarry Weir pool at National Channel remained steady at 2 800 ML/day, as rainfall throughout the Torrumbarry Irrigation System was not significant.

Increase in rate of transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria

With inflows from tributaries between Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria remaining very low, the rate of transfer along the main stem of the Murray to Lake Victoria is being increased. Accordingly, release from Yarrawonga Weir will be increased from 13 000 ML/day to 14 000 ML/day on 20 September (*refer to attached Media Release*).

In the Edward River System, release from Stevens Weir has been maintained at channel capacity (2 900 ML/day) for continued transfer of water to Lake Victoria. Diversion to Wakool Canal has fallen to 230 ML/day or 10 % of capacity, and this has enabled diversion at the Colligen Offtake to be increased to 1 000 ML/day in order to further supplement the transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

With the arrival of increased flows from the Murray, Edward, Wakool and Murrumbidgee Rivers, flow in the Murray at Euston Weir has continued to rise from 6 800 to 9 000 ML/day, and is forecast to peak at 10 500 ML/day in late September. With the arrival and re-regulation of increased Murray flows, storage in Lake Victoria ceased falling on 15 September – storage is currently 365 GL (54% of capacity), and is forecast to gradually rise over the next couple of months if conditions remain dry.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 19 September 2002

Increase in Rate of Transfer from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria



River Murray Water announced today that the rate of transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria will be increased. This is in response to continued low inflows to the River Murray between Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria. The ongoing transfer of water resources is necessary to achieve an appropriate balance in water stored in upper Murray and lower Murray storages so that water supply requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met throughout the 2002/03 season if dry conditions continue.

Rain over the last few days in the upper Murray catchments has produced only a small increase in inflow to Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs because of the previously very dry catchment conditions. Similarly, streamflow response from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers has also been minor. These flow increases are being stored in upper Murray storages, including Lake Mulwala. In lower Goulburn and lower Murrumbidgee catchment areas, there has been very little increase in flows in those tributaries which remain very low for this time of year. Hence, it is now necessary to increase the rate of transfer to Lake Victoria.

At Yarrawonga Weir, release will be increased from 13 000 to 14 000 ML/day tomorrow, Friday 20 September. Flow in addition to the normal channel capacity through the Barmah-Millewa Forest will continue to be directed through regulators on selected flood runners in the Barmah forest, which return water to the River Murray downstream, to minimise loss of water. Transfer to Lake Victoria is also continuing at near maximum rates via Mulwala Canal and the Edward/Wakool River system. If conditions are very dry over the remainder of spring, it is expected that release from Yarrawonga Weir will remain near 14 000 ML/day until early-mid December. However, if there is an improvement in inflows to the River Murray from tributary streams downstream of Hume Dam, the rate of transfer to Lake Victoria will be accordingly reduced to conserve water resources.

Storage in Lake Victoria is now 369 GL (54% capacity). If conditions remain very dry, Lake Victoria storage is expected to gradually increase over the next couple of months. It is then forecast to be drawn down to very low levels during late summer-autumn 2003 unless there is a significant improvement in conditions upstream. If there is significant rainfall in mid Murray and tributary catchment areas, there is a possibility that some of the water transferred from Hume to Lake Victoria may spill from Lake Victoria. With continued low inflows over the last month, together there being less of the spring season remaining, the likelihood of spill has decreased to approximately 1 chance in 5.

For further information contact:

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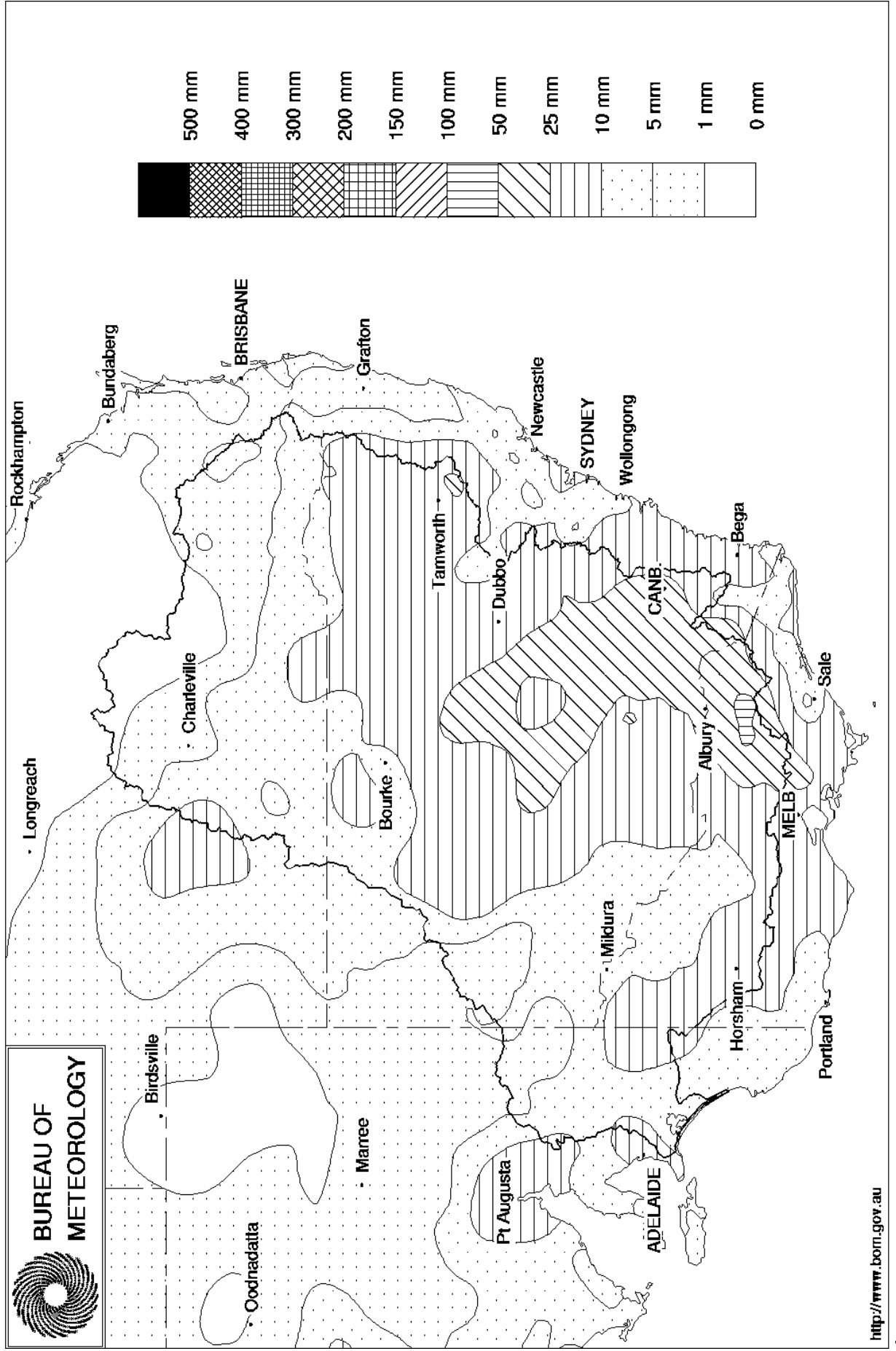
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(Allison Hicks is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th September 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 18 Sep 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	467.53	2 801	72%	80	2 721	-46
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.33	767	25%	30	737	-14
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.04	365	54%	100	265	+6
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		330	20%	640 #	0	-8
Total		9 306		4 263	46%	850	3 723	-62

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **44%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	326	32%	3	323	+10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	479	29%	24	455	-15
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	773	23%	100	673	-7

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Sep-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 041	+40	Snowy-Murray	+5	178
Snowy-Murray Component	1 406	-	Tooma-Tumut	+10	125
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-4.6	53
			Murray 1 Release	+25	321

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	11.7	185.7
Wakool System loss	2.8	11.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	3.0
Licensed Pumps	5.6	46.6
Lower Darling	6.0	47.3
TOTAL	26.5	293.9

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.4	78
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.5	227
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.2	15
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	7
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.6	24
TOTAL	36.5	351

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	31.8	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	81	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	80	76	120
Euston	90	125	186
Red Cliffs	180	170	223
Merbein	170	240	234
Burtundy	800	819	823
Lock 9	290	292	276
Lake Victoria	370	354	355
Berri	410	412	419
Waikerie	580	590	597
Morgan	610	616	638
Mannum	670	662	658
Murray Bridge	760	745	731
Meningie	1 470	1 460	1 407
Goolwa Barrages	3 280	3 419	3 974



Week ending Wednesday 18 Sep 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	-	-	-	9 010	F	4 390	3 410
Jingellic	4.0	2.67	209.19	14 200	R	6 970	6 670
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.19	220.08	9 960	R	9 940	9 820
Heywoods	5.5	2.86	156.49	13 980	F	17 480	15 880
Doctors Point	5.5	3.21	151.68	16 500	F	18 600	17 070
Albury	4.3	2.22	149.66	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.63	129.65	20 200	F	20 100	18 400
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.13	117.17	13 000	S	12 990	13 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.68	106.52	13 000	F	12 830	12 780
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.45	81.00	7 410	R	7 230	7 150
Swan Hill	4.5	1.32	64.24	6 380	R	6 300	5 420
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.34	52.46	9 140	R	8 580	6 010
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.82	43.66	8 950	R	8 080	5 330
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.02	6 310	F	5 040	3 020
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.03	27.79	7 100	R	5 290	3 050
Rufus Junction	-	3.03	19.26	4 100	F	4 100	3 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 030	S	2 980	2 770
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.33	155.56	3 270	R	1 530	1 380
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.30	146.98	4 419	R	1 450	1 030
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	433	F	440	490
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 900	F	2 880	2 870
Edward at Liewah	-	3.02	58.40	2 760	R	2 590	1 800
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.72	55.21	1 080	R	770	230
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.90	56.86	570	R	370	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	130	R	60	10
Darling at Bourke	-	3.97	-	100	R	90	120
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	20	S	20	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 650	10 590
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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	-0.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.70
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.39	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.05	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	+0.04

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.24	70.59	1270
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.1	62.4	1360

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.46	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.64	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.66	All closed

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

