

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 February 2003

Our Ref : MDBC:269:dc:bwh

20 February, 2003



Very dry conditions persist

Continuing dry conditions have resulted in total River Murray system inflows over January and February being extremely low. The recorded total system inflow for January 2003 (including regulated inflows from tributaries, but excluding release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme) is the lowest in the statistical record derived ***assuming the current level of development of the River Murray system***. A similar trend is evident for inflows for February 2003 to date.

Upper Murray storages

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir declined by 69 GL to 1 407 GL (36 % of capacity). When storage reaches about 32% of capacity, it will not be possible to meet the current release requirement (10 000 ML/day at Tallandoon) from the High Level Outlet. This is expected to occur in early March and a transition in release from the High Level Outlet to the Low Level outlet will be required. As noted in a Media Release of 3 February, this operation will change water quality in the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth - further details will be provided next week.

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 14 GL this week to 174 GL (6 % of capacity) as a result of further reductions in the rate of transfer of water to Lake Victoria, and also as a result of minor reductions in irrigation diversions from Lake Mulwala. Accordingly, flow at Albury/Wodonga was reduced from 14 500 to 10 500 ML/day by 17 February before being adjusted to 12 100 ML/day at the end of the week.

Mid Murray operation

Further reduction in the rate of transfer of water from Hume to Lake Victoria this week has been made possible due to a reduction in expected river diversions for the remainder of the season, together with river transmission losses being less than previously adopted in operations planning. Consequently, release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 9 500 to 9 000 ML/day. In addition, flow from the Murray through the Edward River Offtake (currently 1 200 ML/day) will be further reduced to 800 ML/day next week. With this program of reduction in transfer of water to Lake Victoria, flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir (currently 1 200 ML/day) will be gradually reduced at a rate of about 100 ML/day each day until it reaches about 300 ML/day by late February.

Mildura Weir Removal & Lock Overhaul

Advance notification of planned work on Mildura Weir and Lock after the end of the irrigation season is provided in the attached *Media Release*. Commencing 15 May, Mildura Weir pool will be drawn down to facilitate maintenance and replacement works at the Weir and Lock. Planned works include removal of some weir trestles for overhaul, and replacement with other trestles. Extensive maintenance work on the Lock gates and valves will require the Lock to be unavailable for use for an extended period. It is expected that the weir pool will be refilled to full supply level by 10 June.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 19th February 2003

Mildura Weir Removal & Lock Overhaul



River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today that significant maintenance and replacement works are planned for Mildura Weir in the Winter of 2003. The works will result in the Weir being temporarily removed from the River Murray and a subsequent extended closure of the Lock.

The weir is to be removed to allow some existing weir trestles to be removed from the river for overhaul, and to be replaced by other trestles, whilst works in the lock will see the gates and valves refurbished/replaced. It is necessary to complete the trestle maintenance after the end of the current irrigation season, and before the commencement of the next season. The Lock overhaul has been planned to limit the impact on boating activity. The proposed schedule for works is currently as follows:

Proposed Date	Action
15 May 2003	Commence removal of weir bars and trestles, and commence gradual lowering of weir pool
31 May 2003	Expected date of commencement of refilling of weir pool
5 June 2003 to 10 June 2003	Expected date of completion of refilling of weir pool to near full supply level. This date will be dependent on available river flows.
10 June 2003 to 31 August 2003	Expected period for Lock overhaul

The above schedule will be adhered to as far as possible, however some minor variations in timing may be required in response to river conditions and other circumstances that may arise at that time. A further media release will be issued in April, to confirm the dates or advise of any changes to dates which may be required.

Withdrawal of the weir will lead to a lowering of the weir pool level by about 3.6 m below the normal full supply level. A lowering of the weir pool is not required for the Lock overhaul.

Limited availability of Lock passage will be provided as far as is possible within the constraints of work requirements during the withdrawal of the weir, and given the low water levels as the weir is removed. It is advised that Lock passage will be unavailable in the period 20 May to 3 June inclusive and 10 June to 30 August inclusive.

Boat operators are advised that navigation upstream of the weir will be more difficult than usual as a result of the lower water levels when the weir is removed.

Any inconvenience to river pumpers and river navigation is regretted, however, the purpose of the weir withdrawal is to ensure the long-term serviceability of the works.

For further information contact:

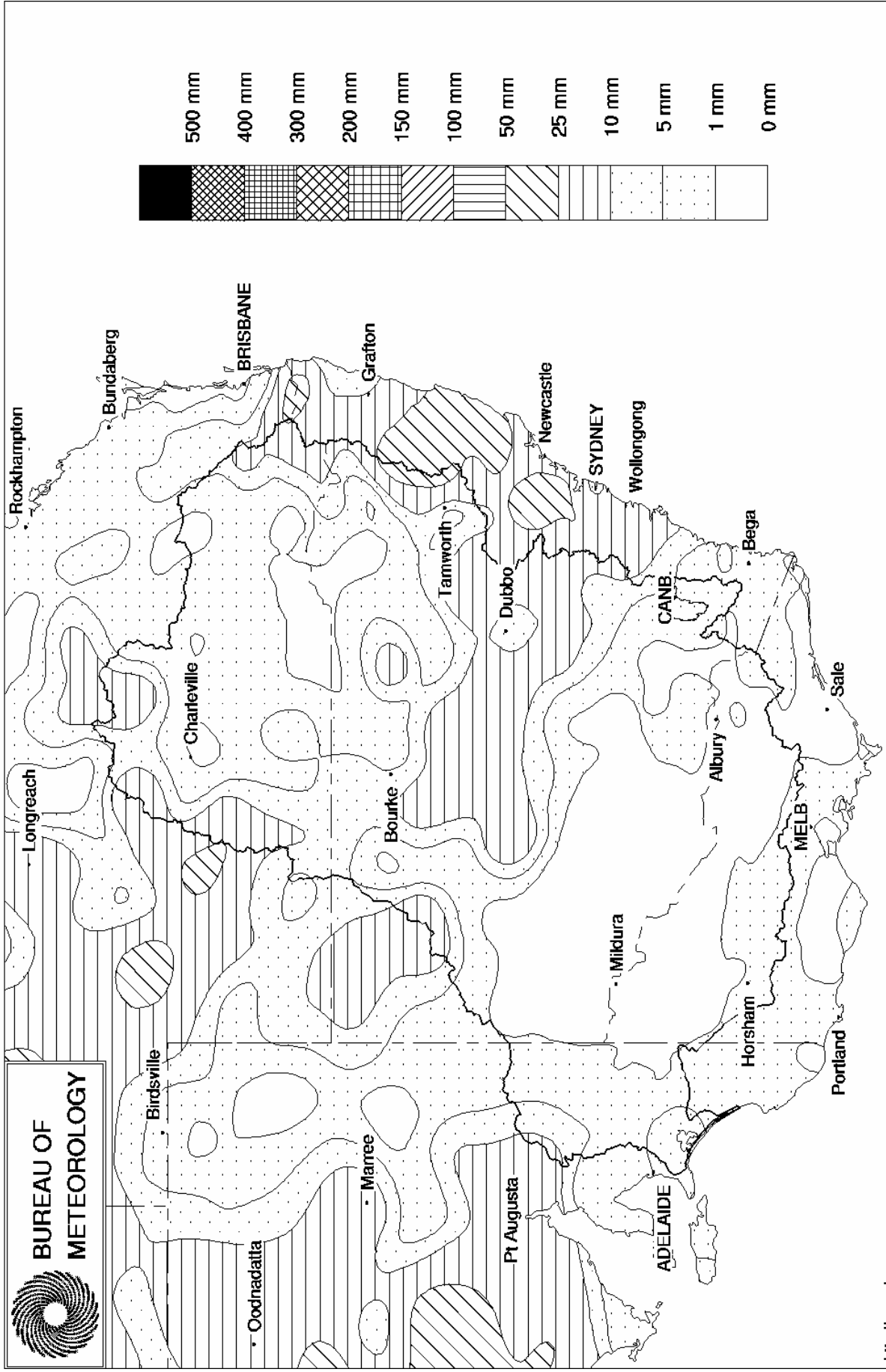
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Note: These contacts are *not* to be quoted as spokesperson

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th February 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 19 Feb 2003

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	436.27	1 407	36%	80	1 327	-69
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	167.92	174	6%	30	144	+14
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.62	424	62%	100	324	-37
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		79	5%	640 #	0	-12
Total		9 306		2 083	22%	850	1 794	-104

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **21%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		77	8%	3	74	-10
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		61	4%	24	37	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		400	12%	100	300	-25

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Feb-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 660	-48	Snowy-Murray	+33	553
Snowy-Murray Component	1 312	-	Tooma-Tumut	+12	198
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	21.2	355
			Murray 1 Release	+34	760

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.4	356.4
Wakool System loss	1.8	39.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	23.7
Licensed Pumps	4.0	159.6
Lower Darling	2.7	103.9
TOTAL	15.8	682.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	11.1	390
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.1	686
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.0	130
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.4	53
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.3	139
TOTAL	47.0	1 399

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.5	
Flow so far this month	131	
Flow last month	217	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	60	60	80
Euston	90	90	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	140
Merbein	140	140	150
Burtundy (Darling)	2 000	1 940	1 030
Lock 9	140	140	180
Lake Victoria	280	270	310
Berri	250	260	340
Waikerie	310	310	430
Morgan	340	340	520
Mannum	490	490	630
Murray Bridge	570	580	690
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 150	1 260	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 270	1 270	1 150
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 710	1 730	1 570
Goolwa Barrages	2 930	3 160	3 270



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	-	-	-	4 070	F	5 160	5 470
Jingellic	4.0	1.61	208.13	4 200	F	5 390	5 830
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.20	220.09	10 020	F	10 070	10 070
Heywoods	5.5	2.75	156.38	11 040	R	12 650	15 230
Doctors Point	5.5	2.86	151.33	12 100	R	12 260	14 560
Albury	4.3	1.82	149.26	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.51	128.53	11 900	F	14 240	15 810
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.69	116.73	9 530	F	9 780	10 300
Tocumwal	6.4	2.19	106.03	9 600	S	9 920	10 220
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.82	80.37	5 120	R	5 040	4 700
Swan Hill	4.5	1.03	63.95	4 570	R	4 380	4 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.54	51.66	5 810	R	5 800	5 710
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.23	43.07	5 560	R	5 530	5 500
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	4 640	F	4 340	4 570
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.04	27.80	3 560	R	3 250	3 460
Rufus Junction	-	3.47	20.40	6 570	R	6 340	6 100
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 650	R	3 440	3 240
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.43	153.66	20	F	50	80
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.45	145.13	43	R	10	0
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	450	R	420	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 180	F	1 410	1 630
Edward at Liewah	-	2.13	57.51	1 550	F	1 760	1 970
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.32	54.81	184	R	180	240
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.51	56.47	204	S	200	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.15	-	10	R	90	50
Darling at Bourke	-	2.61	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	90	R	70	70

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 210	1 010
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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	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+1.15
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.10
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.64
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.40	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.23	+0.18	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.15
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.21	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.33

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.81	0.76	70.11	469
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.57	0.23	61.53	343

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.42	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.40	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.38	All closed

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

