

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 26 February 2003

Our Ref: MDBC:269:bwh

27 February, 2003



Widespread rain

The first significant rain since late December was recorded throughout the southern portion of the Murray-Darling Basin on 20 and 21 February. Highest falls were generally in the range 50 to 100 mm the lower Murray region in South Australia, and in much of the Murrumbidgee catchment. Widespread rain was also recorded throughout the Darling River System, with falls in the range 50 to 100 mm, and isolated higher falls in upper catchments, but this is not expected to lead to significant increases in inflow to Menindee Lakes – further information will be provided in coming weeks.

Upper Murray storages

As Dartmouth Reservoir storage level falls over coming weeks, it will be necessary to transfer release from the High Level Outlet to the Low Level Outlet. This is now expected to occur a little later than previously forecast, and further details of timing of this and the expected change in water quality in the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth will be provided in coming weeks.

In response to the temporary reduction in irrigation demand and river losses following the rain, release from Hume Reservoir has been reduced from 11 000 to 8 000 ML/day. This, combined with a minor increase in inflow, has led to a 30 GL increase in storage to 204 GL (6.7 % of capacity).

Mid Murray operation

Total irrigation diversion from Lake Mulwala declined from 2 700 to 800 ML/day this week, while demand at National Channel for the Torrumbarry Irrigation System has fallen from 2 800 to 1 100 ML/day. In response to the reduced demand and river losses in the mid Murray, release from Yarrawonga has been reduced from 9 500 to 8 000 ML/day.

The recent rainfall has significantly reduced diversion rates and transmission losses along the mid Murray. As a result, flow in the Murray downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has been increased from 5 100 to 7 300 ML/day, but is forecast to gradually recede over the next 2 weeks if conditions remain dry. Further downstream, flow at Euston has risen from 5 600 to 7 100 ML/day, and is expected to peak at about 9 500 ML/day near 5 March.

Lake Victoria and Lower Lakes

The increased flows along the mid Murray are being re-regulated in Lake Victoria, which has resulted in the Lake storage falling by only 5 GL, and storage levelling out at 62% of capacity by the end of the week. With increased flows along the Murray continuing into March, Lake Victoria storage is expected to hold near steady until mid March and then, without further rain, is forecast to be drawn down to about 50% of capacity by late March.

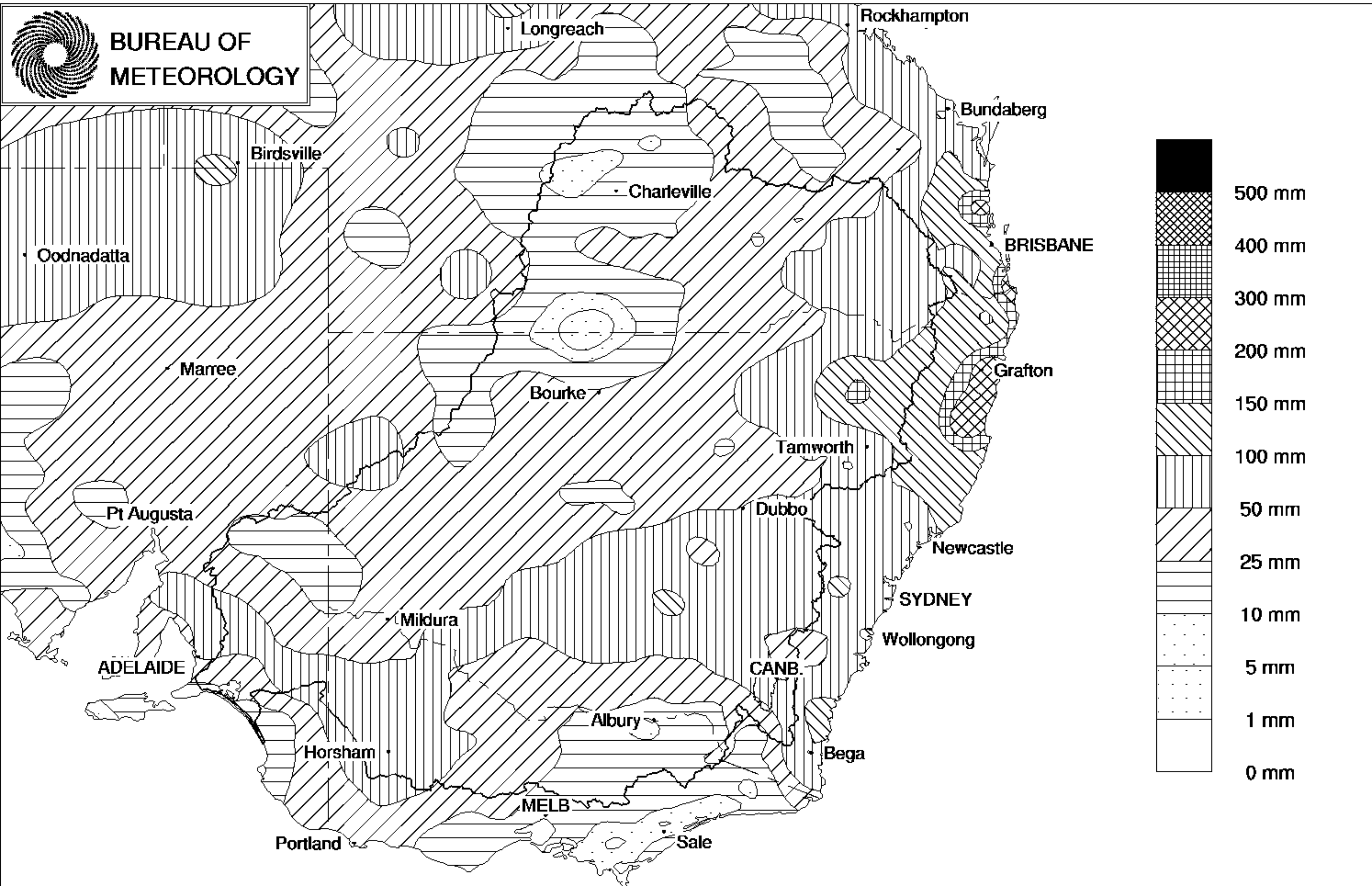
Flow in the lower Murray at Lock 1 (Blanchetown) has increased from 3 600 to 6 500 ML/day as a result of the rain, reduced diversions and river losses. In response this and the recent rain, the level of Lake Alexandrina has risen by about 3 cm over the week, but is currently about 35 cm below nominal full supply level. Salinity at Lock 1 has eased from 370 to 350 EC.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th February 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



RMW Weekly Report

Week ending Wednesday 26 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	434.34	1 340	34%	80	1 260	-67
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.61	204	7%	30	174	+30
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.57	419	62%	100	319	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		50**	3%	640 #	0	-29
Total		9 306		2 011	22%	850	1 752	-72

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 21%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		84	8%	3	81	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		80	5%	24	56	+20
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		384	11%	100	284	-16

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Feb-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 610	-50	Snowy-Murray	+33	586
Snowy-Murray Component	1 277	-31	Tooma-Tumut	+0	198
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	33.0	388
			Murray 1 Release	+33	793

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.7	359.1	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.3	394
Wakool System loss	0.9	40.3	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.2	690
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	23.8	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	130
Licensed Pumps	3.3	162.9	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.2	54
Lower Darling	2.8	106.9	Licensed pumps - SRW	6.3	146
TOTAL	9.7	693.0	TOTAL	17.4	1 414

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.4	
Flow so far this month	180	
Flow last month	217	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	70	70	80
Euston	80	80	120
Red Cliffs	100	100	140
Merbein	130	130	150
Burtundy (Darling)	2 100	2 050	1 060
Lock 9	140	140	180
Lake Victoria	260	270	300
Berri	290	270	340
Waikerie	320	320	420
Morgan	320	330	510
Mannum	450	470	620
Murray Bridge	540	570	690
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 180	1 160	1 140
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 160	1 160	1 150
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 620	2 030	1 590
Goolwa Barrages	2 910	2 970	3 260



RMW Weekly Report

Week ending Wednesday 26 Feb 2003

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	-	-	-	5 120	F	4 710	4 990
Jingellic	4.0	1.77	208.29	5 410	F	4 720	5 390
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.19	220.08	9 960	F	10 070	10 070
Heywoods	5.5	2.41	156.04	8 750	R	9 650	12 650
Doctors Point	5.5	2.55	151.02	8 750	R	9 500	12 260
Albury	4.3	1.52	148.96	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.11	128.13	9 250	F	11 450	14 240
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.55	116.59	8 520	S	8 660	9 780
Tocumwal	6.4	2.05	105.89	8 670	F	9 100	9 920
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.43	80.98	7 330	F	6 900	5 040
Swan Hill	4.5	1.48	64.40	7 500	R	5 840	4 380
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.00	52.12	7 800	R	6 790	5 800
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.51	43.35	7 100	R	6 680	5 530
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.95	6 920	F	6 250	4 340
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.10	27.86	6 200	S	5 630	3 250
Rufus Junction	-	3.38	20.31	6 040	R	6 190	6 340
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	6 470	R	5 390	3 440
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.51	153.74	60	F	60	50
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.52	145.20	86	F	100	10
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.29	92.71	591	F	530	420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	930	F	950	1 410
Edward at Liewah	-	2.11	57.49	1 520	F	1 540	1 760
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.47	54.96	408	R	330	180
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.47	56.43	180	F	250	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	130	F	140	90
Darling at Bourke	-	2.62	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	150	R	120	70

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	290	2 210
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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	+0.03	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.16	+1.07
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.15	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.77
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.46	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.08	+0.34
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.22	+0.26	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.13	+0.32
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.26	+0.26	No. 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	-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	-0.20	0.69	70.04	387
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.75	62.05	915

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.40	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.39	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.37	All closed

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

