

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 8 January 2003

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng:bwh

10 January, 2003



## ***Drought conditions continue***

Further light falls of rain were recorded across the eastern half of the Murray-Darling Basin this week, however, tributary inflows to the River Murray continue to recede and are now at very low levels - combined inflow from the Kiewa, Ovens, Goulburn, Campaspe, Loddon, Murrumbidgee and Darling Rivers now totals less than 900 ML/day – half of which is being provided by regulated flow from the Goulburn River.

## ***System operation***

Storage in Hume Reservoir has been drawn down by 29 GL over the week to 206 GL or 6.8% of capacity – this is the lowest storage level recorded in Hume for this time of the year. Storage in Hume is projected to fall to low levels later this season, however, the minimum storage level will be dependent on inflow conditions and irrigation diversions over coming months.

With a slowing of the recession of flow in the mid Murray following the rain of last week, storage in Lake Victoria increased by 12 GL to 571 GL (84% of capacity) which is about 70 GL higher than previously anticipated in the operations forecast at end of November 2002 assuming continuing very dry conditions. Projected lake levels in coming weeks are also higher than expected, and a contributing factor is that water returns from the Barmah forest have been better than previously assumed in system planning. In response to these improvements, the rate of transfer of resources to Lake Victoria via the Edward/Wakool system is now being gradually reduced in order to conserve resources further upstream in Hume Reservoir. The situation will be closely monitored in coming weeks, and the rate of transfer to Lake Victoria will be adjusted according to conditions in order to meet irrigation and other requirements this season whilst aiming to maximise conservation of water in upper Murray storages in preparation for next season.

## ***Outlook for demand management***

The improvement in the storage position for Lake Victoria over the last few weeks has reduced the likelihood of supply difficulties or temporary restrictions along the River Murray due to critically low storage levels in February/March this year. In addition, with the current levels of Murray irrigation allocations, particularly for New South Wales, the likelihood of supply difficulties due to channel capacity constraints is very low.

## ***River salinity***

High salinity levels of about 2 000 EC have been reported in the lower Darling River (*see Media Release attached*). This rise in salinity follows a period of high salinity further upstream in the Darling and Weir 32 (1 800 EC in mid December), and low flows along the river. These increased salinity levels in the Darling River are not expected to lead to any significant rise in River Murray salinities as the flow rate in the Darling River is very low. Salinity levels along the River Murray between Swan Hill and Morgan remain exceptionally low.

DAVID DOLE  
General Manager



LAND & WATER  
CONSERVATION

NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation  
Murray Region

## MEDIA RELEASE

8<sup>TH</sup> January 2003

### Department warns of high salinity in the Lower Darling River.

Acting Regional Director of the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation, Kaye Dalton, has issued a salinity warning to water users who divert water from the Lower Darling River.

Ms Dalton said that as a consequence of low lake levels, no inflows and high evaporation rates, the salt concentration of water being released to the lower Darling is reaching high levels.

A particularly high salinity slug of water which is approximately 2000 EC units, has been located approximately 40km north of Pooncarie. This water is slowly moving down the river under the very low flow conditions.

The current salinity at Weir 32 downstream of Menindee is 1,205 EC units; Chalky Wells 1,965 EC, Pooncarie 1482 EC, Lethro 1295 and Burtundy 1132 EC units.

Irrigators and other water users should be aware of the current water quality, as some crops may require careful management techniques to minimise any potential impacts.

It is anticipated that as more of the Lower Darling water is sourced from Lake Cawndilla (currently 1,043 EC units) due to the completion of recently constructed works, the current salinity levels are likely to reduce in the short term.

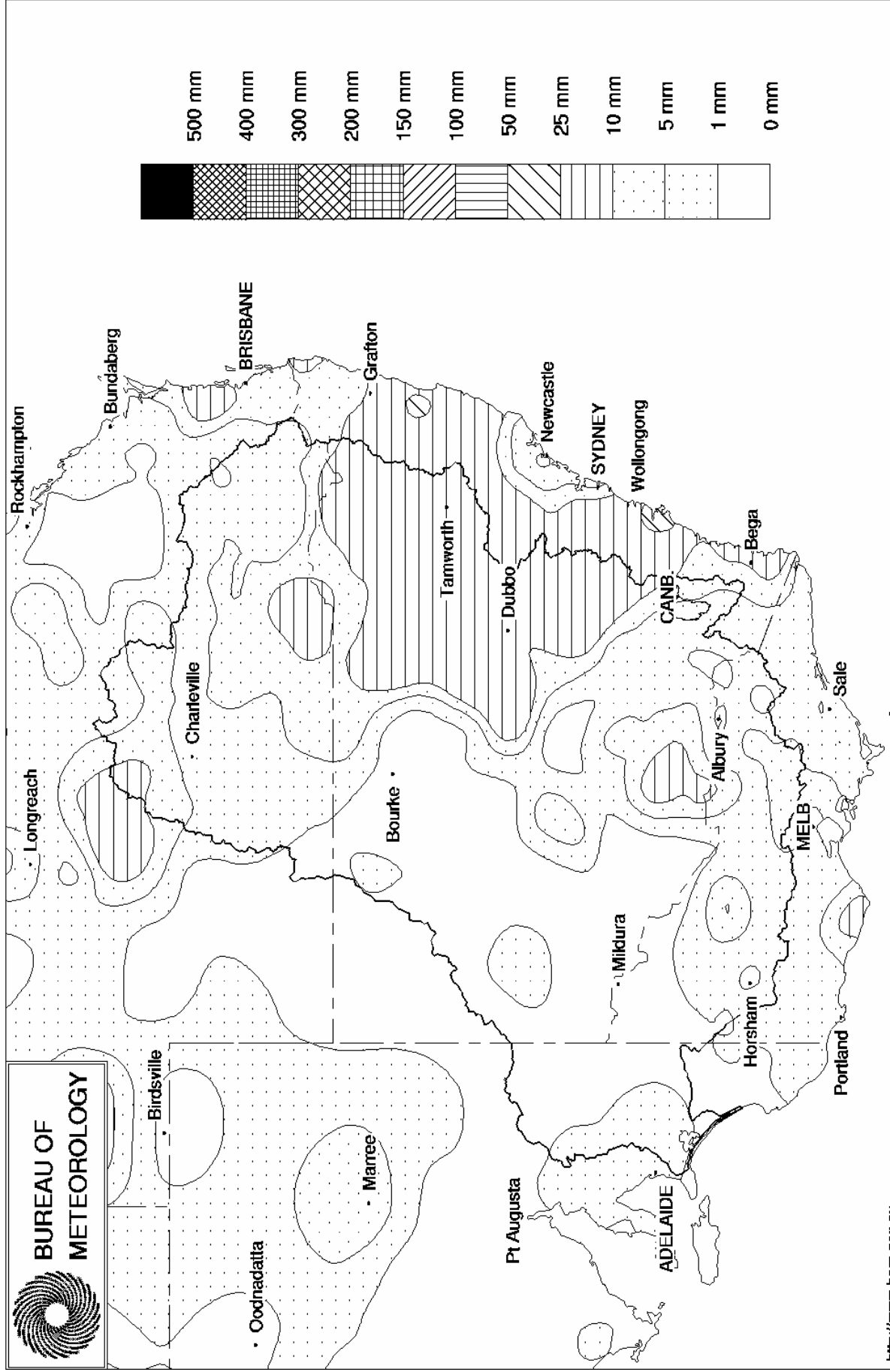
ENDS

Contact Kaye Dalton  
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DLWC  
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Mike Erny or Don Reid  
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DLWC  
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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 8th January 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



**Week ending Wednesday 08 Jan 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	447.13	1 825	47%	80	1 745	-72
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.65	206	7%	30	176	-29
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.01	571	84%	100	471	+12
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		131	8%	640 #	0	-7
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 306</b>		<b>2 732</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>2 391</b>	<b>-96</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **28%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	230	22%	3	227	-22
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	77	5%	24	53	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	580	17%	100	480	-10

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 07-Jan-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3 040	-24	Snowy-Murray	+11	294
Snowy-Murray Component	1 526	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	180
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	10.9	114
			Murray 1 Release	+11	549

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	5.2	327.0
Wakool System loss	0.8	24.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	16.0
Licensed Pumps	5.1	126.8
Lower Darling	1.9	90.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>584.7</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	7.8	304
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.6	554
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.7	90
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	36
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.2	105
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30.6</b>	<b>1 089</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	217	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.6	
Flow so far this month	56	
Flow last month	218	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	80	70	90
Euston	90	90	130
Red Cliffs	100	90	140
Merbein	110	100	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 110	1 100	900
Lock 9	110	110	190
Lake Victoria	230	260	320
Berri	290	270	360
Waikerie	340	350	470
Morgan	380	380	560
Mannum	-	-	650
Murray Bridge	660	660	710
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 990	1 990	1 110
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 450	1 450	1 130
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 340	1 340	1 500
Goolwa Barrages	3 720	3 790	3 290



Week ending Wednesday 08 Jan 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	-	-	-	3 730	F	1 500	850
Jingellic	4.0	1.19	207.71	1 200	S	1 200	1 210
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	3.21	220.10	10 080	R	10 000	9 990
Heywoods	5.5	3.04	156.67	15 890	R	14 620	17 870
Doctors Point	5.5	3.13	151.60	15 500	R	14 310	17 230
Albury	4.3	2.13	149.57	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.03	129.05	15 600	R	16 090	18 730
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 300	S	10 330	10 300
Tocumwal	6.4	2.31	106.15	10 420	F	10 510	10 420
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.11	80.66	6 170	F	6 330	6 080
Swan Hill	4.5	1.31	64.23	6 380	F	6 270	6 500
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.48	52.60	9 720	R	9 520	10 170
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.90	43.74	9 460	S	9 990	10 750
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.04	8 980	F	10 210	9 760
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.18	27.94	8 280	F	9 130	8 320
Rufus Junction	-	3.34	20.27	5 790	F	5 980	6 210
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 700	R	4 000	3 210
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.50	153.73	80	S	120	150
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.53	145.21	61	F	170	100
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	463	F	520	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 920	F	2 910	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	2.95	58.33	2 660	S	2 680	2 650
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.89	55.38	1 660	R	1 570	1 610
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	161	F	210	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.03	-	0	F	20	40
Darling at Bourke	-	3.16	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	60	S	80	70

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	60	760
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.26	+1.02
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	+0.10
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.15
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.03	+0.24	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.60
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.02	+0.54	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.23
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.13	+0.18	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.16	+0.34	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.00

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.80	1.16	70.51	1110
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.49	0.14	61.44	261

### 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
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.37	All closed

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

