

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 January 2003

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

16 January, 2003



Drought conditions continue

Dry conditions continued across most of the Murray-Darling Basin apart from rain of between 10 and 25 mm in a small area east of Charleville in southern Queensland. Total inflow to the River Murray system (including **regulated** inflows from all tributaries, but excluding release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme) remains very low. This is illustrated by the system inflow for the period June to December 2002 (7 months) which was at a level which would occur about 1 year in 20 in the long term (***assuming the current level of development in the River Murray system***). System inflow for June 2001 to December 2002 (19 months) was estimated at a level which would occur about 1 year in 50 in the long term.

System operation

Storage in Hume Reservoir declined by 24 GL to 182 GL (6% of capacity), however, the rate of fall in storage level has reduced as a result of an increase in release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme, and also as a result of a reduced rate of transfer to Lake Victoria via the Edward/Wakool system.

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir is continuing at channel capacity (10 000 ML/day at Tallandoon) to assist in meeting requirements downstream of Hume.

With the improved storage position for Lake Victoria over recent weeks, further reductions in the rate of transfer of water to Lake Victoria via the Edward/Wakool system can now be made to conserve resources in Hume. Accordingly, commencing 18 January, flow in the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir will be gradually reduced from 2 900 ML/day to about 2 000 ML/day. This will have a further effect of reducing the demand on Hume Reservoir in the short term.

Flow at Wentworth continued to decline from 8 300 to 6 800 ML/day due to both the reduction in flow at Yarrowonga Weir in mid December, and an increase in demand and river losses. As a result, storage in Lake Victoria peaked at 569 GL or 84% of capacity during the week, and is now being drawn down to assist in meeting the January entitlement flow to South Australia of 7 000 ML/day.

Blue-green algae

Counts of blue-green algae are being increasing throughout some reaches of the River Murray with medium alert levels now being recorded in Lake Hume, the River Murray between Tocumwal and Mildura, as well as in parts of the Edward/Wakool River system.

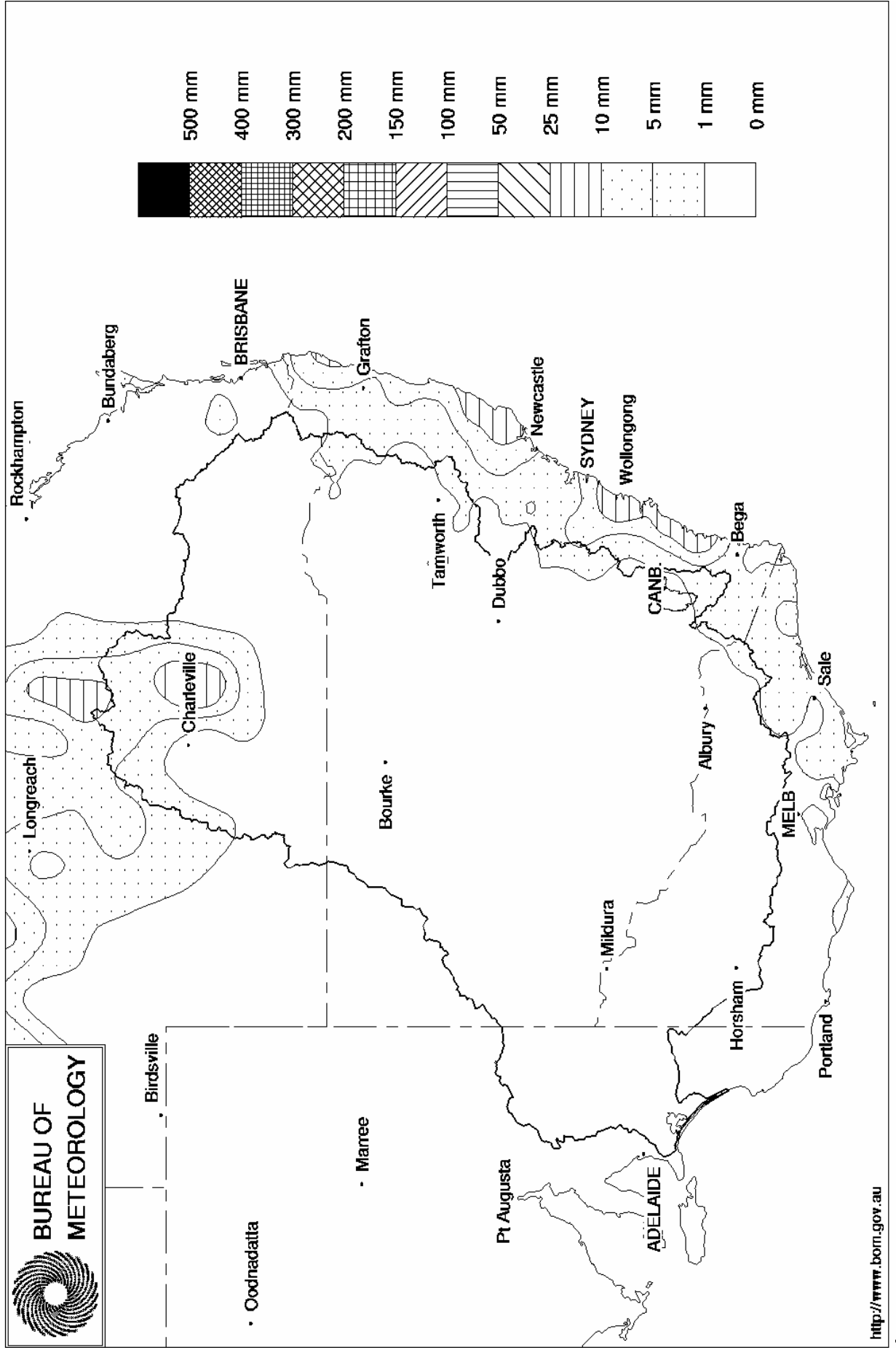
Menindee Lakes and lower Darling River

Storage in Menindee Lakes is currently 128 GL or 8 % of capacity. Works have recently been completed by NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation on the re-construction of Penalco Channel between Tandou Creek and the lower Darling River. This work, including installation of a pumping station, allows water to be transferred from Lake Cawndilla to the main stem of the lower Darling River to assist in meeting flow requirements downstream. As a result, release at Weir 32 has been reduced from 170 to 20 ML/day in order to conserve water in other lakes in Menindee Lakes.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th January 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 15 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	445.41	1 754	45%	80	1 674	-71
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.10	182	6%	30	152	-24
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.93	562	83%	100	462	-9
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		128	8%	640 #	0	-3
Total		9 306		2 626	28%	850	2 287	-106

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 27%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		199	19%	3	196	-31
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		78	5%	24	54	+0
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		553	16%	100	453	-27

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Jan-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 996	-44	Snowy-Murray	+20	314
Snowy-Murray Component	1 504	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	180
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	20.1	134
			Murray 1 Release	+18	568

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	5.3	320.4
Wakool System loss	0.3	25.2
Western Murray Irrig.	1.4	17.4
Licensed Pumps	6.2	133.0
Lower Darling	2.4	92.2
TOTAL	15.6	588.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	15.2	320
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.5	575
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.8	97
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	5.0	41
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.2	110
TOTAL	52.7	1 142

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.1	
Flow so far this month	105	
Flow last month	218	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	90	100	130
Red Cliffs	90	90	140
Merbein	110	110	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 200	1 190	910
Lock 9	120	110	190
Lake Victoria	270	240	320
Berri	280	290	350
Waikerie	320	330	460
Morgan	360	370	550
Mannum	570	580	650
Murray Bridge	640	640	710
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 170	1 260	1 120
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	120	1 040	1 130
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 090	1 910	1 510
Goolwa Barrages	2 970	3 250	3 290



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	-	-	-	2 630	F	3 070	1 910
Jingellic	4.0	1.37	207.89	2 430	F	3 520	1 200
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.21	220.10	10 080	R	10 040	10 000
Heywoods	5.5	3.03	156.66	15 850	R	16 250	14 620
Doctors Point	5.5	3.12	151.59	15 300	R	15 710	14 310
Albury	4.3	2.11	149.55	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.19	129.21	16 800	F	16 670	16 090
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.80	116.84	10 300	S	10 300	10 330
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 150	F	10 240	10 510
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.80	80.35	5 020	F	5 390	6 330
Swan Hill	4.5	1.07	63.99	4 750	F	5 510	6 270
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.24	52.36	8 740	F	9 370	9 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.85	43.69	9 140	F	9 480	9 990
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.02	8 240	F	8 140	10 210
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.03	27.79	6 780	R	6 640	9 130
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 450	F	6 330	5 980
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 910	R	3 580	4 000
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.47	153.70	0	F	110	120
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.52	145.20	53	R	40	170
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	399	S	380	520
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 920	F	2 920	2 910
Edward at Liewah	-	2.94	58.32	2 640	S	2 640	2 680
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.84	55.33	1 450	F	1 630	1 570
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	161	F	150	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.80	-	0	F	0	20
Darling at Bourke	-	3.09	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	110	R	90	80

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	600	360
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.16	+1.13
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.10
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.15
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.22	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.58
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.39	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.08	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.09	+0.20	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-0.13

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.13	0.73	70.08	433
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.06	0.21	61.51	324

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.53	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.51	All closed

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

