

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 29 January 2003

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

31 January, 2003



Hot dry conditions persist

Very hot and dry conditions continued for most of the week, and the only significant rainfall was in the northern regions of the Murray-Darling Basin where falls in the range 25 to 50 mm were recorded in southern Queensland. Maximum temperatures across the Basin, apart the higher altitude areas of the Great Dividing Range, were generally between 36 and 45° Celsius.

Upper Murray operation

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir is continuing near channel capacity rate in the Mitta Mitta River to assist in meeting requirements along the River Murray downstream of Hume Dam, and storage in Dartmouth has declined by a further 69 GL to 1 615 GL (41% of capacity).

Storage level in Hume Reservoir has levelled out at 156 GL or 5 % of capacity as a result of a significant increase in release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme at Murray 1 power station, and a minor reduction in release from Hume for downstream requirements.

Mid Murray operation

Combined diversions from Lake Mulwala to major gravity schemes (including transfer of water via the Edward River to supplement the mid Murray flow) has been reduced from 6 000 ML/day in early January to about 4 200 ML/day (32 % of capacity) by late January. This reduction has been due to a reduction in irrigation demand and the rate of transfer from Hume to Lake Victoria via Mulwala Canal to the Edward River. Accordingly, flow downstream of Stevens Weir has been gradually reduced from the regulated channel capacity rate of 2 900 ML/day to 2 000 ML/day, and further reduction in flow is expected to be made next week.

Storage in Lake Victoria (currently 521 GL or 76% of capacity) is being steadily drawn down by about 4 000 ML (or 4 GL) each day under the effects of evaporation and release to assist in supplying South Australia's entitlement flow (currently 7 000 ML/day for January).

Blue-green algae

Medium alert levels of blue-green algae persist throughout much of the River Murray system with High alert warnings still current for Hume Reservoir and the lower Darling River. Algal levels in South Australia generally remain low, however, high concentrations of non-toxic species are present in parts of the lower lakes and Coorong near the Murray Mouth.

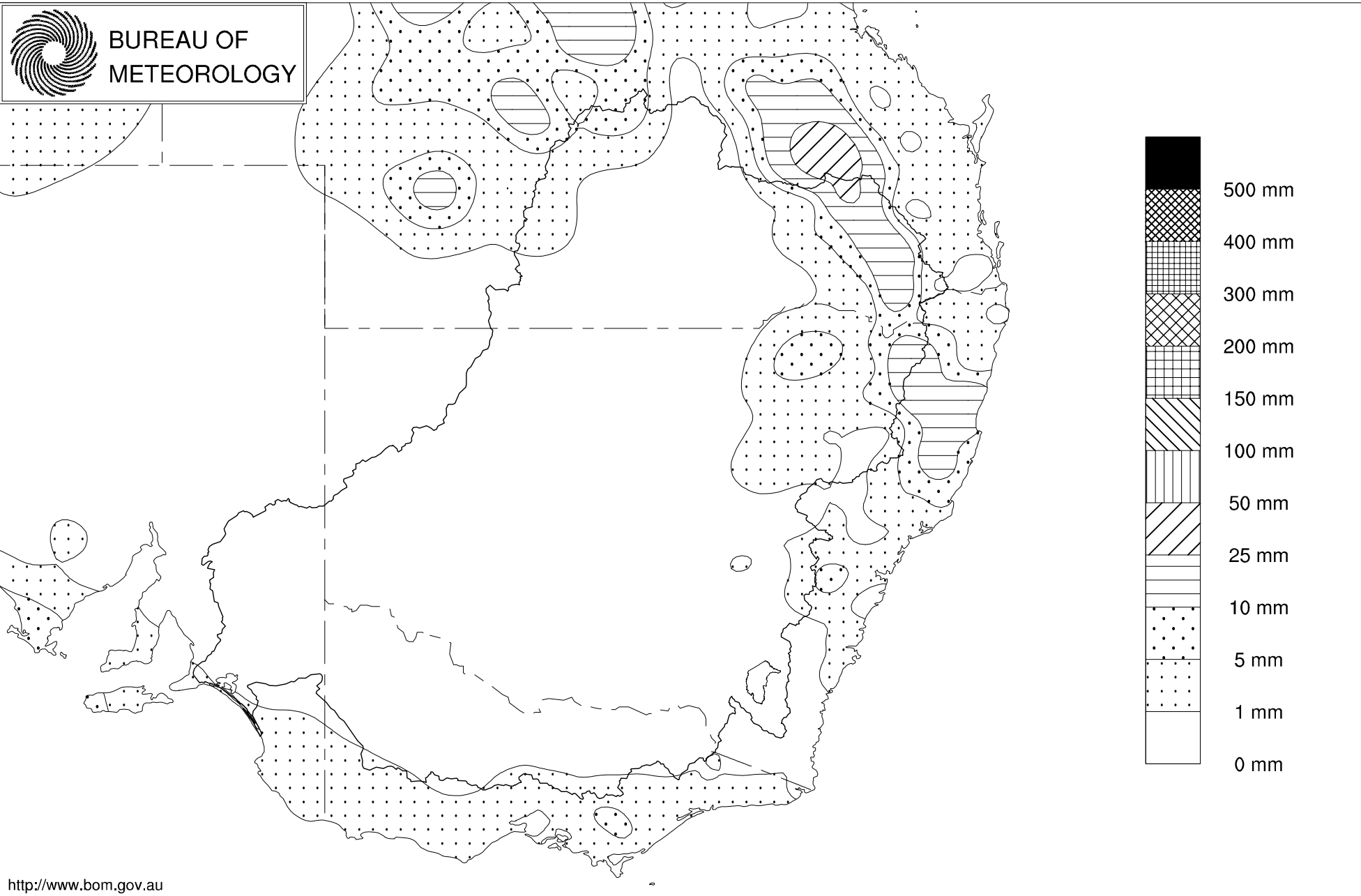
NOTE: On 26 January 2003, David Dole, General Manager of River Murray Water, was awarded a Public Service Medal in recognition of 35 years of service in water resources management and engineering, most of which was associated with the Victorian water industry and the River Murray System.

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Manager Production

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 29th January 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 29 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	441.91	1 615	41%	80	1 535	-69
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	167.48	156	5%	30	126	-1
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.55	521	77%	100	421	-28
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		108	6%	640 #	0	-10
Total		9 306		2 400	26%	850	2 082	-107

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 25%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	128	13%	3	125	-37
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	44	3%	24	20	-22
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	487	14%	100	387	-33

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Jan-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 865	-75	Snowy-Murray	+41	436
Snowy-Murray Component	1 430	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	180
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	41.4	256
			Murray 1 Release	+47	645

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	8.0	335.5
Wakool System loss	2.9	31.8
Western Murray Irrig.	1.5	20.5
Licensed Pumps	5.9	144.7
Lower Darling	2.4	97.3
TOTAL	20.8	629.7

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	15.4	351
Torrumbary System + Nyah (net)	22.3	620
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.6	113
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	45
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.2	120
TOTAL	52.2	1 249

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.7	
Flow so far this month	203	
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	80	80	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	140
Merbein	130	130	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 520	1 470	940
Lock 9	120	120	180
Lake Victoria	270	250	310
Berri	340	330	350
Waikerie	340	330	440
Morgan	340	350	540
Mannum	550	560	640
Murray Bridge	620	630	700
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 190	1 210	1 130
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 200	1 250	1 140
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 920	2 000	1 550
Goolwa Barrages	2 850	2 860	3 270



Week ending Wednesday 29 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	-	-	-	6 770	F	6 260	5 160
Jingellic	4.0	1.92	208.44	6 710	R	6 330	4 730
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.20	220.09	10 020	S	10 050	10 020
Heywoods	5.5	3.07	156.70	16 450	R	15 700	16 670
Doctors Point	5.5	3.18	151.65	16 100	S	15 360	16 170
Albury	4.3	2.18	149.62	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.11	129.13	16 200	R	16 290	17 070
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 300	S	10 300	10 300
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 150	S	10 150	10 180
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.67	80.22	4 620	R	4 630	4 780
Swan Hill	4.5	0.95	63.87	4 060	S	4 120	4 480
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.72	51.84	6 560	F	6 850	7 900
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.37	43.21	6 320	R	6 700	7 970
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.95	4 990	F	5 520	7 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	4 240	S	4 110	6 000
Rufus Junction	-	3.38	20.31	6 040	R	6 200	6 440
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 260	R	3 140	3 070
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.66	153.89	210	F	220	200
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.58	145.26	106	R	50	40
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	383	S	420	380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 030	S	2 140	2 820
Edward at Liewah	-	2.85	58.23	2 500	F	2 600	2 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.51	55.00	486	F	640	1 090
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.43	56.39	154	F	180	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.30	-	230	F	190	30
Darling at Bourke	-	2.82	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	70	S	90	140

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)		
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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	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.27	+1.07
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.15
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.15	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.09	+0.36	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.19	+0.15	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.17	+0.30	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.31

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.78	0.7	70.05	398
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.69	0.18	61.48	296

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.48	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.42	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.46	All closed

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

