

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 June 2003

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :ng/bwh

6 June, 2003



Rainfall

The headwaters of the River Murray received between 10 and 25 mm of rain this week, however, this was insufficient to generate significant rises in streamflows. Combined storage in Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs rose by 41 GL.

Water Quality

Water quality in the bushfire and drought affected tributaries of the Murray has generally declined for short periods following recent rainfall events. Colour and turbidity levels in the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Dam have risen above typical levels in recent weeks (*see Media Release attached*). Any future response to changed water quality by way of increased release from Dartmouth Reservoir will need to be balanced against the need to conserve water resources, and the scale of the impacts.

Algal counts have declined significantly to low-medium alert levels across the River Murray system.

System Inflows

Whilst May 2003 was wetter than has been observed for many months, and there has been a minor improvement in streamflow, River Murray System inflow remains very low. Total System inflow in May 2003 was about 120 GL, about twice that observed in April 2003, but at a level expected to be exceeded about 9 years in 10 over the long term. Whilst conditions are still quite dry, the recent rainfall is welcome news after the 6 extremely dry months of November 2002 to April 2003. Inflow levels in May 2003 are compared with other periods below:

	Inflow Level (long term chance of being exceeded)		
	June 2001 to May 2003 (24 months)	Nov. 2002 to May 2003 (7 months)	May 2003 (1 month)
Hume 'natural' inflow	91%	98%	89%
Total River Murray System inflow * (including Menindee Lakes, but excluding Snowy Scheme release)	Lowest on record	Lowest on record	91%

* inflow level determined from statistics of modelled data for current level of development.

Rainfall Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's latest rainfall outlook (for June to August 2003 inclusive) has no strong indications of either wet or dry conditions for the upper Murray catchment. It should also be noted that given the current relatively dry state of the catchments, 'average' rainfall over this period is unlikely to result in 'average' streamflows.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 3 June 2003

MITTA MITTA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Over the last 2 weeks or so, water quality in the Mitta Mitta River has been affected by runoff from local catchments downstream of Dartmouth Dam. These catchments have been severely impacted by the combined effects of drought and extreme bushfire damage.

A rainfall event two weeks ago produced minor increases in flow in the downstream tributary streams. These flows contained higher levels of colour, turbidity and suspended sediment than normal. These impacts were however very minor in comparison to a recent extreme event that occurred in tributaries of the Ovens River upstream of Wangaratta, stemming from intense rainfall over bushfire affected catchment. It is feasible that significant problems could occur following further rainfall events in the Mitta Mitta catchment.

Users are reminded that untreated river water is never fit for any use which may involve human consumption, directly or indirectly, without first being properly treated. Landholders not connected to an urban water supply system are responsible for sourcing water for drinking, showering and bathing.

Recent experience has shown that minor variations in reservoir release volumes are unlikely to make river water affected by bushfire sediments any more fit for irrigation and stock and domestic use. Given the current low levels in Dartmouth Reservoir, combined with low levels in the other River Murray system storages and the need to conserve water, there is very little scope to deviate from the current requirement for minimum release from Dartmouth Dam.

Whilst an emergency situation caused by large quantities of sediment and ash would prompt a review of Dartmouth operations, it is likely that any intervention will have limited effect. It should be noted that the catchment upstream of Dartmouth is also severely affected, and that without the sediment trap function provided by the lake, the quantity of ash and sediment downstream would be significantly greater.

River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water recommend to stock and domestic water users in the Mitta Mitta downstream of Dartmouth Dam that tanks be kept full with better quality water when available, and pumping be minimised if water quality deteriorates.

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Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 04 Jun 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	428.39	1 145	29%	80	1 065	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.64	378	12%	30	348	+38
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.14	276	41%	100	176	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		66	4%	640 #	0	+2
Total		9 306		1 865	20%	850	1 589	+45

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **19%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	58	6%	3	55	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	65	4%	24	41	+4
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	305	9%	100	205	+5

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Jun-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 898	-45	Snowy-Murray	+26	145
Snowy-Murray Component	811	-15	Tooma-Tumut	+1	10
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	25.0	135
			Murray 1 Release	+28	153

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .1	522.7
Wakool System loss	0.0	55.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	29.4
Licensed Pumps	1.6	203.8
Lower Darling	0.6	124.0
TOTAL	2.2	935.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	483
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	795
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	158
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	78
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.8	192
TOTAL	2.5	1 705

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	90	
Flow this week	18.2	(2 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	9	
Flow last month	93	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	120	110	90
Euston	150	150	120
Red Cliffs	160	200	140
Merbein	310	550	160
Burtundy (Darling)	1 500	1 450	1 200
Lock 9	190	170	170
Lake Victoria	280	270	290
Berri	340	330	330
Waikerie	470	450	400
Morgan	460	460	470
Mannum	440	440	540
Murray Bridge	490	490	620
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 140	1 120	1 160
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 010	1 000	1 150
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 570	1 590	1 630
Goolwa Barrages	3 330	3 330	3 280



Week ending Wednesday 04 Jun 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	-	-	-	2 790	F	4 250	6 240
Jingellic	4.0	1.73	208.25	5 120	F	5 490	7 290
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.27	218.16	490	S	440	520
Heywoods	5.5	1.34	154.97	1 120	R	960	720
Doctors Point	5.5	1.60	150.07	1 490	R	1 230	1 370
Albury	4.3	0.75	148.19	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.58	126.60	1 190	F	1 230	1 500
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.46	115.50	2 190	S	2 330	2 260
Tocumwal	6.4	0.88	104.72	2 130	F	2 310	2 090
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.17	79.72	2 800	F	3 110	3 450
Swan Hill	4.5	0.86	63.78	3 490	S	3 770	3 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.11	51.23	4 480	F	4 790	4 710
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.11	42.95	4 930	F	4 920	4 720
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.93	5 250	F	3 560	3 370
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.80	27.56	4 490	R	2 370	2 770
Rufus Junction	-	2.62	19.55	1 950	F	2 230	2 790
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 570	S	2 700	2 830
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.90	154.13	500	R	490	810
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.97	145.65	722	F	750	1 140
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.18	92.60	399	F	520	1 250
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	240	S	210	240
Edward at Liewah	-	1.09	56.47	570	S	620	830
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.33	54.82	197	R	190	270
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.92	56.88	460	R	360	350
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	130	S	150	200
Darling at Bourke	-	4.09	-	460	S	490	770
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	70	S	70	60

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 740	4 310
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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	+0.00	+0.20
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.13	-0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.07	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.13	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.27
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.10
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	-0.13	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.00
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.10	+0.00	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	-0.35

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.67	0.8	70.15	520
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.34	0.73	62.03	891

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.50	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.62	All closed

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

