REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 7 May 2003

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :ng:bwh **12 May, 2003**

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Rainfall and Tributary Flows

Rain was confined to the north, east and southern perimeters of the Murray-Darling Basin this week. Falls were generally very light (between 1 and 5 mm), however, heavier falls of between 10 and 25 mm recorded at the Murray Mouth and headwaters of the Condamine River in southern Queensland. Tributary inflows to the River Murray continue to recede as a result of the continuing dry conditions in the south of the Basin. Total inflow to the River Murray from the Kiewa, Ovens, Goulburn, Campaspe, Loddon and Murrumbidgee Rivers fell from about 1 300 to 1 100 ML/day.

Total River Murray System inflow (including regulated inflows from tributaries, but excluding release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme) for April 2003 was extremely low - only 2 GL greater than the lowest in the statistical modelled record derived *assuming the current level of development in the River Murray System and tributaries*. System inflow for the period November 2002 to April 2003 inclusive was about 350 GL, which is estimated to be 60 GL less than the modelled minimum of 410 GL calculated for the 1914/15 season if it were to have the same level of irrigation and system development of today.

System Operation

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir was reduced from 600 to 400 ML/day, and a further reduction to the nominal minimum release of 200 ML/day will commence on Sunday 11 May. In response to declining irrigation demand as the irrigation season draws to a close, release from Hume Reservoir was reduced from 3 500 to 2 000 ML/day as measured at Albury/Wodonga, and is expected to be maintained near this level next week. Storage in Hume increased by 13 GL primarily as a result of release from the Snowy Mountains Scheme via Murray 1 Power Station.

Diversion to National Channel to the Torrumbarry Irrigation System remains steady at about 1 300 ML/day and is forecast to cease by 15 May. Accordingly, release from Yarrawonga Weir was reduced to 2 700 ML/day on 7 May, and will be reduced to the minimum flow of 1 800 ML/day by 9 May to conserve resources. Further downstream, the river level at Swan Hill is forecast to fall to near the target minimum level of 0.6 m gauge level next week.

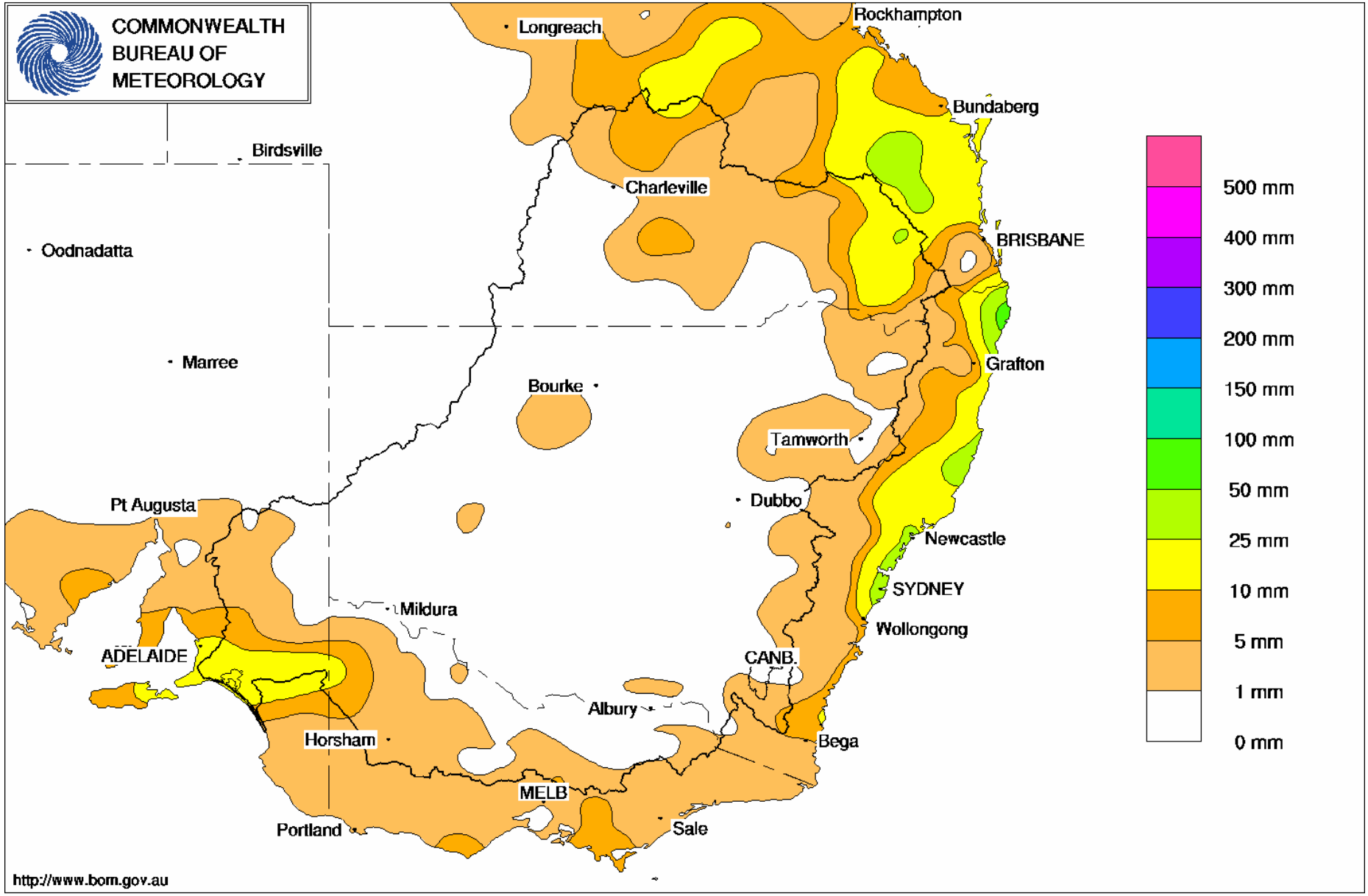
Stevens Weir on the Edward River is currently being drawn down as is normal for this time of year. The level has been drawn down by 0.9 m during the week, and is now 1.7 m below full supply level, and will continue to gradually fall next week.

Mildura Weir pool will be drawn down for maintenance purposes commencing 15 May (*see last week's report for details*). If river flows upstream remain low, it is anticipated that river salinities at, and immediately downstream of Mildura, will temporarily rise from about 180 EC to about 500 EC due to additional saline inputs from adjacent groundwater which occur when the weir pool level is lowered. It is forecast that the pool level would be refilled by early June by which time river salinity is expected to return to about 200 EC. Lake Victoria will be used to mitigate any salinity peak arising from this operation so as to minimise river salinity in South Australia.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 7th May 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



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Week ending Wednesday 07 May 2003

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Storage for the week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	427.89	1 130	29%	80	1 050	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.15	230	8%	30	200	+13
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.96	259	38%	100	159	-6
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		107	6%	640 #	0	-3
Total		**9 306**		**1 725**	**19%**	**850**	**1 408**	**+1**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **17%**

\# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		50	5%	3	47	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		67	4%	24	43	+6
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		288	9%	100	188	-2

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 06-May-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 122	-44	Snowy-Murray	+15	11
Snowy-Murray Component	920	-	Tooma-Tumut	+3	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	12.1	8
			Murray 1 Release	+14	11

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .9	527.7
Wakool System loss	1.4	52.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	28.8
Licensed Pumps	1.8	197.5
Lower Darling	0.6	121.6
TOTAL	**3.2**	**928.0**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	5.0	474
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.8	793
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.3	154
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	70
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.4	183
TOTAL	**14.6**	**1 674**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93
Flow this week	21.2
Flow so far this month	21
Flow last month	135

(3 000 ML/day)

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	110	110	80
Euston	130	120	120
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	140	150	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 400	1 410	1 170
Lock 9	220	200	170
Lake Victoria	250	260	290
Berri	320	310	320
Waikerie	400	390	400
Morgan	380	370	480
Mannum	420	410	560
Murray Bridge	460	450	630
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 140	1 170	1 160
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 000	1 090	1 170
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 580	1 730	1 630
Goolwa Barrages	3 290	3 350	3 270

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Week ending Wednesday 07 May 2003

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 770	F	1 700	5 470
Jingellic	4.0	1.45	207.97	3 000	R	2 670	6 240
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.34	218.23	620	F	710	730
Heywoods	5.5	1.49	155.12	1 730	F	2 250	6 080
Doctors Point	5.5	1.68	150.15	1 900	F	2 460	6 120
Albury	4.3	0.80	148.24	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.95	126.97	2 740	F	3 610	6 800
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.56	115.60	2 660	F	3 090	3 800
Tocumwal	6.4	1.05	104.89	2 930	F	3 190	3 860
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.02	79.57	2 240	F	2 630	2 830
Swan Hill	4.5	0.77	63.69	2 930	S	3 070	3 000
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.95	51.07	3 630	F	3 770	3 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.93	42.77	4 020	S	3 870	3 780
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	30.83	3 580	F	3 330	3 290
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.98	27.74	3 120	R	2 740	2 520
Rufus Junction	-	2.75	19.68	2 600	F	2 670	4 100
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	1 570	F	2 120	3 060
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.62	153.85	140	F	200	170
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.60	145.28	158	F	200	220
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	433	F	500	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	480	S	220	150
Edward at Liewah	-	0.96	56.34	480	F	530	470
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.43	54.92	341	F	380	360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.54	56.50	221	S	230	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.37	-	390	R	490	880
Darling at Bourke	-	4.31	-	1 750	R	1 440	1 300
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	150	R	130	110

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 460	910

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	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.40
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.02	-0.05
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.26
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.34	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.08
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.02
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.00	-0.37

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.94	0.61	69.96	305
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.44	0.13	61.43	252

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.46	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.42	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.45	All closed

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

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