

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 28 July 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs:jm:bwh
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29 July, 2004



Rainfall

Over the last week there have been light to moderate falls across the Murray Darling Basin. Up to 50 mm was recorded in the upper Murray and tributary catchments, with the most significant streamflow response being in the Ovens River. Minor improvements in storage volume have occurred in upper Murray storages, and the upper Murray and tributary catchments are becoming wetter and can be expected to be more responsive if further rain is received in the near future.

System Operation

Commencing next week, release from Dartmouth Reservoir is to be gradually increased to the range 4 000 to 5 000 ML/day to transfer resources to Hume Reservoir to assist with the transfer of resources to Lake Victoria and to supplement storage in Hume before the commencement of the irrigation season (*see attached media release*). The current plan is to maintain average release from Dartmouth near that rate during August, unless there is a significant change in inflow conditions in the River Murray system.

Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs showed only a minor response to the recent rain, and they remain relatively low. However, flow in the Ovens River at Wangaratta peaked at 7 800 ML/day – the highest flow since December last year. Further rain in the 24 hour period to 29 July has produced renewed rises in the upper Ovens catchment, with a second slightly higher peak at Wangaratta expected on 30 July.

The increase in tributary flows has enabled release from Hume Reservoir to be significantly reduced from 7 600 to 2 600 ML/day over the week, and this has contributed to a minor storage increase of 9 GL in Hume, but a more significant rise will occur next week as improved inflows arrive.

Increased flows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers are being captured and re-regulated in Lake Mulwala whilst release from Yarrawonga Weir has been maintained near channel capacity through the Barmah-Millewa Forest for on-going transfer of resources to Lake Victoria. Refilling of the Mulwala Canal system via the offtake at Lake Mulwala commenced on 19 July in preparation for the commencement of the irrigation season, and was increased to about 2 000 ML/day by late this week.

Storage at Lake Victoria has continued to rise steadily due mainly to the on-going transfer of water from Hume, and has increased from 50% of capacity to 56% of capacity over the week. The rate of transfer of water to Lake Victoria is being closely monitored with regard to tributary inputs downstream of Hume Reservoir, and the rate of rise in storage in Lake Victoria.

In South Australia, storage level in the Lower Lakes (Lakes Alexandrina and Albert) which reached a low point of about 0.5 m AHD (0.25 m below nominal full supply level) in late April 2004, has since gradually risen to a level of about 0.8 m AHD (5 cm above the nominal full) as a result of inflows from local streams and contributions from the River Murray. The lakes will continue to be surcharged in the near future to maximise lake levels prior to the coming irrigation season.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 29 July 2004

Transfer of Water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir



River Murray Water (RMW) announced today that the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir will be increased next week in order to supplement storage in Hume in preparation for the coming irrigation season.

In view of the limits of channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River, it is often necessary to commence the transfer of water to Hume well in advance of periods of high water use along the River Murray to ensure that the combined requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met throughout the irrigation season. Storage in Hume is currently 12% of capacity and slowly rising, storage in Lake Victoria is 57% and rising, and there is currently no Murray-Darling Basin Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes.

Release from Dartmouth is currently at about 1 000 ML/day or about 1.4 m on the Colemans gauge. Commencing on the morning of Monday 2 August, release will be gradually increased to about 4 500 ML/day (2.15 m gauge height) by Friday 6 August.

In the immediate future, release from Dartmouth will be targeted at about 4 500 ML/day, and natural catchment inflows from downstream tributaries will result in the river levels further downstream varying in response to weather conditions. Further downstream at Tallandoon, it is expected that the river level will initially rise to about 2.5 m gauge height, and then vary between about 2.4 and 2.6 m gauge height. However, greater variation may occur in response to significant rainfall events in tributaries of the Mitta Mitta River.

Later in August, if conditions indicate that a prolonged period of transfer is required, it is expected that release from Dartmouth will be varied in an effort to mimic the variability of river levels seen under natural conditions. This mode of operation is aimed at providing environmental benefits including reduced impact on stream banks of the Mitta Mitta River.

The rate of transfer will be kept under close review in the light of conditions across the River Murray System. If there is a return to dry conditions, the rate of transfer will need to be increased in spring, however, significant improvements in inflow conditions across the River Murray would reduce the volume of transfer required.

RMW will provide further updates throughout the season on the program of release from Dartmouth Reservoir, particularly when significant changes are required.

For further information contact:

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Manager Communication

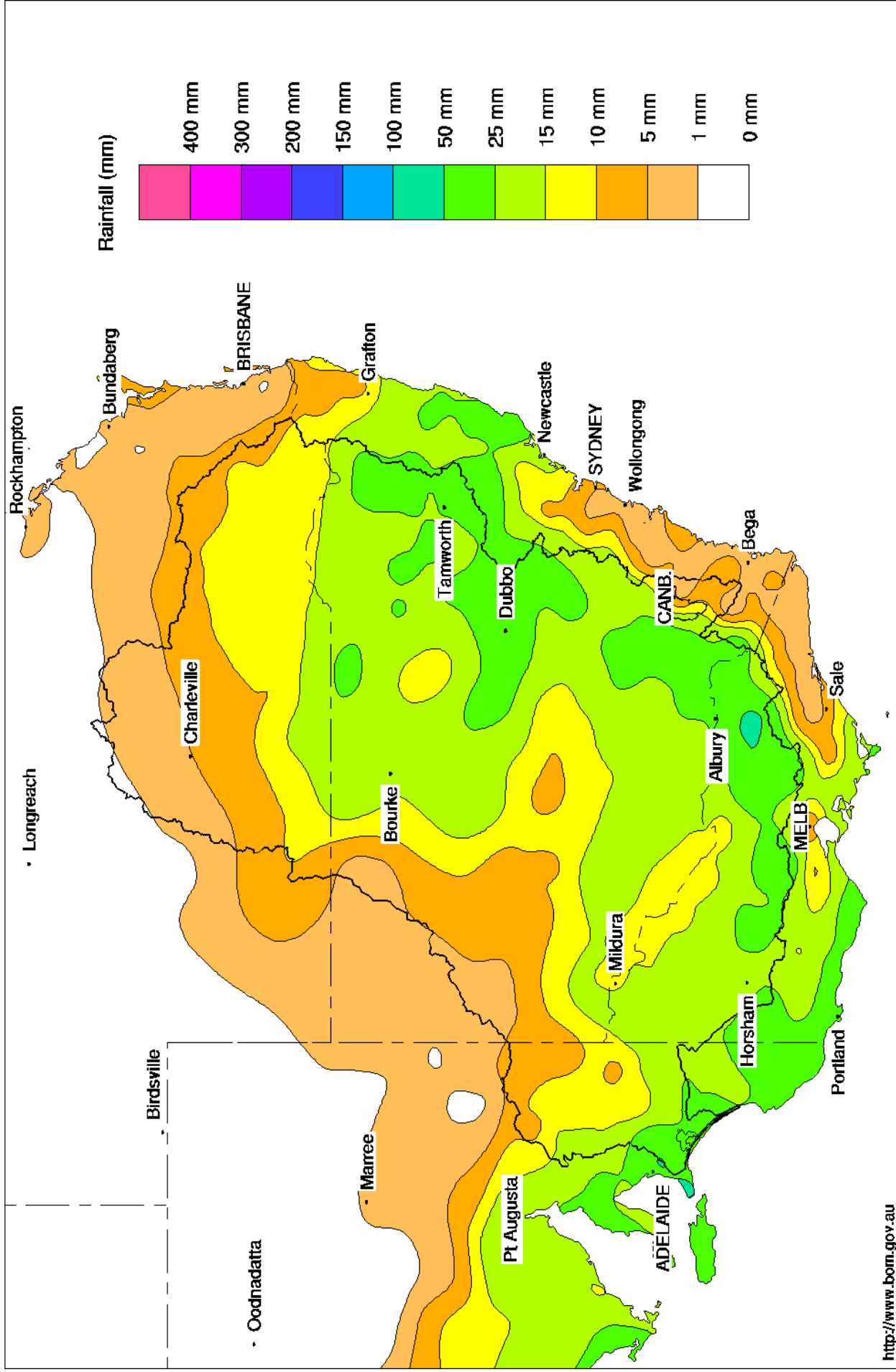
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(Lawrie Kirk is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th July 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



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	449.55	1 927	49%	80	1 847	+14
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.11	342	11%	30	312	+9
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.22	383	56%	100	283	+40
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		324	20%	640 #	0	-1
Total		9 227		2 976	32%	850	2 442	+62

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **29%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	405	39%	3	402	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	154	9%	24	130	+31
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	812	24%	100	712	+52

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Jul-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 875	+10	Snowy-Murray	+10	198
Snowy-Murray Component	828	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	44
Target Storage	1 170		Nett Diversion	4.4	154
			Murray 1 Release	+13	242

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	9.3	10.5
Wakool System loss	0.6	-.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.6
Licensed Pumps	0.8	4.1
Lower Darling	0.1	.3
TOTAL	10.8	15.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.0	7
TOTAL	2.1	9

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	108.5	(3 600 ML/day)
Flow this week	24.9	
Flow so far this month	98	
Flow last month	90	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	90	100	100
Euston	90	90	120
Red Cliffs	50	60	120
Merbein	70	70	130
Burtundy (Darling)	340	340	1 660
Lock 9	130	130	170
Lake Victoria	220	190	250
Berri	350	350	290
Waikerie	-	480	390
Morgan	510	520	420
Mannum	540	520	440
Murray Bridge	520	500	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	910	920	1 110
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 000	1 330	1 000
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 990	1 900	1 830
Goolwa Barrages	3 500	3 650	2 370



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	-	-	-	2 260	F	2 360	3 860
Jingellic	4.0	1.78	208.30	5 490	R	5 200	5 770
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.77	218.66	1 780	F	1 450	910
Heywoods	5.5	1.60	155.23	2 590	F	6 230	6 220
Doctors Point	5.5	2.10	150.57	4 710	F	7 680	7 450
Albury	4.3	1.13	148.57	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.87	127.89	7 230	F	8 790	7 270
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.80	116.84	10 300	S	10 160	10 010
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 690	R	10 610	10 430
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.71	81.26	8 370	S	8 410	8 420
Swan Hill	4.5	1.58	64.50	8 140	S	8 090	8 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.43	52.55	10 060	S	10 060	10 080
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.95	43.79	9 780	F	9 770	9 680
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.17	10 670	F	11 680	12 120
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.14	27.90	9 350	S	9 250	9 130
Rufus Junction	-	2.88	19.81	3 040	S	3 140	3 050
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 740	S	3 660	3 680
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandida	2.7	1.98	155.21	2 380	R	1 800	1 580
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.05	147.73	7 365	F	4 630	3 240
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.22	92.64	463	S	440	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 250	S	1 440	1 630
Edward at Liewah	-	2.25	57.63	1 630	S	1 630	1 670
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.31	54.80	172	S	190	240
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.56	56.52	276	F	270	260
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	S	20	50
Darling at Bourke	-	4.03	-	171	F	160	170
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	36	S	30	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 070	4 770
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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	-0.06	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+0.61
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.37	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.50	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.02	+0.08	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.09	+0.14	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.04

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.13	0.77	70.12	481
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.18	0.12	61.42	244

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.76	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.78	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.80	All closed

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

