

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 16 June 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/taj
Trim Ref : 04/7384DO

18 June, 2004



Welcome Rain

Despite good falls, of up to 100 mm, across the headwaters of the Murray catchment (*see rainfall map*), there were only relatively small streamflow responses. Inflow to Dartmouth Reservoir peaked at only 2 500 ML/day with inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers even lower than this. Further persistent follow-up rain is required in order to progressively build base flows in these streams, which will improve storage levels in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs. Without such rain, storage levels will continue to languish.

System Operation

Release from Hume Dam was increased this week, resulting in a slight fall in storage level, to increase the rate of transfer of water to Lake Victoria. Further increases in release are planned in order to achieve the necessary balance in stored water between upper Murray and lower Murray storages throughout the coming irrigation season (*see attached media release*). These transfers have been triggered by the dry start to the season, low tributary inflows to the Murray, low storage position of Lake Victoria and 85% of the Commission's current total storage being held in Dartmouth Reservoir.

Transfers of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir are likely to be ramped up over late July and August unless delayed as a result of very heavy rainfall and significantly increased streamflows in the meantime. Further information on these transfer plans will be provided in July as appropriate. As in the past, River Murray Water will continually review the situation and the water transfer needs as the season progresses.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir was increased to 7 500 ML/day this week and will be progressively increased towards regulated channel capacity of about 10 000 ML/day by the end of June. In response to these rises, the flow passing to the Edward River via the Edward River offtake will be gradually increased from the current 100 ML/day to 1600 ML/day by the end of the month. Release to Gulpa Creek will remain steady over the coming few weeks unless very wet conditions ensue. These operational plans will, of course, be reviewed and adjusted in the event of heavy rain and raised inflows from tributaries.

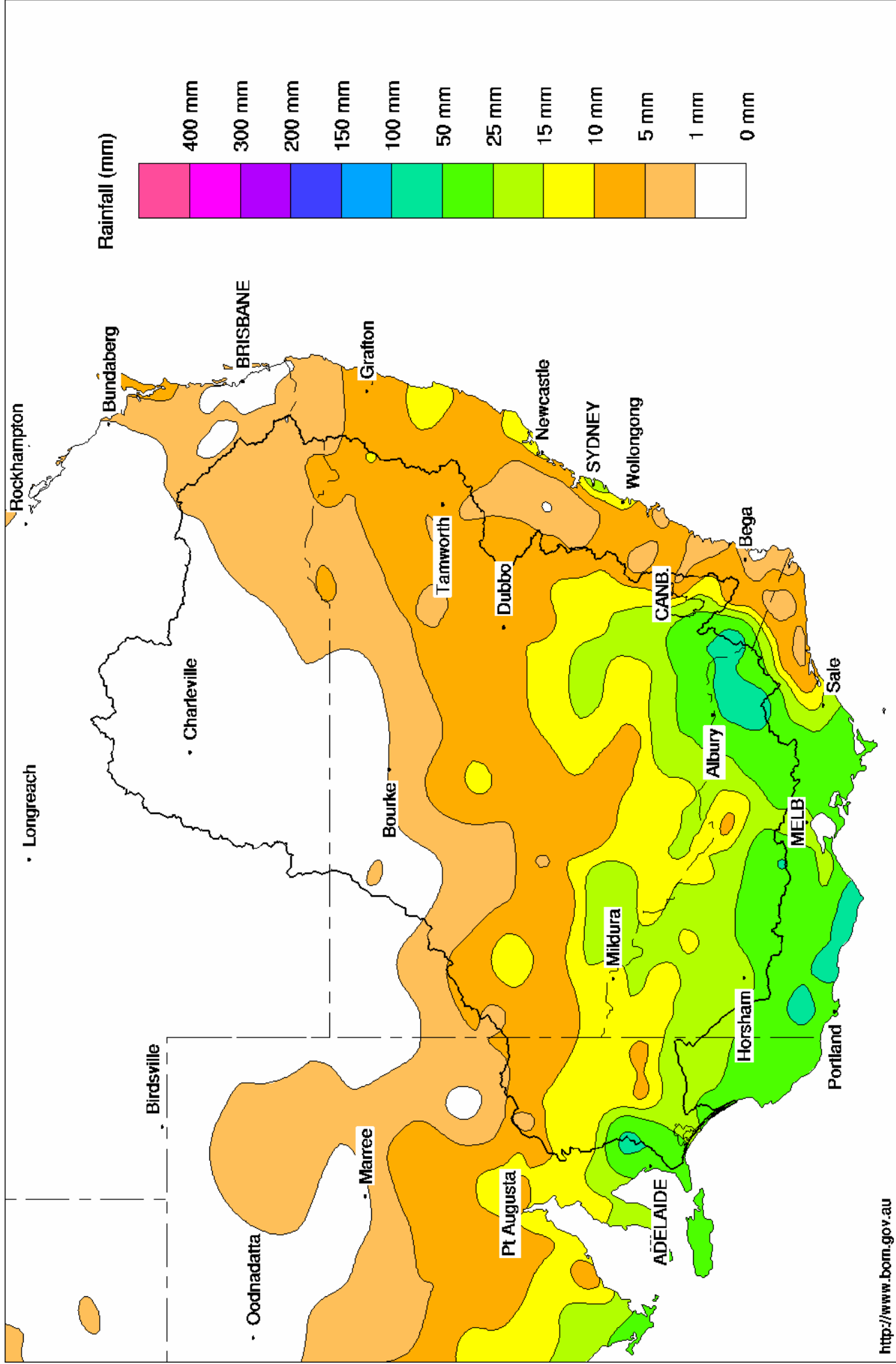
Salinity

Salinity at Morgan is currently 480 EC, and is expected to gradually increase over the coming months whilst flow to South Australia remains fully regulated. Under continuing drought conditions, salinity at Morgan may approach about 900 EC in October and November 2004. Forecasts of river salinity will be continually reviewed and updated by River Murray Water to take into account any changed river conditions.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 16th June 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



MEDIA RELEASE



Friday, 18 June 2004

Early Start for 'Transfers' from Hume Reservoir

Ref: 04/7590DO

Transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria is being increased unusually early this year to achieve a balance in stored water between upper Murray and lower Murray storages throughout the 2004/05 irrigation season, it was announced today.

According to River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, David Dreverman, Lake Victoria's storage level is currently very low following drawdown to meet last season's requirements. He said tributary inflows to the River Murray had remained very low in recent months, that no Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) storage is available in Menindee Lakes, and that substantial inflow to Menindee would be required to make water available to the MDBC.

"Of the MDBC's current active storage, 85 per cent is held in Dartmouth Reservoir, 10 per cent in Hume Reservoir, and about 5 per cent in Lake Victoria", Mr Dreverman said. Transfer to Lake Victoria is required to meet the requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales throughout the 2004/05 season, if dry conditions continue.

Mr Dreverman said there was a reasonable chance (about 40%) that tributary inflows over the next few months would be sufficient to help fill Lake Victoria. Under wetter conditions the transfers would be reduced to conserve water in upper storages. However, if conditions remained dry, particularly in tributaries downstream of Hume, transfer of water would need to continue until late in the 2004/05 season.

Part of the water being transferred will be passed through the Edward/Wakool system to bypass the constraint of the Barmah 'choke', Mr Dreverman said.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been gradually increased to 8 500 ML/day (about 1.6 m river gauge height) in recent weeks and will be increased to about 10 000 ML/day (about 1.8 m) by late June 2004. To achieve the increased flows, release from Hume Reservoir (currently about 6 000 ML/day, or 1.4 m gauge height at Albury) is expected to increase to about 8 000 ML/day (about 1.5 m at Albury).

Release from Hume will be reduced as necessary if there is a significant increase in tributary inflows, particularly from the Kiewa, Ovens Rivers, Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers. The on-going need and rate of transfer to Lake Victoria will be continually reviewed by River Murray Water taking into account tributary flow contributions and storage in Lake Victoria.

Without significant rain in coming weeks, transfer from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume can be expected to commence as early as late July 2004. Dartmouth water will be used to supplement storage in Hume in order to meet the downstream water supply requirements including on-going transfers of water to Lake Victoria over the 2004/05 season.

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	448.03	1 863	48%	80	1 783	+12
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.88	267	9%	30	237	-3
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.48	215	32%	100	115	+5
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		340	21%	640 #	0	+1
Total		9 227		2 685	29%	850	2 134	+15

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **25%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	400	39%	3	397	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	91	6%	24	67	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	613	18%	100	513	+7

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 15-Jun-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 805	+17	Snowy-Murray	+12	112
Snowy-Murray Component	888	+2	Tooma-Tumut	+4	13
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	7.5	99
			Murray 1 Release	+15	122

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	856.2
Wakool System loss	-1.5	43.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	30.0
Licensed Pumps	2.5	325.0
Lower Darling	0.1	29.3
TOTAL	1.1	1 284.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	375
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	590
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	158
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	56
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.9	207
TOTAL	2.2	1 387

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	90	(3 700 ML/day)
Flow this week	25.7	
Flow so far this month	55	
Flow last month	94	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	110	110	100
Euston	150	140	120
Red Cliffs	90	100	120
Merbein	120	120	140
Burtundy (Darling)	320	310	1 830
Lock 9	210	210	180
Lake Victoria	300	260	250
Berri	330	330	280
Waikerie	-	-	380
Morgan	480	490	410
Mannum	410	410	430
Murray Bridge	450	440	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	990	1 030	1 120
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	500	500	990
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 000	2 010	1 820
Goolwa Barrages	2 500	2 440	2 090

River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 380	R	2 990	3 530
Jingellic	4.0	1.89	208.41	6 440	R	4 540	4 700
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.52	218.41	950	R	690	440
Heywoods	5.5	2.12	155.75	6 570	S	5 620	3 370
Doctors Point	5.5	2.45	150.92	8 020	R	6 260	4 140
Albury	4.3	1.43	148.87	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.82	127.84	7 430	R	6 230	4 230
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.40	116.44	7 490	S	6 370	4 840
Tocumwal	6.4	1.78	105.62	7 170	R	5 980	4 820
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.96	80.51	5 600	R	5 120	4 710
Swan Hill	4.5	1.06	63.98	4 690	S	4 580	4 610
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.54	51.66	6 110	R	6 110	5 910
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.37	43.21	6 320	F	6 460	5 690
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.04	6 790	F	6 810	4 900
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.02	27.78	5 760	R	5 760	4 680
Rufus Junction	-	2.58	19.51	1 520	F	3 050	2 630
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 830	S	4 020	4 170
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.76	154.99	1 910	R	870	640
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.34	146.02	1 673	R	1 010	770
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.13	92.55	315	F	340	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	230	S	300	440
Edward at Liewah	-	1.44	56.82	812	F	820	820
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.50	54.99	485	F	540	610
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.95	56.91	612	S	620	570
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	70	S	70	60
Darling at Bourke	-	4.07	-	281	S	330	400
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	111	F	130	140

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 100	2 410
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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	-0.20	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.18	+0.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.24	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+0.42
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.38	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.11	+0.14	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.15	+0.20	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.11

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.02	0.8	70.15	520
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.82	0.47	61.77	602

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.60	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.61	All closed

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

