

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 18 February 2004

Our Ref: RMW305/01/01/prs:taj
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20 February, 2004



Rainfall

Although rainfall across the Basin was heavier this week, it was patchy as it came from storm activity, particularly in southern Queensland and northern NSW. Conditions remained hot and dry across the southern parts of the Basin, including the upper River Murray, and tributary inflows remain extremely low.

Darling River flows

Darling River flow peaked at Bourke at 25 000 ML/day on 17 February with minimal inundation of floodplain areas. Flow is now arriving at Menindee Lakes at low salinity levels of about 200 to 300 EC.

The NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources increased release from Menindee Lakes to 700 ML/day during the week to hasten the passage of water along the lower Darling, in order to improve water quality and provide for stock and domestic supplies. Despite release to the lower Darling River commencing four weeks ago, flow has not yet reached Pooncarie due to extremely high river losses. Initial inflows to the River Murray from the Darling are not expected to arrive before the end of February and are likely to be of high salinity ahead of the fresher water that will be later released from the Lakes

RMW is working closely with all three States in relation to management of the water expected to enter the Murray in a few weeks time and salinity impacts in South Australia will be mitigated as much as is possible using Lake Victoria.

Upper Murray flow and storages

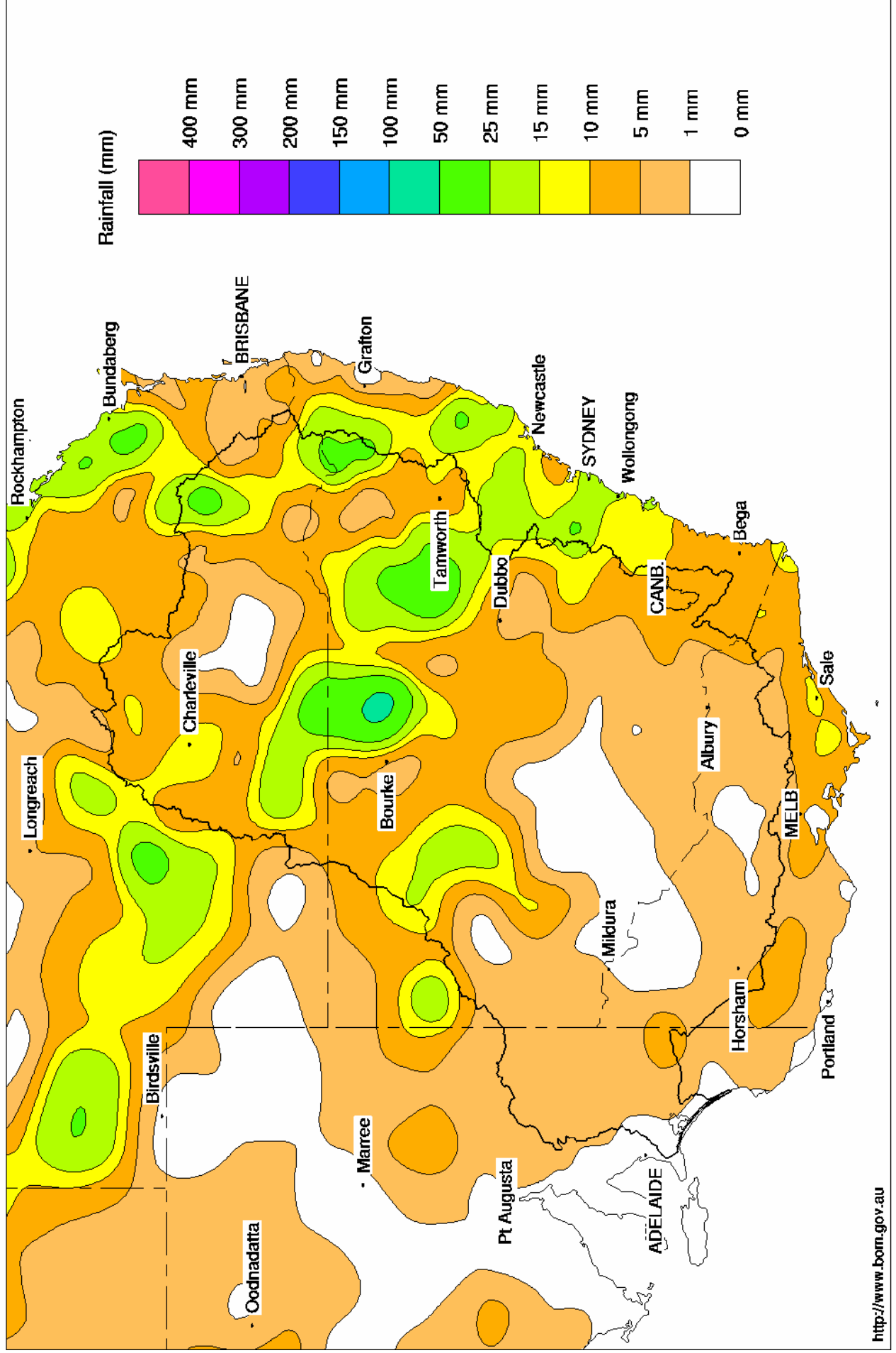
Release from Dartmouth Reservoir was increased during the week for the purposes of electricity generation. Electricity demands are expected to fall this coming weekend with forecast cooler conditions and release from Dartmouth is therefore likely to reduce in coming days. Storage in Hume Reservoir is currently about 1200 GL or 40% of capacity and falling at the rate of about 3 percentage points a week.

Mid and lower Murray

The transfer of water resources from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria is continuing. Most of the transfers from Hume Reservoir are being passed via the River Murray, with lesser volumes moving through the Edward/Wakool River system. This transfer is being aided by the supply of inter-valley trade water from the Goulburn River at a rate of about 700 ML/day above the minimum target of 350 ML/day at McCoy's Bridge. The volume in Lake Victoria continues to be monitored in light of these transfers and current weather conditions.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 18th February 2004
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 18 Feb 2004

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	447.76	1 851	47%	80	1 771	-16
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	180.43	1 209	40%	30	1 179	-82
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.06	367	54%	100	267	-36
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		89	6%	640 #	0	+15
Total		9 227		3 515	38%	850	3 217	-120

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **38%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		450	44%	3	447	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		488	30%	24	464	-20
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 078	32%	100	978	-58

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 17-Feb-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 859	-4	Snowy-Murray	+11	582
Snowy-Murray Component	1 086	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	258
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	8.5	323
			Murray 1 Release	+16	908

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	24.3	535.1
Wakool System loss	2.0	24.1
Western Murray Irrig.	1.4	21.0
Licensed Pumps	10.1	155.0
Lower Darling	0.4	8.0
TOTAL	38.1	743.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	13.5	237
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	404
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.8	114
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.6	24
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.8	149
TOTAL	27.7	927

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.6	
Flow so far this month	125	
Flow last month	224	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	90	90	110
Euston	90	90	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	130
Merbein	150	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	4 320	4 210	2 350
Lock 9	170	160	170
Lake Victoria	230	230	230
Berri	260	260	270
Waikerie	-	320	390
Morgan	350	360	410
Mannum	440	440	440
Murray Bridge	480	470	490
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 260	1 280	1 110
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 250	1 250	1 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 010	2 010	1 560
Goolwa Barrages	2 020	2 040	2 180



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	-	-	-	2 870	F	2 740	2 390
Jingellic	4.0	1.53	208.05	3 580	F	3 290	3 070
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.18	219.07	3 580	F	3 470	1 150
Heywoods	5.5	3.14	156.77	17 260	F	16 730	17 520
Doctors Point	5.5	3.35	151.82	18 400	F	17 690	17 860
Albury	4.3	2.41	149.85	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.42	129.44	18 600	R	18 270	18 270
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 300	S	10 310	10 300
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 550	F	10 660	10 770
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.08	80.63	6 040	S	6 140	6 020
Swan Hill	4.5	1.17	64.09	5 390	S	5 390	5 100
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.81	51.93	7 260	S	7 260	6 900
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.39	43.23	6 430	S	6 380	6 180
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.93	4 860	F	4 670	4 630
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	3 880	R	3 560	3 650
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 450	F	6 660	6 590
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 300	F	3 760	4 130
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.46	154.69	1 320	R	1 080	620
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.77	145.45	358	F	430	470
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.63	93.05	1 101	F	1 170	1 020
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 320	S	2 410	2 370
Edward at Liewah	-	2.60	57.98	2 090	R	2 010	1 920
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.42	54.91	340	S	350	400
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.51	56.47	204	S	220	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.58	-	1 050	F	1 130	760
Darling at Bourke	-	7.65	-	24 470	F	23 350	16 990
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.24	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	990	1 770
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+1.14
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.06	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.13	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.61
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.24	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.02	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.11	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	-0.03

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.33	0.87	70.22	615
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.60	0.19	61.49	305

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.67	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	All closed

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

