

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 November 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/jm, taj
Trim Ref : 04/12370DO

26 November, 2004



Rainfall and Temperature

Rain fell across much of the Basin early this week, with falls up to 50 mm in the Upper Murray and up to 100 mm in the Upper Darling catchment. However the latter part of the week has seen a change towards summer-like conditions - daytime temperatures increasing above 30°C and forecast to stay hot over the coming weekend.

Seasonal Outlook

The latest seasonal rainfall outlook, prepared by the Bureau of Meteorology for the three month period December to February, indicates a neutral outlook for most of the Basin with about an equal chance of above or below median rainfall, and neither wet nor dry conditions favoured. The temperature outlook for the same period indicates there is an increased chance of above average summer temperatures, particularly for the northern part of the Basin.

System Operation

Following the good rainfall over the past couple of weeks, the total MDBC storage has continued to increase, with a further rise of 45 GL this week.

The November rainfall and increased volumes held in storage will allow the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir to be reduced, commencing on Monday 29 November (refer attached media release). Releases from Hume Reservoir have been increased steadily over the week (up to nearly 13 000 ML/day), as irrigation demands increased and tributary inflows continue to recede.

Inflows to Lake Victoria have been temporarily limited by operations associated with the construction of a fish passage at Lock 9. The lake is currently 98% full and is expected to fill during the first week of December. Due to the limited inflows to the lake, there has been a temporary increase in the flow to South Australia by about 1 000 ML/day above the regulated requirement.

As Lake Victoria was expected to fill, NSW announced a short period of access to supplementary water for its irrigators downstream of Barmah. Access to this water finished in all reaches on 22 November. Victoria did not announce any off-allocation water use for its irrigators on this occasion, due to the short duration and limited availability of the event. A small amount of water was taken into Gunbower Forest (near Cohuna) and Cardross Lakes (near Mildura) in Victoria for environmental purposes.

The salinity at Morgan is currently about 380 EC – considerably lower than the long term average for the last twenty years of 560 EC as well as the 800 EC salinity target. However, the salinity in the Lakes Alexandrina and Albert remains high (currently about 2 100 EC at Meningie) and will increase over the summer unless there is a significant change in conditions.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

River Murray Water
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 26 November 2004

Reduction in Release from Dartmouth Reservoir



TRIM Ref: 04/12203DO

The rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir is to be reduced in response to improved inflows in the River Murray System in November.

River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said today that the storage in Hume Reservoir had risen from 48 per cent of capacity at end of October to 54 per cent of capacity by 25 November 2004, which is higher than previously forecast assuming dry conditions. In addition, Lake Victoria is close to being full.

“Welcome rain earlier in November has boosted storage levels in Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria and has reduced the volume of water required to be transferred from Dartmouth to Hume over the remainder of the irrigation season.” he said.

Release from Dartmouth is currently 6 000 ML/day or about 2.3 m on the Colemans gauge. Beginning on the morning of Monday 29 November 2004, the release rate will be gradually reduced to 4 000 ML/day (2.1 m gauge height).

Further downstream at Tallandoon, it is expected that the river level (currently 2.8 m gauge height) will gradually decline to about 2.5 m gauge height, and continue near this rate if there is no further significant rain.

Some variation in river level at Tallandoon could occur in response to any rainfall and increased flows in tributaries of the Mitta Mitta River. Release from Dartmouth will be reduced, if necessary, to avoid (as far as possible) flow exceeding the river’s channel capacity.

“It is currently planned to commence, in late December 2004, a program to vary the release from Dartmouth in a cyclic pattern to mimic to some extent the variability of river levels seen under natural conditions,” Mr Dreverman said.

“This mode of operation aims at providing environmental benefits including reduced impact on stream banks of the Mitta Mitta River.”

The rate of release from Dartmouth will be kept under continual review in the light of conditions across the entire River Murray System. 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:

Lawrie Kirk

Manager Communication

Phone: 02 6279 0100

E-mail: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au

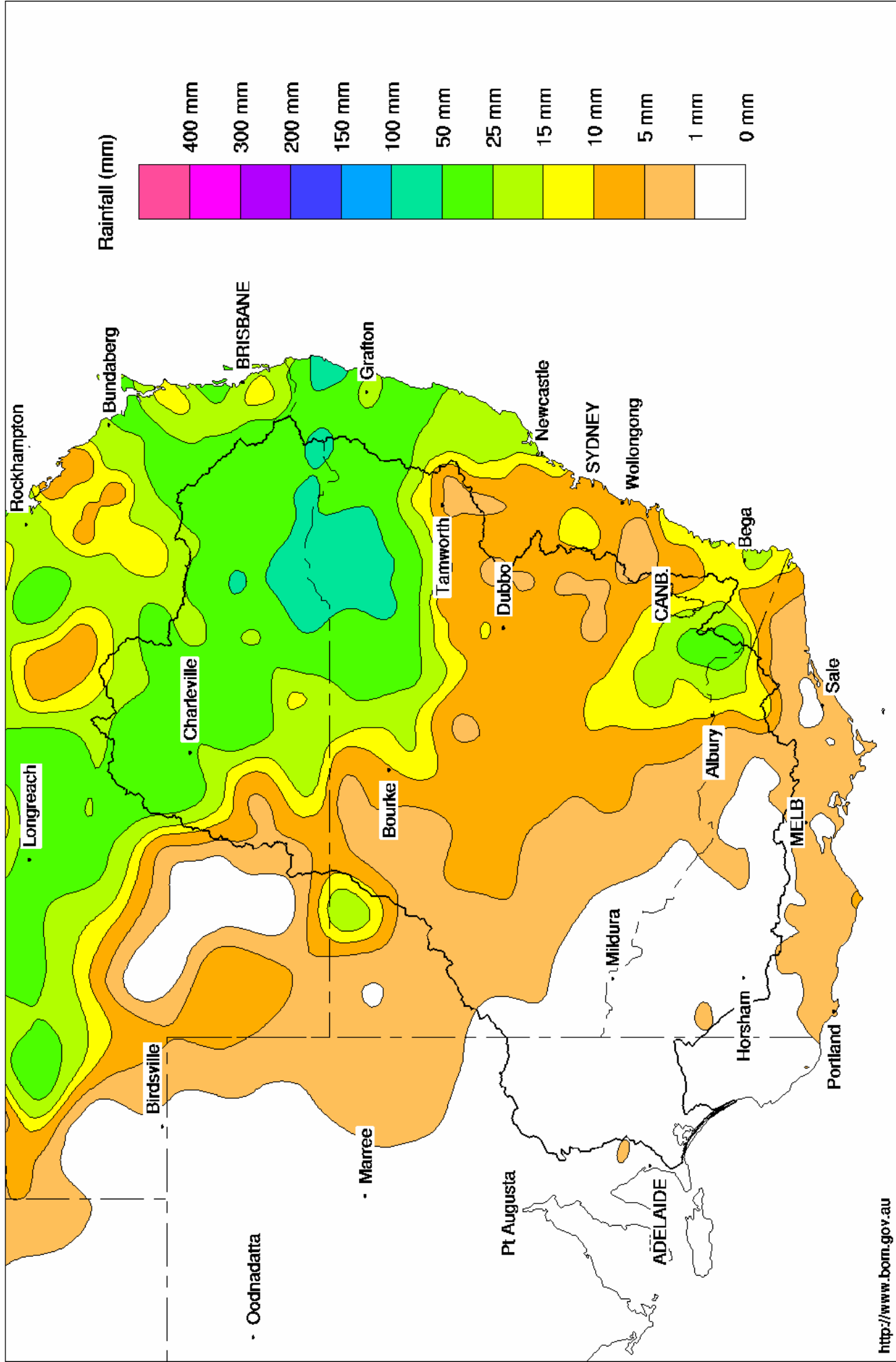
(Lawrie Kirk is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

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*Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th November 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	446.51	1 799	46%	80	1 719	-19
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	183.81	1 647	54%	30	1 617	+48
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.87	661	98%	100	561	+23
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		256	16%	640 #	0	-7
Total		9 224		4 363	47%	850	3 897	+45

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **47%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	202	20%	3	199	+11
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	495	30%	24	471	+2
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 463	43%	100	1 363	+20

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Nov-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 552	+57	Snowy-Murray	+2	309
Snowy-Murray Component	1 172	+25	Tooma-Tumut	+12	203
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	-9.7	106
			Murray 1 Release	+19	595

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	17.6	285.0
Wakool System loss	-1.2	1.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	8.6
Licensed Pumps	8.5	98.9
Lower Darling	0.4	7.4
TOTAL	26.3	400.9

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	14.4	112
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.9	216
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.9	44
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	8
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.7	109
TOTAL	34.8	490

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.7	
Flow so far this month	152	
Flow last month	171	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	140	150	100
Euston	110	130	120
Red Cliffs	90	80	90
Merbein	100	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	500	490	440
Lock 9	110	120	140
Lake Victoria	160	170	180
Berri	220	220	260
Waikerie	-	340	430
Morgan	380	380	440
Mannum	500	500	520
Murray Bridge	550	560	560
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 340	1 320	1 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 180	1 090	1 030
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 130	2 130	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 730	1 740	1 840

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	-	-	-	2 240	F	4 660	4 350
Jingellic	4.0	1.99	208.51	7 350	F	9 990	10 170
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.80	219.69	7 450	F	7 650	6 470
Heywoods	5.5	2.76	156.39	12 880	R	10 070	4 370
Doctors Point	5.5	2.99	151.46	13 900	R	12 000	6 890
Albury	4.3	1.98	149.42	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.78	128.80	13 400	R	11 040	7 620
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 040	11 340
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	10 270	S	10 420	12 220
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.52	81.07	7 640	F	8 650	10 260
Swan Hill	4.5	1.68	64.60	8 850	S	9 670	10 030
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.08	53.20	13 500	F	14 230	13 060
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.46	44.30	13 170	S	13 340	11 880
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.31	13 300	F	13 130	9 480
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.20	27.96	11 290	R	10 970	8 930
Rufus Junction	-	3.48	20.41	6 630	S	6 560	5 690
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 100	S	4 120	4 850
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.56	154.79	1 510	R	2 370	2 940
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.90	146.58	3 310	F	4 490	6 460
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.43	92.85	799	F	1 690	1 910
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 200	S	2 500	2 900
Edward at Liewah	-	3.08	58.46	2 850	F	2 870	2 740
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.93	55.42	1 820	F	1 850	1 650
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.45	56.41	197	F	320	770
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	70	R	60	60
Darling at Bourke	-	4.10	-	408	F	340	80
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	36	S	40	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	15 120	19 000
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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	-0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.19
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.09	+0.17
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.51	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.07	+0.68
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.56	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.07	+0.09	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.28	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	-0.01	+0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.20	1.06	70.41	917
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.10	0.1	61.4	228

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	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