

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 28 January 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/ms:bwh

30 January, 2004



Darling River System

The effects of the recent rain in the Darling River System are evident in the Barwon River at Mungindi where over the last *two* weeks, flow has increased from about 120 ML/day (gauge height of 3.24 m) to 15 900 ML/day (gauge height 7.09 m) - a rise of about 4.8 m over two weeks - and peaked at 16 600 ML/day on 29 January. The travel time for river freshes from Mungindi to Menindee Lakes is typically about 4 to 5 weeks, however, the actual time varies with different flow events. For Walgett and Brewarrina further downstream, the Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a level of a little above minor flood level at Walgett about 31 January, and a level below minor flood level at Brewarrina by about 2 February. *Preliminary* Bureau predictions for the Darling River at Bourke indicate a forecast peak level near minor flood level (9.0 m gauge height, or about 32 000 ML/day) on about 19 February. At most locations in the Darling system, the river peaks have been, or are expected to be, short lived, and consequently the flood water volumes are relatively small.

In anticipation of increased inflows to Menindee Lakes over coming weeks, the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources recently re-commenced release from Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling aimed at improving water quality (see Media Release attached). Flow downstream of Menindee Lakes at Weir 32 is currently about 200 ML/day, and is being kept under review by NSW until control of release next reverts to MDBC when storage next exceeds 640 GL.

Mid Murray

Release from Hume Reservoir averaged about 17 000 ML/day, and storage has declined by 101 GL to 49% of capacity - this is the first time storage has fallen below 50% since early September 2003.

Following a request from RMW, Goulburn-Murray Water has increased the flow from the Goulburn River to the River Murray from about 450 ML/day to 850 ML/day. This increase has been arranged in order to gradually deliver net water trade (both temporary and permanent) from the Goulburn valley to the Murray, and the increase in flow has enabled a corresponding reduction in release from Hume Reservoir.

Lower Murray

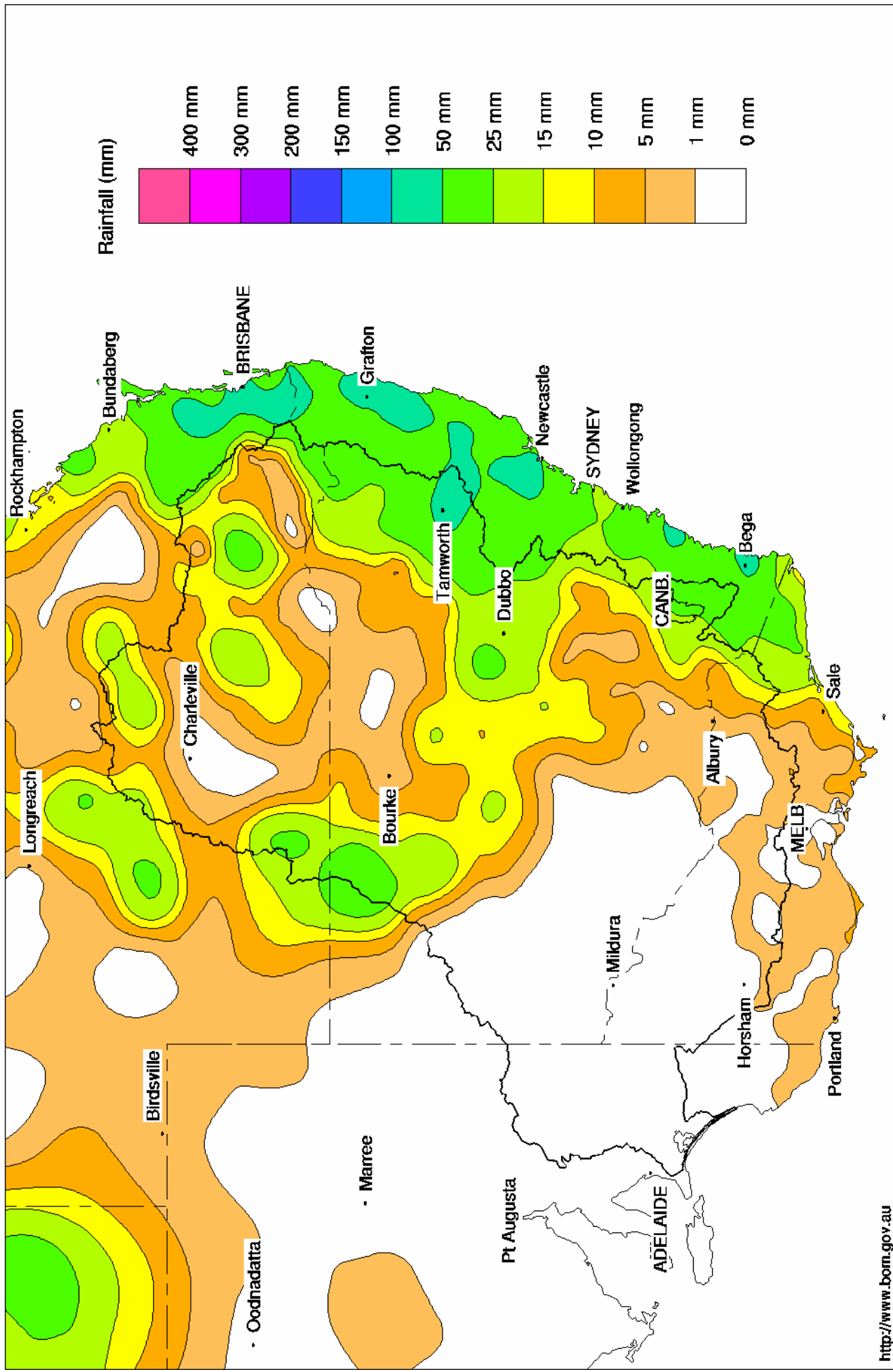
Flow to South Australia is continuing at about 7 300 ML/day, which includes the January entitlement flow of 7 000 ML/day, and about 300 ML/day for the delivery of water traded from New South Wales and Victoria into South Australia. These adjustments, either increases or decreases in flow, are made from time to time between September and April to deliver interstate trade volumes which have accumulated in the trade accounts for both temporary and permanent trade between the upper States and South Australia. Water level in Lake Alexandrina near the Murray Mouth has fallen since mid November from full supply - 0.85 m above sea level - to 0.68 m. This compares with a lake level of 0.46 m for this time last year. The barrage gates have been closed for about 3 months following a period of higher flow through the barrages last spring.

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

Product of the National Climate Centre





FORECAST INFLOWS WILL IMPROVE WATER AVAILABILITY AND ALLOW RIVER TO FLOW AGAIN

Recent heavy recent rainfall in the Darling River catchment will provide sufficient inflow into the Menindee Lakes to secure Broken Hill town water supply and allow releases to the Lower Darling River downstream of Menindee.

Regional Director of the NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources, David Harriss, said the forecast inflow to the lakes from the recent rain is likely to reach Menindee in four to six weeks and will provide sufficient volume to extend Broken Hill's water supply beyond 18 months.

"This is also enough water to allow current restrictions on the irrigation of permanent horticulture and vineyard plantings to be lifted in the near future and will provide much needed flow in the Darling River."

Mr Harriss said that the flows to the Lower Darling River will be managed carefully to improve water quality and minimise any potential impacts of the saline water currently in the river.

Minimum flows of approximately 150 ML/day will commence immediately. When the forecast inflows reach the lakes in a few weeks, releases will be increased to enable the current saline water to be diluted and pass through the river system. Flows will then be reduced to levels sufficient to maintain the health and productivity of the Darling River below Menindee. This will maximise the environmental benefits to the river and fish and conserve water should dry conditions return.

Current restrictions on the irrigation of permanent horticulture and vines will be lifted in the next month in advance of the flows, after which licensed high security water users will be able to divert their full entitlement in 2003/04. The current restrictions, however, will remain for the next two or three weeks to prevent residual pools being pumped dry before they are replenished. This will ensure the survival of any native fish that may remain in these pools.

Licensed general security users will not have immediate access to water. An exception will be considered when flows are increased in the coming weeks, and in the event of further rainfall upstream.

Mr Harriss said that an Information Paper providing detail of water management will be distributed in the coming weeks. In the meantime, advice is available from the Department's Buronga Office on 03 50219400 or from the State Water Office at Menindee on 08 80914204.

ENDS:

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MURRAY/MURRUMBIDGEE REGION

See DIPNR Water Allocation Announcements and Media Releases at
<http://dipnr.nsw.gov.au/mediarel>

See State Water Water Delivery Announcements and Media Releases at
http://www.energy.nsw.gov.au/whats_new

For more information about State Water storage levels and river heights
go to the **Waterinfo Website** at:
<http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/>

Week ending Wednesday 28 Jan 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	448.17	1 868	48%	80	1 788	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	182.73	1 499	49%	30	1 469	-101
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.98	461	68%	100	361	-26
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		59	4%	640 #	0	+16
Total		9 227		3 887	42%	850	3 618	-109

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **43%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	479	47%	3	476	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	622	38%	24	598	-54
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 241	37%	100	1 141	-43

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Jan-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 861	+5	Snowy-Murray	+8	559
Snowy-Murray Component	1 098	-4	Tooma-Tumut	+3	252
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	5.0	307
			Murray 1 Release	+10	868

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	31.9	456.9
Wakool System loss	2.3	16.0
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	16.8
Licensed Pumps	7.8	125.6
Lower Darling	0.5	6.7
TOTAL	43.8	622.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	14.9	197
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.1	356
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.6	93
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.4	18
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.8	134
TOTAL	49.8	799

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	(7 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	51.3	
Flow so far this month	202	
Flow last month	224	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	80	90	110
Euston	100	110	120
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	150	150	140
Burtundy (Darling)	3 650	3 630	2 160
Lock 9	140	130	170
Lake Victoria	230	230	230
Berri	230	230	270
Waikerie	350	350	400
Morgan	380	390	420
Mannum	430	430	440
Murray Bridge	480	480	490
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 210	1 210	1 100
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 140	1 140	1 110
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 610	1 610	1 560
Goolwa Barrages	1 990	1 950	2 200



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	-	-	-	1 340	R	2 000	2 010
Jingellic	4.0	1.28	207.80	1 800	R	3 050	3 010
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.40	218.29	740	F	810	1 490
Heywoods	5.5	3.18	156.81	18 030	S	17 100	16 780
Doctors Point	5.5	3.33	151.80	18 100	S	17 540	17 230
Albury	4.3	2.37	149.81	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.44	129.46	18 700	R	17 910	18 260
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 300	S	10 090	10 330
Tocumwal	6.4	2.26	106.10	10 480	R	10 540	10 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.86	80.41	5 270	S	5 120	5 140
Swan Hill	4.5	1.03	63.95	4 500	R	4 410	4 620
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.78	51.90	7 130	F	7 520	8 010
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.44	43.28	6 710	F	7 020	7 330
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.92	5 910	F	5 870	6 100
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	27.66	4 870	R	4 760	5 080
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	7 000	R	6 920	6 780
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 380	R	4 240	4 160
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.81	154.04	410	F	650	630
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.92	145.60	615	F	680	1 000
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.47	92.89	860	S	620	440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 160	F	2 170	2 410
Edward at Liewah	-	2.75	58.13	2 310	F	2 510	2 750
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.63	55.12	785	F	880	1 080
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	161	R	140	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	7.09	-	15 900	R	13 600	5 120
Darling at Bourke	-	4.52	-	3 583	R	2 110	890
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.36	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 090	4 150
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.23
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	+0.16
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.72
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.22
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.15
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	+0.01

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.11	0.82	70.17	546
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.46	0.19	61.49	305

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.62	All closed

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

