

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 29 September 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs
Trim Ref : 04/10829DO

1 October, 2004



Rainfall and Runoff

Light rain, up to 25 mm, fell over the Basin late this week, after about two weeks of warm and dry conditions (see attached rainfall map). This has led to small renewed increases in inflows to Dartmouth and Hume storages. There has also been a slight increase in the stream flows from the Kiewa River, whilst the inflows from the Ovens have steadied. Further stream flow responses may occur over the next few days.

Seasonal Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is continuing to closely monitor the chance of El Niño conditions developing. In their most recent wrap-up (dated 29 September 2004) they state "*the risk that an El Niño event will develop this year has probably decreased a little over the past month, as a consistent pattern of wind and cloud signatures has failed to materialise. However, the situation remains delicately balanced and conditions will continue to be monitored very closely.*"

System Operation

Continuing inflows to Dartmouth Dam have maintained the storage level at about 50% of capacity, despite ongoing transfers of up to 5 000 ML/day to Hume Reservoir. Releases from Dartmouth have varied over the past week in response to inflows from Snowy Creek, and aim to maintain the flow at Tallandoon at 6 000 to 7 000 ML/day.

Releases from Hume Reservoir were increased during the week to meet rising demands and to maintain flows downstream of Yarrawonga at about 10 000 ML/day. However, the recent rain has seen some reduction in demands and releases have been temporarily reduced.

The small flood from the tributaries, which peaked at 35 000 ML/day downstream of Yarrawonga in mid September, is progressing downstream. Return flows from the Barmah-Millewa Forest are receding slowly, with the flow at Barmah at about 10 000 ML/day and at Toonalook (on the Edward River) about 4 000 ML/day. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir (also on the Edward River) peaked at 4 900 ML/day during the week, leading to short-lived wetting of the Werai Forest. A peak flow of about 10 900 ML/day reached Wentworth today (29th September), most of which will be captured in Lake Victoria.

The NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group have decided to use some of their Environmental Water Allocation to maintain the flows through the Gulpa Creek, at about 750 ML/day during October. This is more than double the normal regulated flow of 350 ML/day. The aim of this watering is to maintain water levels in the wetlands in this area, to prolong flooding, and so that the system is primed in the event that another flush occurs during October.

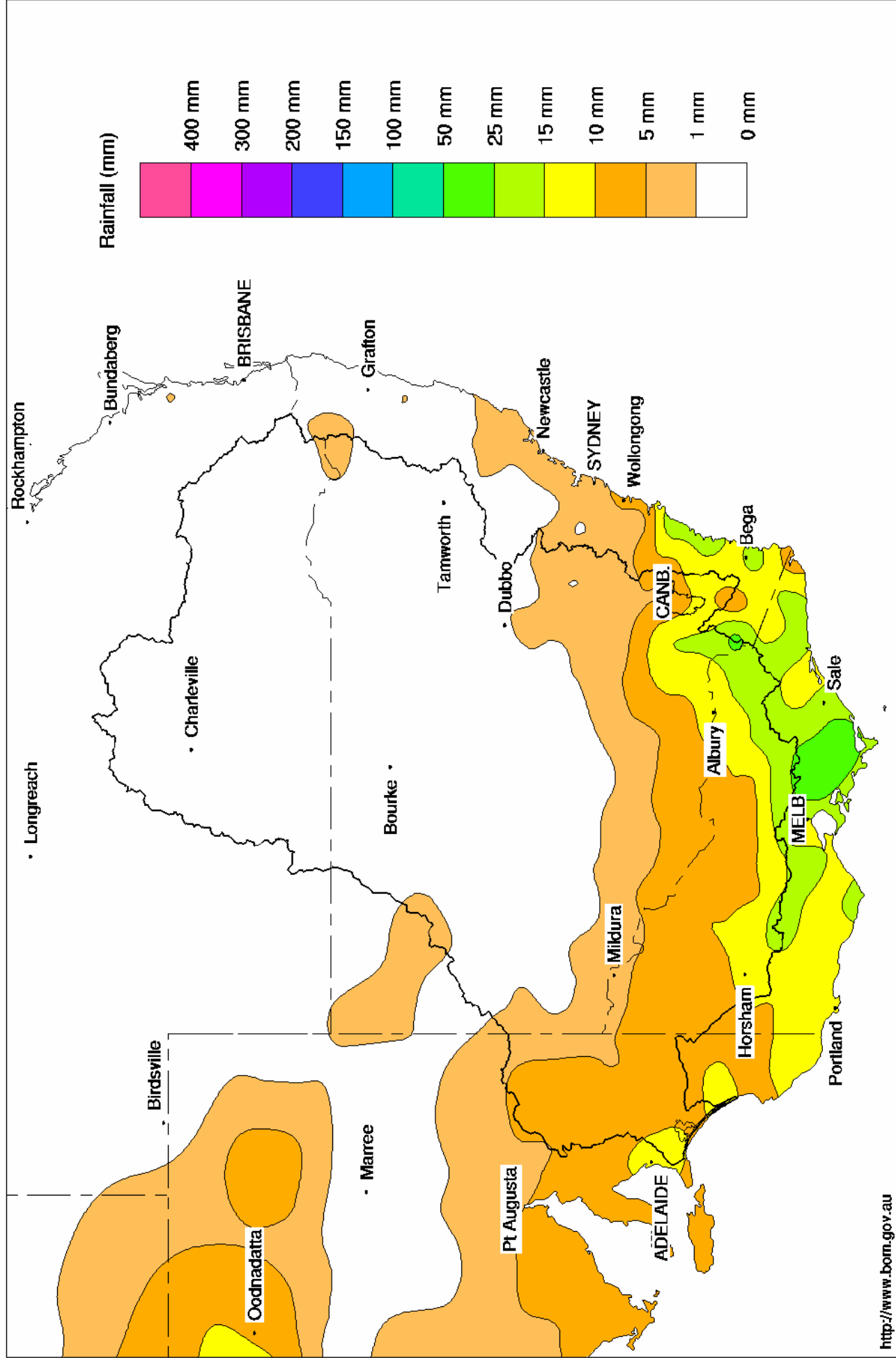
Flows through the barrages continued at about 3 000 ML/day this week. Low level releases through the barrages started on 10 August, and have now been maintained for almost six weeks.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 29th September 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 29 Sep 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	450.06	1 949	50%	80	1 869	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	181.67	1 360	45%	30	1 330	+81
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.40	605	89%	100	505	+22
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		307	19%	640 #	0	-3
Total		9 224		4 222	46%	850	3 704	+100

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **44%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	359	35%	3	356	-30
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	432	26%	24	408	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 361	40%	100	1 261	+35

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28-Sep-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 244	+61	Snowy-Murray	+4	251
Snowy-Murray Component	948	-	Tooma-Tumut	+14	142
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-9.1	110
			Murray 1 Release	+30	402

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	28.1	121.4
Wakool System loss	-1.1	3.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	2.8
Licensed Pumps	9.5	38.6
Lower Darling	0.3	1.8
TOTAL	37.2	168.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	8.2	25
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.2	110
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.6	13
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	2
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.5	33
TOTAL	35.0	183

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	31.7	
Flow so far this month	133	
Flow last month	124	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	100	100	110
Euston	120	100	120
Red Cliffs	80	100	90
Merbein	100	130	90
Burtundy (Darling)	460	460	390
Lock 9	200	190	130
Lake Victoria	170	180	190
Berri	240	240	280
Waikerie	410	400	440
Morgan	430	420	470
Mannum	500	510	520
Murray Bridge	-	560	530
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 280	1 280	1 170
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 000	1 060	1 040
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 020	2 010	2 020
Goolwa Barrages	1 600	1 640	2 040



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	-	-	-	9 680	F	6 110	4 190
Jingellic	4.0	2.64	209.16	13 850	R	10 500	11 120
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.40	219.29	4 800	F	6 360	6 110
Heywoods	5.5	2.00	155.63	5 660	F	4 930	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.58	151.05	9 320	F	8 650	5 260
Albury	4.3	1.56	149.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.50	128.52	11 400	R	7 390	6 240
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 140	18 530
Tocumwal	6.4	2.34	106.18	10 730	R	11 470	24 120
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.85	81.40	8 900	F	9 720	13 190
Swan Hill	4.5	1.66	64.58	8 630	R	9 260	10 230
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.48	52.60	10 300	F	11 930	10 280
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.11	43.95	10 780	F	11 810	8 490
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.31	12 370	F	10 650	6 490
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.30	28.06	10 880	R	9 240	5 680
Rufus Junction	-	3.05	19.98	4 080	R	4 080	4 180
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 550	R	3 330	3 490
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.48	155.71	4 780	R	4 310	5 090
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.47	147.15	5 134	F	5 980	12 750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.41	92.83	770	F	1 160	6 040
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 150	F	3 400	1 220
Edward at Liewah	-	1.54	56.92	898	F	1 390	1 840
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.49	54.98	468	F	480	350
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.86	56.82	528	R	440	360
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.54	-	910	R	810	960
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	S	20	50
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.64	-	14	S	10	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	17 610	21 970
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+0.78
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.13	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.14
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.07	+0.51	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.40
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.66	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.11	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.09	+0.22	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	+0.15

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.00	1.4	70.75	1610
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.18	0.23	61.53	343

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.87	3
Mundoo	26 openings	0.87	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.85	4



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