

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 31 March 2004

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2 April, 2004



Rainfall

Dry conditions have prevailed through most of the Basin this week, with only minor falls of up to 25 mm recorded along the southern parts of the Basin (refer attached rainfall map).

Darling River System

As a result of rain in recent weeks, flow in the Darling River at Bourke peaked at 10 500 ML/day on Monday 29 March, and is slowly receding. It is likely that the magnitude of the peak will be attenuated as it moves downstream toward Wilcannia and Menindee Lakes. This follows a period of lower flows (1 000 to 2 000 ML/day) after a peak of 25 000 ML/day at Bourke in mid February. Preliminary indications from NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources are that the latest flow event will contribute a volume of about 100 GL to Menindee Lakes. Current planning by NSW is aimed at maintaining release from Menindee Lakes near minimum rates, and storing the additional inflows in the lakes. The projected volume of inflow is currently not sufficient to raise the storage volume to a level where water resources in the lakes would again become available to the Commission when storage in Menindee Lakes next exceeds 640 GL.

River Murray

Release from Hume Reservoir has been maintained at an average of 16 700 ML/day, and with low inflow levels, storage has declined from 20% to 16% of capacity over the week, or a fall of 108 GL. If dry conditions continue along the River Murray, particularly in irrigation areas, storage in Hume can be expected to fall to low levels by the end of the irrigation season.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 9 000 to 8 500 ML/day, but is being closely monitored to ensure that there is sufficient water in Lake Victoria so that combined system requirements for South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met over the remainder of the irrigation season. However, further reductions in flow can be expected in coming weeks as demand declines, and particularly if there is a change in weather conditions.

Salinity

Early in the week, gates on Barr Creek Weir temporarily malfunctioned resulting in some highly saline water entering the River Murray rather than being pumped to local disposal basins. However, the salt load entering the River Murray was low, and resulted in an increase in salinity at Pental Island and Swan Hill of about 30 to 40 EC above base levels (70 to 90 EC) lasting for 2 days and 1 day respectively. It is expected that the saline water will disperse as it moves downstream, and downstream impacts on river salinity are expected to be very low.

The first salinity peak in the River Murray (arising from the recent salinity 'spike' from the Darling River) peaked at Renmark (Lock 5) at about 330 EC. A second peak from that event is travelling slowly and recently passed Lock 8 with a short duration at a level of about 650 EC before receding to base levels, and this second peak is now nearing Lock 7 (see diagram attached).

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Temporary Closure of Yarrawonga Weir Access Road

River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water announced today that the access road across Yarrawonga Weir will be temporarily closed to allow essential maintenance works to be carried out on the structure.

Work is required for a major refurbishment of components of the weir flood gates. The weir access road will require closure to allow large crane access and rigging work.

These works will require the Yarrawonga Weir access road to be closed to all traffic for approximately 4 weeks, commencing Monday 19 April 2004.

The pedestrian walkway on the structure will however remain open during this period for pedestrians and cyclists.

River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water apologise for any inconvenience the works may cause.

Further details in regard to the temporary closure should be directed to Goulburn-Murray Water's Yarrawonga office on (03) 5744 3137.

- E N D S -

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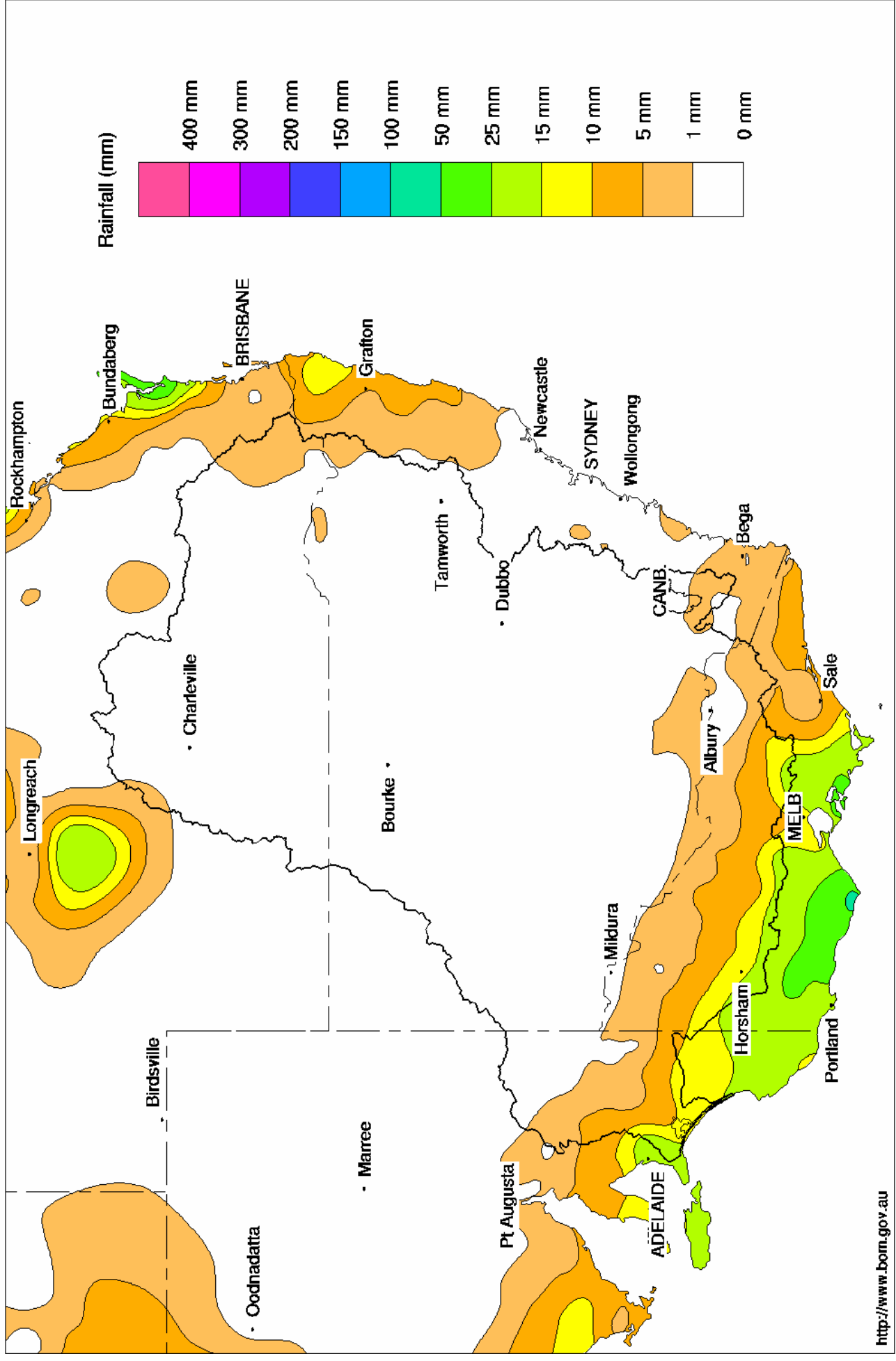
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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 31st March 2004
 Product of the National Climate Centre



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	447.41	1 836	47%	80	1 756	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.33	504	17%	30	474	-108
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.28	290	43%	100	190	-25
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		243	15%	640 #	0	-4
Total		9 227		2 873	31%	850	2 420	-140

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **29%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	424	41%	3	421	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	248	15%	24	224	-40
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	775	23%	100	675	-55

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 30-Mar-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 842	-2	Snowy-Murray	+11	641
Snowy-Murray Component	1 019	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	265
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	10.2	376
			Murray 1 Release	+12	973

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	38.6	742.9
Wakool System loss	2.0	39.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	26.3
Licensed Pumps	12.5	222.3
Lower Darling	0.2	14.3
TOTAL	53.9	1 045.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	15.3	317
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.8	505
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.9	139
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	4.6	39
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.8	178
TOTAL	48.3	1 179

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	(6 200 ML/day)
Flow this week	43.1	
Flow so far this month	191	
Flow last month	201	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	100	100	100
Euston	110	100	120
Red Cliffs	120	110	130
Merbein	130	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	340	320	2 270
Lock 9	190	190	180
Lake Victoria	300	330	240
Berri	250	240	270
Waikerie	320	320	380
Morgan	360	360	400
Mannum	420	420	440
Murray Bridge	-	490	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 170	1 210	1 130
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	830	850	1 080
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 500	2 440	1 650
Goolwa Barrages	1 840	1 890	2 130



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	-	-	-	1 840	F	1 570	1 710
Jingellic	4.0	1.30	207.82	1 940	S	1 770	2 130
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	600	S	580	580
Heywoods	5.5	3.03	156.66	15 730	S	16 740	18 480
Doctors Point	5.5	3.13	151.60	15 500	S	16 570	18 610
Albury	4.3	2.15	149.59	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.16	129.18	16 600	F	17 770	19 660
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.54	116.58	8 450	F	8 860	9 190
Tocumwal	6.4	2.08	105.92	9 210	F	9 450	9 980
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.51	80.06	4 020	R	4 040	4 360
Swan Hill	4.5	0.82	63.74	3 180	S	3 360	3 480
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.10	51.22	4 440	S	4 660	5 220
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.92	42.76	3 970	F	4 200	4 850
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	2 420	F	3 390	4 380
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	3 040	R	3 340	4 690
Rufus Junction	-	3.36	20.29	5 910	R	5 640	5 650
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 370	S	4 490	4 190
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.63	153.86	150	S	150	140
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.73	145.41	305	R	280	380
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	433	R	440	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	590	S	840	1 270
Edward at Liewah	-	1.72	57.10	1 060	S	1 210	1 800
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.34	54.83	212	F	250	240
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.55	56.51	269	R	220	230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.45	-	610	F	1 140	9 730
Darling at Bourke	-	5.20	-	10 127	F	9 860	3 570
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.82	-	367	S	460	1 070

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	200	270
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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	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.16	+1.03
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.61
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.24	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.19
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.21

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	0.7	70.05	398
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.64	0.23	61.53	343

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.57	All closed

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

