

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 January 2005

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/dg
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19 January, 2005



Weather conditions across the Basin were predominately hot and dry, except for parts of eastern NSW which recorded rainfall totals above 25mm (see attached map). As a result of the low rainfall in the Murray catchment, most tributary inflows to the River Murray have continued to recede. The latest seasonal rainfall outlook, prepared by the Bureau of Meteorology for the three months February to April, favours neither wet nor dry conditions.

Darling River flow

Water losses along the Darling River have been considerably higher than expected and the flow recession rates experienced after the flood peak have been very rapid. For example, the level of the Darling River at Bourke has dropped by about 4 metres over a period of 6 days. The high losses and rapid rate of fall are a result of the effects of the preceding drought conditions along the Darling as well as the prevailing weather conditions. Flow in the Darling River peaked at about 18 000 ML/day at Wilcannia on 18 January, which was below the minor flood level. Further downstream, storage in Menindee Lakes increased by about 60 GL this week and is currently at 330 GL (19% of capacity). The total volume of inflow to Menindee Lakes will be lower than previously anticipated. The NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources now estimates that Menindee Lakes storage may rise to about 380 GL (22% of capacity) by early February 2005.

System Operation

In response to recent high diversions and water losses along the River Murray, release from Hume Dam was temporarily increased this week and averaged about 17 500 ML/day. Consequently, the storage level fell this week by 92GL to 1 273GL (43% of capacity).

Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has been relatively steady at about 4 500 ML/day for the past week, and the flow at Wentworth Weir has gradually reduced to about 3 000 ML/day. Lake Victoria is now being used to supply the bulk of the entitlement flow to South Australia and as such the release from the lake has been increased to over 5 000 ML/day. Lake Victoria storage has fallen by 35GL this week to 598 GL (88% of capacity) and is expected to continue falling over the remainder of the summer, unless much wet conditions are experienced.

Blue-green algae monitoring

Monitoring of blue-green algae continues to be carried out along the length of the River Murray system. The latest results indicate medium level concentrations (2000-15000 cells/mL) of potentially toxic blue-green algae at Euston, Mt Dispersion, Buronga, Curlwaa, Lock 8 and Lake Victoria in late December. Further downstream, the concentrations of blue-green algae in the Lower Lakes are rising and will be monitored closely over the coming weeks.

Bird Breeding in Gulpa Creek Wetlands

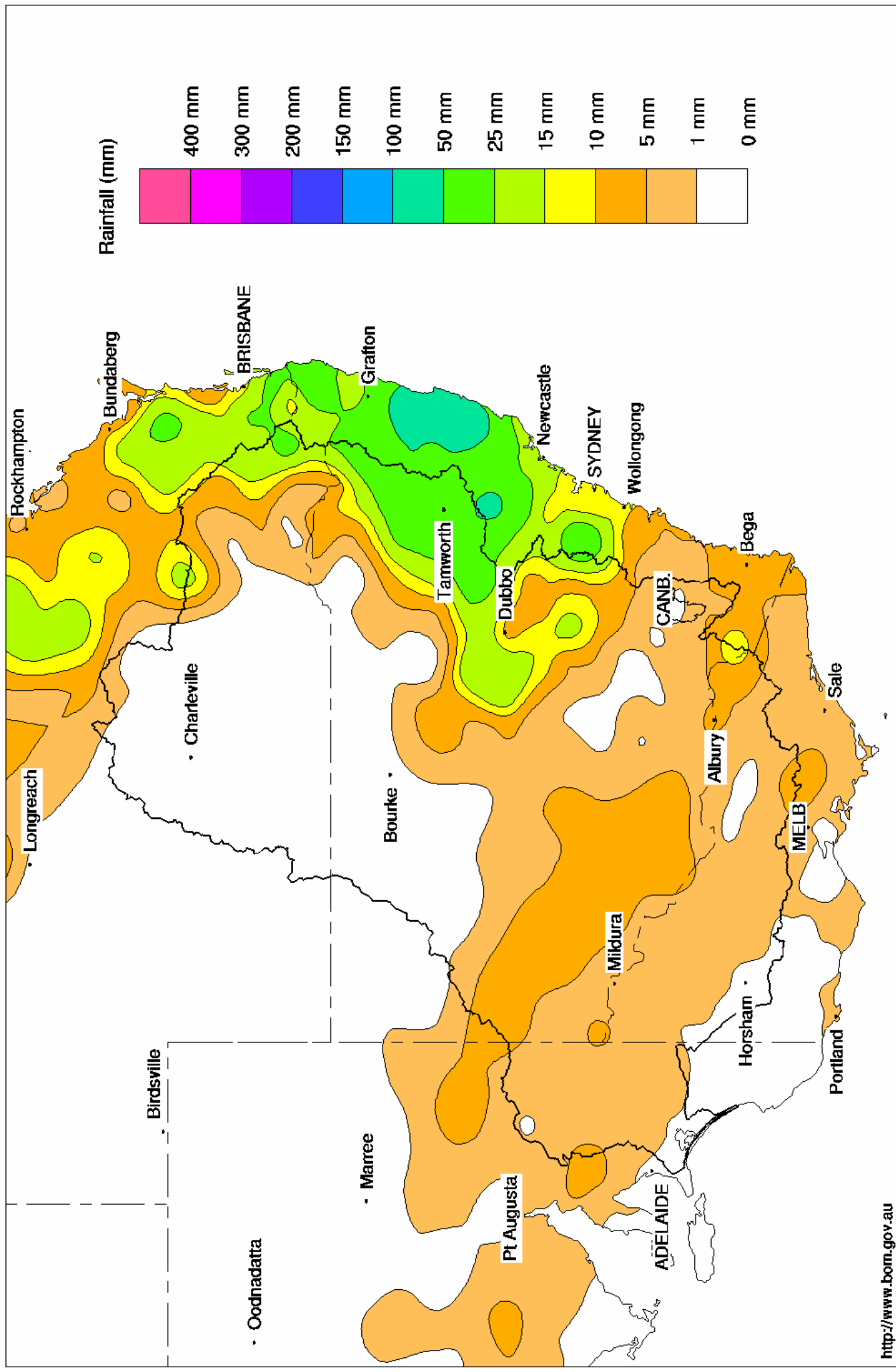
Over the past few months the NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group has been providing environmental water to wetlands along the Gulpa Creek within the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The aim has been to assist a waterbird breeding event that began following the natural flooding of the forest in late September. A recent survey indicates that Australian White Ibis, Straw-necked Ibis, Royal Spoonbills, Great Egrets, and Cormorants are nesting and have either eggs or young. The environmental flow will continue until the breeding event has finished.

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th January 2005

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)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	444.15	1 703	44%	80	1 623	-5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	180.97	1 273	42%	30	1 243	-92
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.34	598	88%	100	498	-35
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		330	19%	(- -) #	0	+59
Total		9 352		3 904	42%	--	3 364	-74

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **40%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		252	25%	3	249	-6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		301	18%	24	277	-6
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 333	39%	100	1 233	-31

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Jan-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 667	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+13	359
Snowy-Murray Component	1 222	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	235
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	11.1	124
			Murray 1 Release	+15	688

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	28.8	443.6
Wakool System loss	0.8	8.4
Western Murray Irrig.	1.3	18.7
Licensed Pumps	8.2	151.3
Lower Darling	0.5	15.0
TOTAL	39.7	637.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	15.1	206
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.5	344
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.0	98
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	19
Licensed pumps - SRW	7.4	161
TOTAL	52.6	828

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	49.9	(7 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	134	
Flow last month	219	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	90	110	110
Euston	120	130	120
Red Cliffs	190	180	100
Merbein	160	170	120
Burtundy (Darling)	660	650	490
Lock 9	150	130	140
Lake Victoria	190	190	180
Berri	210	210	240
Waikerie	-	300	380
Morgan	320	330	400
Mannum	410	410	500
Murray Bridge	480	480	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 380	1 370	1 290
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 250	1 020	1 000
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 160	2 130	2 090
Goolwa Barrages	2 010	2 040	1 860



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	-	-	-	780	F	2 660	1 650
Jingellic	4.0	1.31	207.83	2 010	F	3 950	2 770
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.70	218.59	1 510	F	1 960	4 870
Heywoods	5.5	3.13	156.76	16 760	F	17 580	16 240
Doctors Point	5.5	3.24	151.71	17 000	F	18 210	16 600
Albury	4.3	2.28	149.72	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.41	129.43	18 900	F	18 660	17 700
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.77	116.81	10 100	R	10 040	10 030
Tocumwal	6.4	2.26	106.10	10 120	S	10 150	10 160
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.66	80.21	4 550	S	4 590	5 050
Swan Hill	4.5	0.98	63.90	4 190	R	4 170	4 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.53	51.65	6 000	R	6 150	7 010
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.19	43.03	5 350	F	5 460	6 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.92	4 160	F	4 240	5 360
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	3 480	R	3 390	4 660
Rufus Junction	-	3.41	20.34	6 220	F	6 650	6 430
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 320	R	4 230	4 290
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.79	154.02	380	F	540	650
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.80	145.48	400	F	440	720
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	450	R	420	460
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 030	F	2 040	2 150
Edward at Liewah	-	2.48	57.86	1 920	R	1 880	1 870
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.49	54.98	446	R	420	530
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.44	56.40	191	S	180	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.30	-	230	R	210	280
Darling at Bourke	-	4.30	-	1 630	R	5 460	27 580
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.75	-	176	R	130	90

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 630	3 060
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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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.16	+1.11
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.71
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.23
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.15
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.06

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.04	0.61	69.96	305
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.10	0.17	61.47	287

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.77	All closed

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

