

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 26 January 2005

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/jm
Trim Ref : 05/102

28 January, 2005



Showers and thunderstorms crossed the Basin during the week, bringing up to 50 mm of rain to the Upper Murray catchment and up to 100 mm to the north of the Basin. However these falls had only a minor effect on streamflows in most areas, due to the recent hot and dry conditions.

Darling River Flow

Flow in the Darling River has receded quickly following the event which originated in the Barwon–Darling catchment during December 2004. The flow at Bourke has receded to about 800 ML/day, whilst the flow at Wilcannia is about 7 200 ML/day (at 26 January) and falling. The storage in Menindee Lakes has increased by 72 GL this week, to about 410 GL (or 21% of capacity), however the rate of rise is expected to ease considerably over the next week. Current estimates indicate that the storage level will peak in early February at about 23% of capacity.

River Murray Operation

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir was reduced from 1 000 ML/day to 800 ML/day during the week, to conserve resources in the upper-most storage whilst maintaining sufficient flow for river pumpers over summer. This reduction, combined with the slightly increased inflows from the rain, led to a small 2 GL rise in storage in Dartmouth this week, however total MDBC storage levels fell by 24 GL.

Lower Lakes and Barrages

On 4 January 2005, the vertical slot fishway at Tauwitchere Barrage (between Lake Alexandrina and the Coorong) was opened as part of a trial to test the effectiveness of the fishway. The trial involves the installation of traps to record the species and number of fish migrating both upstream and downstream, and is expected to continue until the end of the month. It is planned to conduct a similar trial process during February or March at the rock ramp fishway at Tauwitchere Barrage.

The vertical slot fishway is used by a range of species such as lamprey and mulloway, and the rock ramp fishway is designed for small to medium sized fish, including the common galaxias and congoli.

The current average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.68 m AHD (at 26 January), which is below the full supply level of 0.75 m AHD and at about the same level as this time last year. However salinities are currently about 1300 EC at Milang and 2200 EC at Meningie, which are considerably higher than at the same time last year (when salinities were 1200 EC and 1600 EC respectively).

Final Reminder: Second call for proposals for water recovery

The MDBC is calling for proposals to undertake feasibility assessments for infrastructure projects that would deliver water savings. Proposals must be submitted by 12 noon on 17 February 2005 (*see attached media release for details*).

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, December 17, 2004

Second opportunity for river communities to benefit

The second opportunity for communities to submit ideas on possible water recovery projects under The Living Murray has been announced by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

Catchment management authorities, industry, irrigation and community groups are again being asked to propose cost-effective infrastructure improvement projects that can be further investigated and developed for future recovery of water for the environment, according to Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik.

“MDBC is calling for organisations to identify feasibility studies for possible future water recovery projects that they believe should be undertaken in the southern part of the Basin that will each result in an average annual increase of flows in the rivers of at least two gigalitres but cost \$2000/ML or less to deliver,” Dr Craik said.

“Types of infrastructure improvement projects that would deliver water savings include installation of pipelines, lining of sections of irrigation channels, and installation of more precise flow measurement systems.

“We expect that the funding of the feasibility study for each project will generally be about \$100,000 or less, but special cases would be considered” she said.

Developed in consultation with state agencies, successful projects this round would be additional to four already approved feasibility projects from the first call for proposals in August under the Living Murray’s \$1.2m *Development of Infrastructure Projects* Program. About \$640,000 of funding remains in this program for this round of projects.

“It’s very important for Basin communities to grasp these opportunities to develop proposals for future investment in their regions,” Dr Craik said.

Organisations considering submitting a second round proposal should download the prospectus, background leaflet and short application from the MDBC website. Proposals will be accepted until 12 noon on February 17, 2005.

For previously funded projects and to view the prospectus and application forms:
http://www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au/implementing/water_recovery.html

Further information on The Living Murray initiative: www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au

For general MDBC information: www.mdbc.gov.au

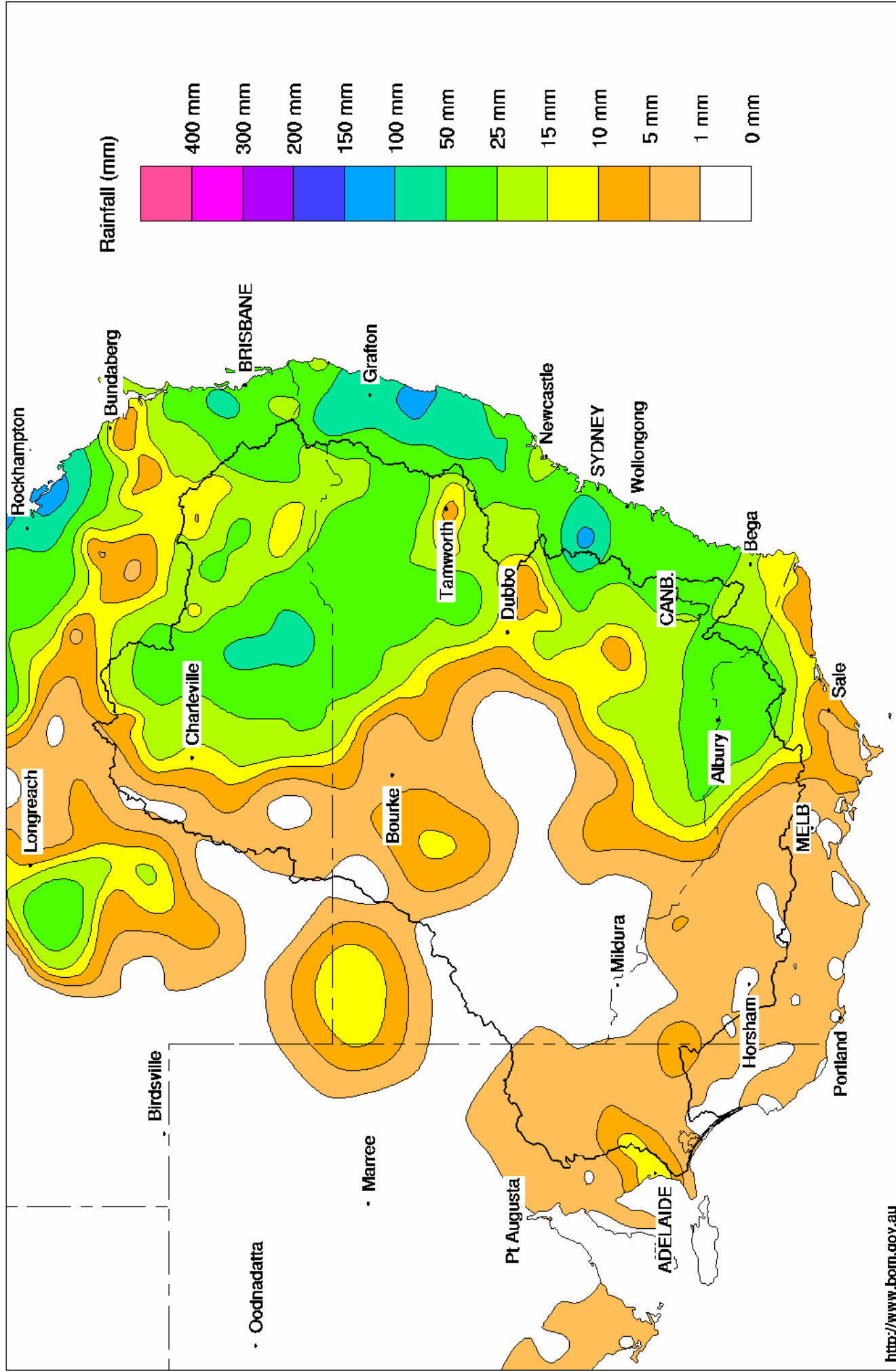
For general enquiries on the Development of Infrastructure Projects Program: contact Leanne Wilkinson, (02) 6279 0516, Leanne.Wilkinson@mdbc.gov.au

Murray-Darling Basin Commission Manager – Communications	Murray-Darling Basin Commission Corporate Media Relations - Communications
Mr Lawrie Kirk	Allison Hicks
Phone: 02 62790107 BH Mobile: (0417) 219158	Phone: 02 62790129 BH Mobile (0407) 704609
Email: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au	Email: allison.hicks@mdbc.gov.au

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 26th 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	444.19	1 705	44%	80	1 625	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	180.43	1 208	40%	30	1 178	-65
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.00	558	82%	100	458	-39
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		409	24%	(- -) #	0	+79
Total		9 352		3 880	41%	--	3 261	-24

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **38%**

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	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	299	18%	24	275	-2
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 301	38%	100	1 201	-32

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 25-Jan-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 625	-37	Snowy-Murray	+11	370
Snowy-Murray Component	1 213	-9	Tooma-Tumut	+3	238
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	7.7	132
			Murray 1 Release	+20	708

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2004		This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	22.7	466.4	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.4	213
Wakool System loss	1.2	9.5	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.4	365
Western Murray Irrig.	1.6	20.4	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.2	105
Licensed Pumps	9.1	160.3	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	21
Lower Darling	2.4	17.6	Licensed pumps - SRW	7.4	169
TOTAL	37.0	674.2	TOTAL	43.9	873

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	51.7	(7 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	186	
Flow last month	219	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	70	80	110
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	190	190	110
Merbein	180	180	120
Burtundy (Darling)	660	660	500
Lock 9	170	170	140
Lake Victoria	190	190	180
Berri	210	210	240
Waikerie	-	310	380
Morgan	340	330	400
Mannum	400	410	490
Murray Bridge	-	470	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 350	1 450	1 300
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 250	1 260	1 010
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 170	2 180	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	2 050	2 030	1 860



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	-	-	-	6 690	R	2 920	2 380
Jingellic	4.0	1.84	208.36	5 990	R	3 550	3 950
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.60	218.49	1 190	F	1 460	1 960
Heywoods	5.5	3.11	156.74	16 150	R	13 460	17 580
Doctors Point	5.5	3.21	151.68	16 600	R	14 000	18 210
Albury	4.3	2.25	149.69	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.84	128.86	13 900	R	15 540	18 660
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 010	10 040
Tocumwal	6.4	2.27	106.11	10 200	F	10 390	10 150
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.79	80.34	4 980	R	4 760	4 590
Swan Hill	4.5	0.97	63.89	4 190	R	4 160	4 170
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.52	51.64	5 960	S	6 010	6 150
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.16	43.00	5 190	S	5 220	5 460
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.89	3 510	F	3 650	4 240
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.80	27.56	2 860	S	3 060	3 390
Rufus Junction	-	3.59	20.52	7 310	F	6 930	6 650
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 170	S	4 190	4 230
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.84	154.07	440	F	590	540
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.87	145.55	519	F	620	440
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.35	92.77	685	R	480	420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 150	F	2 290	2 040
Edward at Liewah	-	2.48	57.86	1 920	S	1 930	1 880
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.45	54.94	373	F	420	420
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	204	S	190	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.46	-	650	R	290	210
Darling at Bourke	-	4.18	-	827	S	1 010	5 460
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.79	-	277	S	240	130

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 450	2 630
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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	-0.03	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+1.29
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.20
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.21
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.09	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.71
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.06	+0.16	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.09	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	-0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.02	0.6	69.95	296
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.59	0.2	61.5	314

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	0.72	All closed



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