

MUNDARING WEIR WALL TO BE RAISED IMMEDIATELY

Because the present storage capacity of the Mundaring Weir would not meet increasing demands urgent measures were being taken to raise the wall by 3ft. before the end of next month and to complete the raising of the wall before the 1951 winter, the Minister for Water Supply (Mr. Brand) said yesterday.

Commenting on the recent rains, Mr. Brand said that the catchments of the hills reservoirs had become so dry that they had not yet commenced to run and therefore no appreciable intake into the reservoirs had resulted. On May 3 Mundaring Weir held 2,675,000,000 gals. but yesterday it held only 2,623,000,000 gals.

Irrigation areas in the South-West had come through a long dry season without any major restrictions and the commencement of the rains meant the closing down of further irrigation.

The rains, which had covered practically the whole of the south-western agricultural areas, had relieved a serious situation in districts supplied from the Barbalin and Waddouring reservoirs. Yesterday's records indicated an increase in storage in these two reservoirs of approximately 1,600,000 gals. The rain would also reduce the demand for stock water, which had been pressing these supplies to a dangerous degree.

At Narembeen, despite a rainfall of 59 points, no appreciable inflow into the reservoir had been recorded. At Kondinin, with a rainfall of 95 points, storage had increased by about 260,000 gals. and at Bruce Rock the increase was about 400,000 gals.

The storages at Narrogin, Katanning and Bridgetown had received some inflow, but the greatest benefit to the towns would be the filling of house tanks.

Although information was not yet available, Mr. Brand added, quite a number of the rock catchment dams in the outer wheatbelt area should have

wheatbelt area should have stored an appreciable quantity of water and this should considerably decrease the long-

haul cartage of water. This would apply particularly to the Koorda, Mt. Marshall, South Kulin, Lake Grace and Kent areas, which had been causing the drought relief committee much concern.