

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 2 May 2001

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :BWH

2 May, 2001



Light falls of rain of up to 10 mm were recorded in upper Murray and Murrumbidgee catchment areas but have had only minor effect on stream flows. Most of the Darling River system catchment received rain, and falls generally ranged from 10 to 50 mm, but this is not expected to lead to significant increases in inflows to Menindee Lakes in coming weeks.

Irrigation demand along the River Murray has remained low this week as the irrigation season draws to a close. Total diversion from Lake Mulwala at the end of the week was 1 100 ML/day, or 8% of maximum.

Total MDBC storage is currently 64% of active capacity compared with 48% at the same time last year. Storage volumes in MDBC storages over recent years are shown on the attached diagram.

Inflow to Hume Reservoir at the end of the week was about 4 000 ML/day, and release averaged 1 400 ML/day, producing a rise in storage of 17 GL over the week. It is expected that storage in Hume will continue to rise next week prior to storing more significant inflows throughout the remainder of autumn and winter in preparation for the next irrigation season.

Flow in the River Murray at Euston increased to 6 600 ML/day as a result of reduced irrigation diversions and reduced river losses following rain and cooler conditions. Flow is expected to remain near this rate early next week before receding to about 4 000 ML/day by mid May.

As previously advised, Mildura Weir will be temporarily removed from the River Murray to enable removal and replacement of some weir trestles for maintenance purposes (see Media Release attached). In mid May, flow downstream of Mildura Weir will be temporarily increased to about 8 000 ML/day in order to draw down the weir pool by about 3.6 m to allow the maintenance work to proceed.

Inflow to Menindee Lakes has gradually increased to about 5 000 ML/day over the last three weeks mainly as a result of rainfall in the Darling system catchment in late March. Release from Menindee Lakes was further gradually reduced to the current minimum requirement of 500 ML/day, and will be maintained at this rate in the near future unless there is significant rain upstream. Without significant rain in the near future, storage in the Lakes is forecast to slowly rise over the next two weeks, and remain near surcharge capacity until early June.

Flow to South Australia in the early part of the week was maintained at the April requirement of 7 500 ML/day (comprising 4 000 ML/day entitlement plus 3 000 ML/day additional dilution flow). Flow in early May has been maintained at 6 400 ML/day (which is above the current May requirement of 3 000 ML/day entitlement plus 3 000 ML/day additional dilution flow) in anticipation of the arrival of increased flows in transit upstream in the River Murray. Flow to South Australia may be adjusted in coming weeks according to operating requirements for Lake Victoria or for the River Murray downstream.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE



Wednesday, 2 May 2001

Mildura Weir Removal

As a final announcement, River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water advised today that Mildura Weir will be temporarily removed from the River Murray in mid May/early June 2001 for maintenance.

The weir is to be removed to allow some existing weir trestles to be removed for overhaul, and to be replaced by other trestles. It is necessary to complete this maintenance work after the end of the current irrigation season, and before the commencement of the next irrigation season. The proposed schedule for withdrawal and re-instatement is currently as follows:

Proposed Date	Action
12 May 2001	Commence removal of weir bars and trestles, and commence gradual lowering of weir pool
23 May 2001	Expected date of commencement of refilling of weir pool
29 May 2001 to early June 2001	Expected date of completion of refilling of weir pool to near full supply level. This date will be dependent on available river flows.

The above schedule will be adhered to as far as possible, however some minor variations in timing may be required in response to river conditions and other circumstances that may arise. If there is a significant change to this program, a further media release will be issued.

Withdrawal of the weir will lead to a lowering of the weir pool level by about 3.6 m below the normal full supply level. If river flow at the time is relatively low, this may lead to temporary but significant increases in river salinity at and downstream of Mildura as a result of increased saline input from the water table adjacent to the weir pool. River operation at the time will be directed toward minimising any increases in river salinity that may occur, particularly in South Australia. However, the opportunities for mitigation of salinity between Mildura and Lake Victoria are limited unless river flows are high at the time.

Limited availability of Lock passage will be provided as far as is possible within the constraints of work requirements during the withdrawal of the weir, and given the low water levels as the weir is removed. It is therefore advised that Lock passage is likely to be unavailable in the period 14 to 27 May inclusive. However, as usual, boat operators are advised to contact the Senior Reservoir Officer in advance to check availability and to arrange a suitable time for a Lockage. Boat operators are advised that navigation upstream of the weir will be more difficult than usual as a result of the lower water levels as the weir is removed.

There will be no public access to Lock Island (opposite the navigation Lock at Mildura) for much of the period of the maintenance works at the Weir at this time.

Any inconvenience to river pumpers and river navigation is regretted, however, the purpose of the weir withdrawal is to ensure the long-term serviceability of the works.

For further information contact:

Keith Bashford

Media Liaison Officer

Ph: 02 6279 0581

E-mail: keith.bashford@mbdc.gov.au

Daniel Connell

Media Liaison Officer

Ph: 02 6279 0129

E-mail: daniel.connell@mbdc.gov.au

Roly Miller

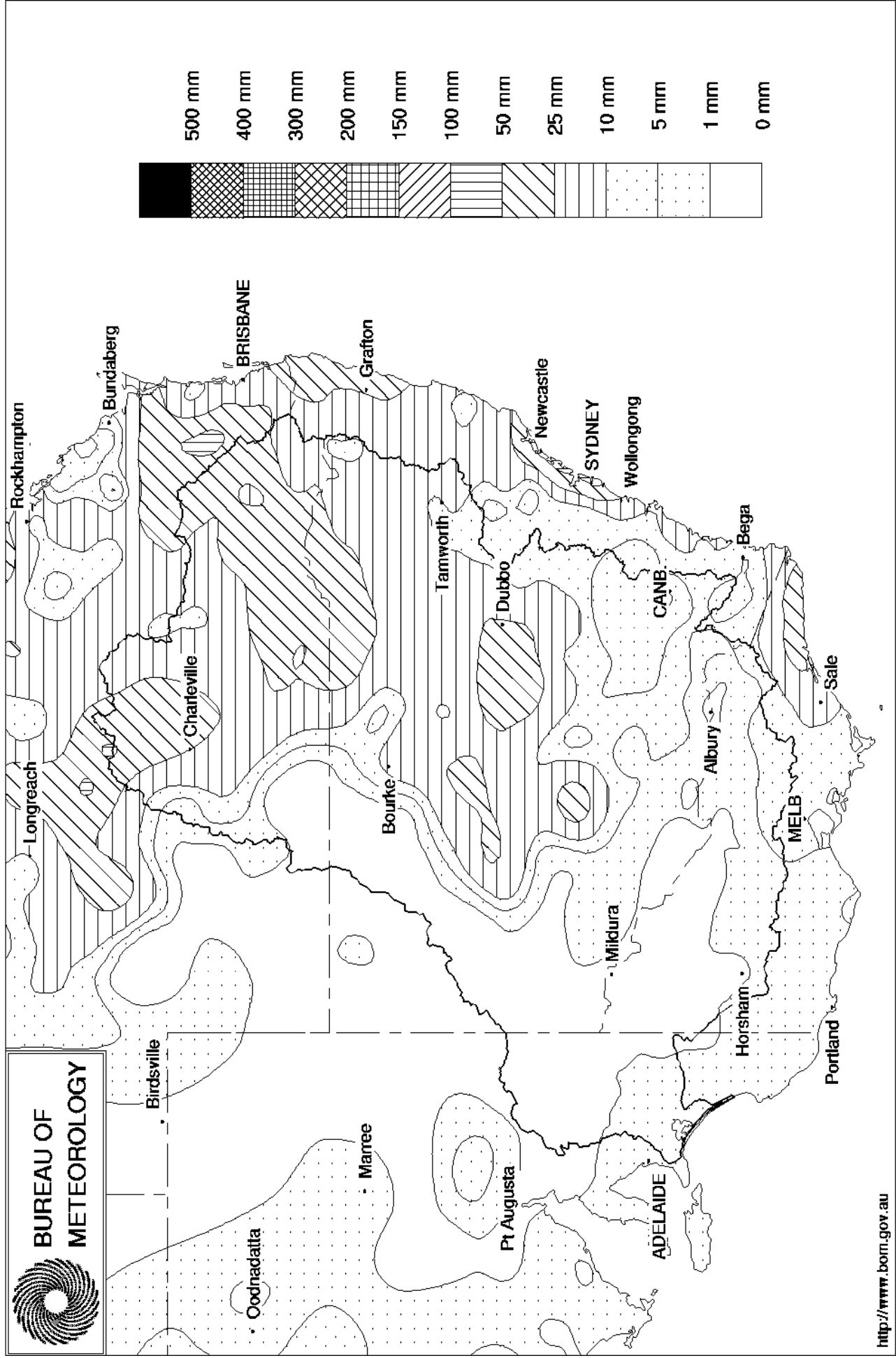
Senior Reservoir Officer – Mildura Weir

Ph: 035023 1396

Note: These contacts are *not* to be quoted as spokesperson

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 2nd May 2001

Product of the National Climate Centre



Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level m AHD	Full Supply Capacity GL	Storage Level m AHD	Current Storage		Dead storage GL	Active storage GL	Change for the week GL
				GL	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3906	472.80	3095	79%	80	3015	+0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	176.81	814	27%	30	784	+17
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.87	348	51%	100	248	-16
Menindee		1682 *		1930	115%	480 #	1450	+13
Total		9306		6187	66%	690	5497	+14

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **64%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	408	40%	3	405	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1631	666	41%	24	642	+23
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1040	31%	100	940	+0

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 01-May-2001

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2916	-20	Snowy-Murray	+7	1
Snowy-Murray Component	1380	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	0
Target Storage	1290		Nett Diversion	5.5	0
			Murray 1 Release	+16	6

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	5.9	1578.4
Wakool System loss	0.5	38.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	29.8
Licensed Pumps	7.0	369.7
Lower Darling	0.1	289.0
TOTAL	13.9	2304.9

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.2	474.5
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.1	766.9
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.7	152.1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	55.2
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.8	156.7
TOTAL	13.2	1605.4

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93
Flow this week	50.1
Flow so far this month	13
Flow last month	479

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	130	172	216
Euston	280	253	200
Red Cliffs	260	240	242
Merbein	220	220	225
Burtundy	430	424	412
Lock 9	320	339	273
L. Victoria	340	339	307
Berri	380	374	327
Waikerie	-	410	388
Morgan	410	388	389
Mannum	370	351	403
Murray Bridge	360	361	397
Meningie	1220	1230	1254
Goolwa Barrages	630	849	1137



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
River Murray	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
Khancoban	-	-	3740	F	2640	2090
Jingellic	4.0	1.65	4510	R	3570	3200
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.39	790	R	800	810
Heywoods	5.5	1.70	2240	R	1410	8950
Doctors Point	5.5	1.91	3260	R	2300	9270
Albury	4.3	0.97	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.86	2330	F	4290	12170
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.80	3500	S	4060	6920
Tocumwal	6.4	1.38	4044	F	5610	8240
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.95	5496	F	6470	4130
Stevens Weir (d/s)		0.49	221	F	263	492
Swan Hill	4.5	1.29	6180	F	5400	2960
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.82	6988	R	5290	3500
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.48	6630	R	4480	3130
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.96	5550	R	5230	5890
Rufus Junction	-	3.39	5902	S	6610	9800
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	5580	S	6080	14560
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.94	560	R	570	390
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.88	509	S	550	490
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.34	670	F	720	620
Edward at Liewah	-	1.47	880	R	790	810
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.54	587	R	450	310
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.90	570	F	770	680
Darling at Bourke	-	4.33	1910	F	3800	6090
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.27	1840	F	2360	3670
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.51	800	R	700	610

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2610	2180
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Weirs and Locks**Pool levels above or below design level**

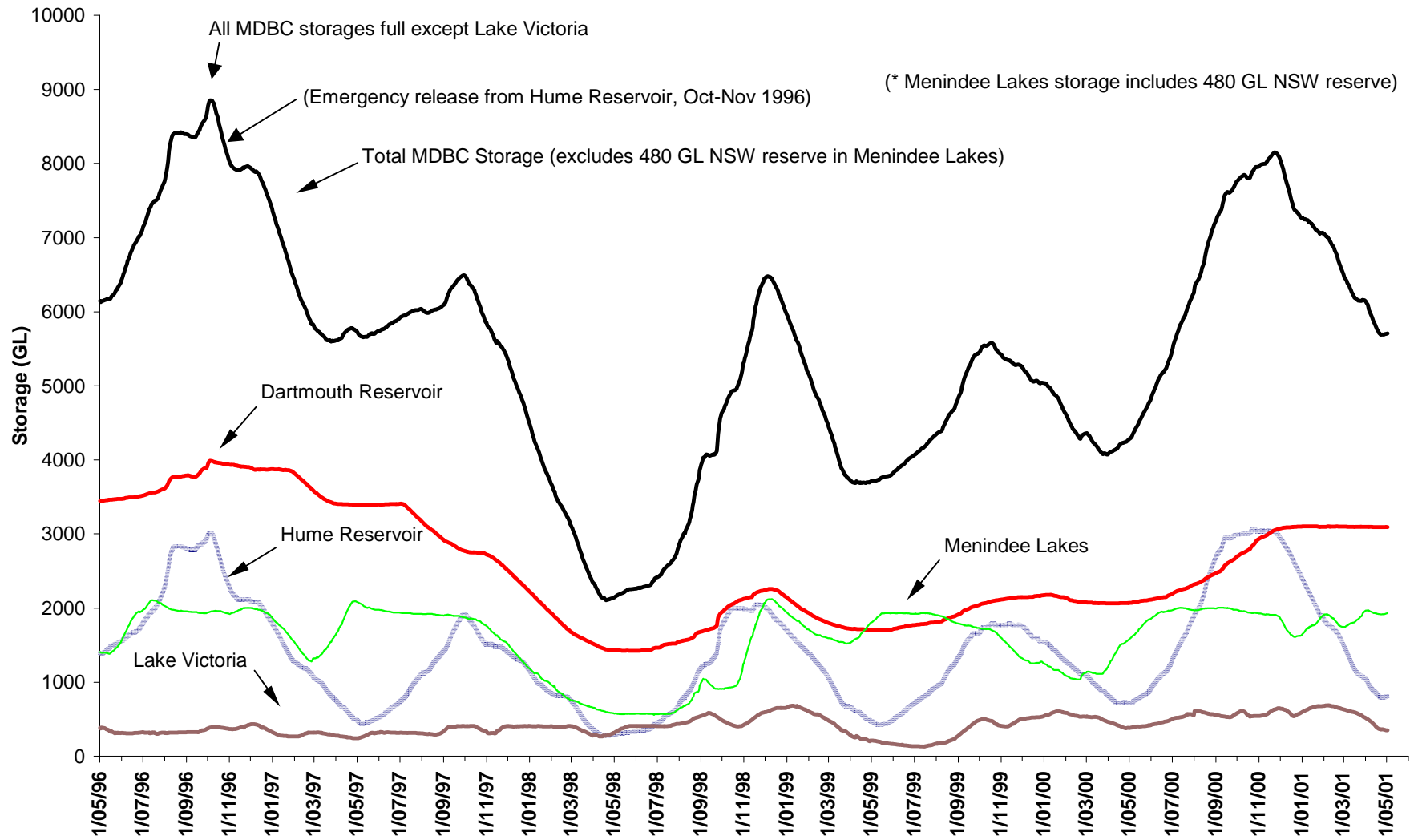
Murray	FSL (M AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (M AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	+0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+1.09
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.18	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.21
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.78
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.32	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.26
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.23
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.08

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.73	2080
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.20	1490

Barrages**FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	9
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.80	5

MDBC Storages : 1 May 1996 to 2 May 2001



All MDBC storages full except Lake Victoria

(Emergency release from Hume Reservoir, Oct-Nov 1996)

(* Menindee Lakes storage includes 480 GL NSW reserve)

Total MDBC Storage (excludes 480 GL NSW reserve in Menindee Lakes)

Dartmouth Reservoir

Hume Reservoir

Menindee Lakes

Lake Victoria