

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 23 January 2002

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :dc:bwh

24 January, 2002



Light to moderate rainfall was recorded over most of the Murray-Darling Basin, with falls of up to 40 mm in some upper Murray catchment areas. However, the streamflow response in tributaries and the main stem of the mid and upper Murray has been very low as a result of very antecedent catchment conditions. Consequently, flows along the mid Murray are not expected to change significantly.

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been maintained at about 800 ML/day, and this is expected to be continued in the near future unless there is an additional release made for the purpose of electricity generation. Storage level in Dartmouth is near steady at 3 340 GL (86% of capacity).

Release from Hume Reservoir was maintained to achieve a channel capacity flow of 25 000 ML/day at Albury early in the week, but release from Hume was subsequently reduced to provide a flow at Albury of 23 000 ML/day in response a minor reduction in irrigation demand due to rain. Storage in Hume declined by 136 GL to 1 544 GL (51% of capacity).

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala was at maximum (13 100 ML/day) for most of the week but declined to 12 100 ML/day at the end of the week in response to some rain in irrigation areas. If conditions remain dry, release from Yarrawonga Weir is expected to be maintained near its current rate of 10 400 ML/day over the coming week.

At the end of the irrigation season, it is proposed to draw down the water level of Lake Mulwala to enable further remedial works to be undertaken on Yarrawonga Weir. Preliminary advice of the proposed drawdown is given in the attached *Media Release*.

Diversion from Torrumbarry Weir pool to National Channel was increased this week to 3 800 ML/day, and is expected to remain at this rate or higher next week to assist in refilling the Torrumbarry System's internal storages.

In the Edward/Wakool System, release from Stevens Weir has been increased from about 1 200 to 1 400 ML/day as a result of reduced demand at the Wakool Canal. A slight reduction demand in the Mulwala Canal System has also enabled an increase in release at the Wakool Escape from 100 to 400 ML/day to assist in supplementing River Murray flows further downstream. Release requirements from all escapes will be reviewed early next week in accordance with downstream flow requirements for the coming weeks between Yarrawonga and Wentworth Weirs.

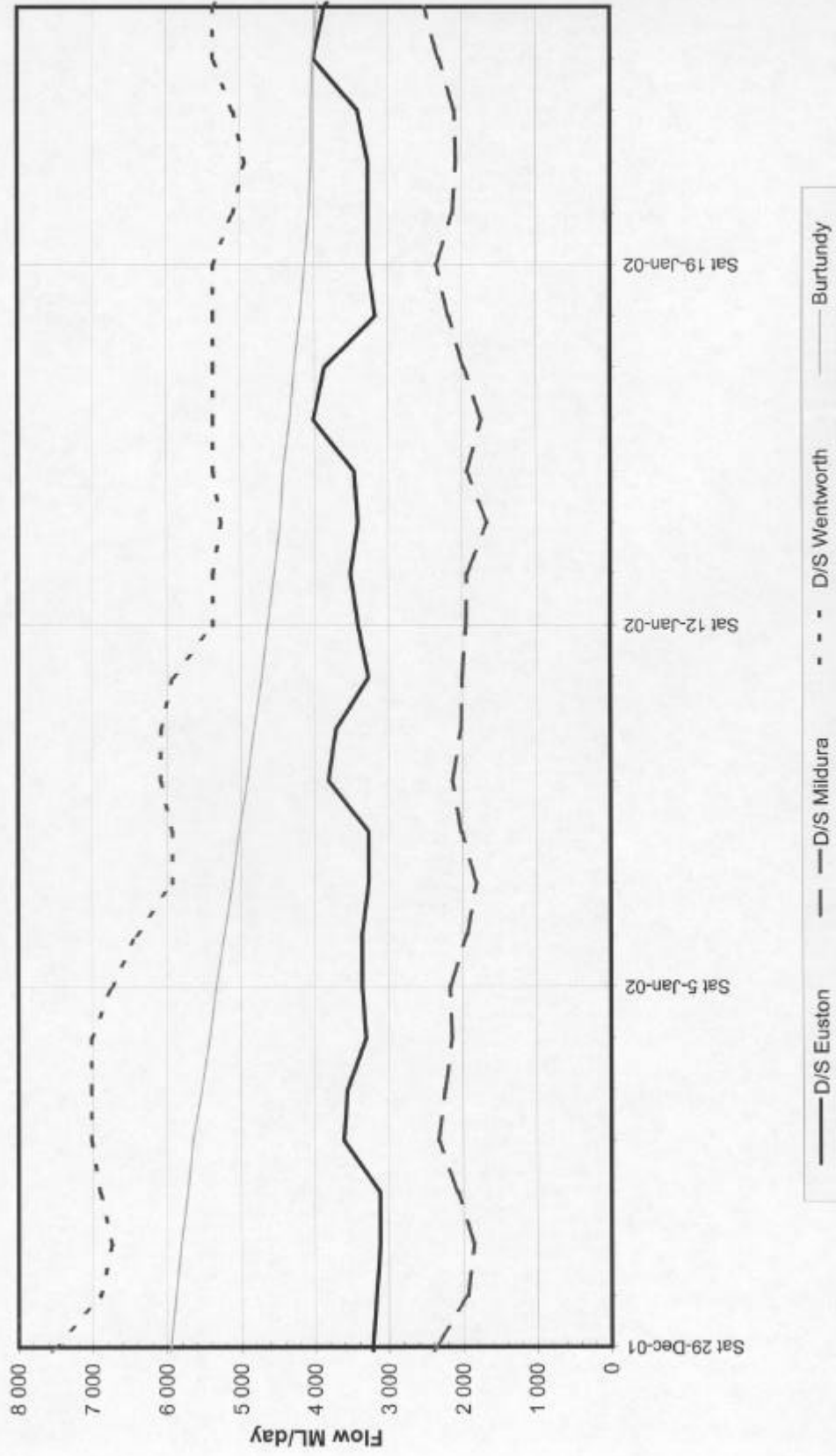
The new flow measuring station downstream of Mildura Weir has been operational since late 2001. This station has enhanced flow monitoring and is of benefit to operational management of the River Murray in the Sunraysia reaches. Flow at Mildura has averaged about 2 100 ML/day since late December (*refer to attached diagram*).

National Salinity Prize

A prize has been established as an award for the development of techniques which are of benefit in reducing salinity. Details of the prize (which is jointly funded by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission, the *National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality*, and the Institution of Engineers Australia) are attached.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

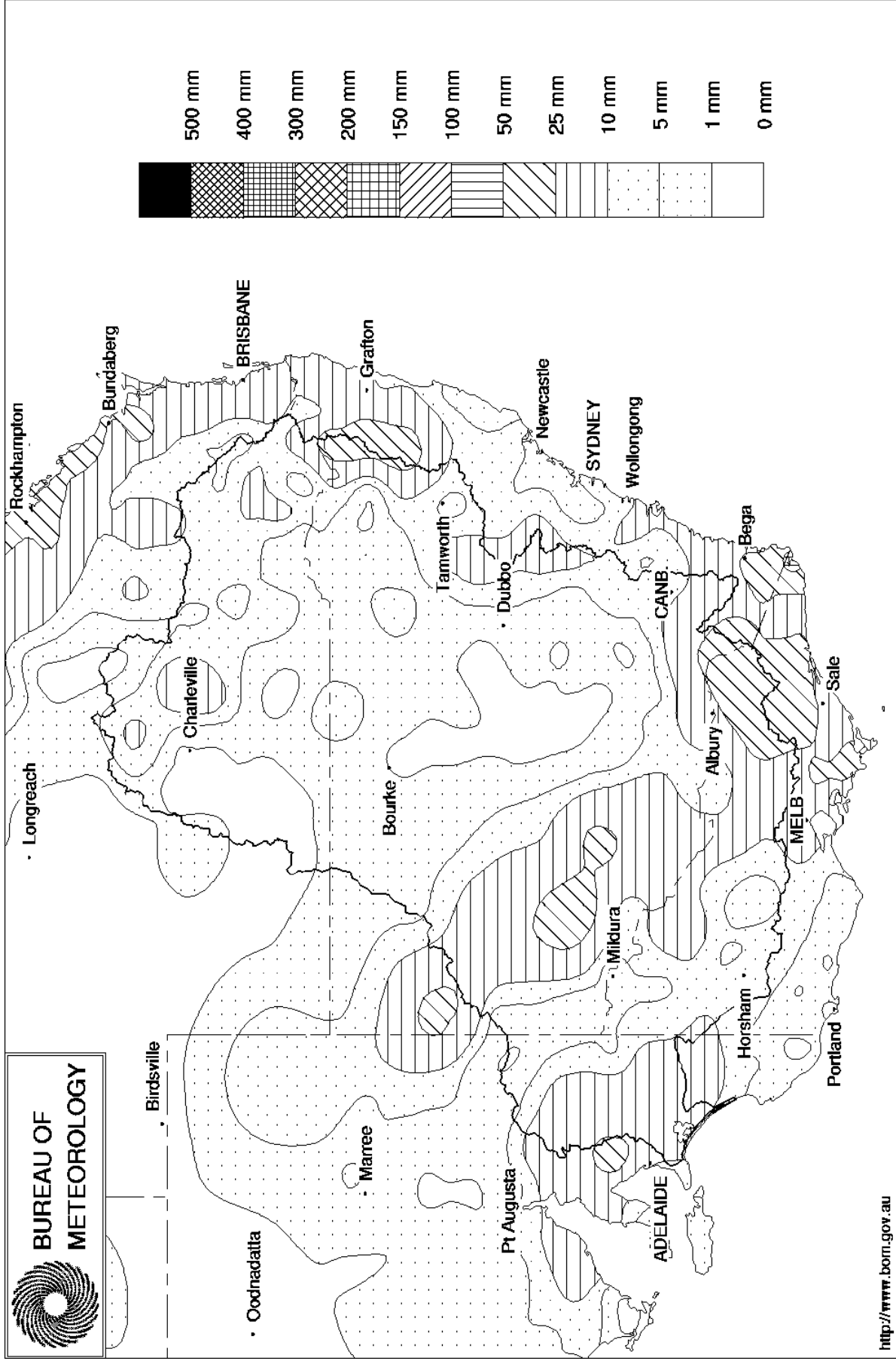
River Murray Flow: Euston to Wentworth



Forecast Prepared by River Murray Water 24/01/02, Valid on day of issue.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 23rd January 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

24 January 2002

Yarrawonga Weir pool lowering to commence in April 2002

Goulburn-Murray Water and the Murray Darling Basin Commission plan to commence temporary lowering of Lake Mulwala in late April this year to allow the final stage of the Yarrawonga Weir Remedial Works Project to be completed.

Goulburn-Murray Water Manager Projects Mr Steven Fox said "We need to lower the lake levels so that we can complete the upstream foundation improvement works and strengthen the upstream concrete walls".

Lake Mulwala will be lowered gradually to minimise environmental effects, and the River Murray will continue to flow above and below Yarrawonga Weir throughout the project.

Depending on weather conditions at the time, the water level in Lake Mulwala will probably begin to fall in late April and is expected to be at its lowest level (approximately 4.5 metres below normal levels) by the end of the third week in May.

The lake will be kept at this lower level for at least one month before being gradually returned to its normal level in time to allow channel filling for next years irrigation season.

"The low lake level will offer an opportunity for those wishing to repair jetties and retaining walls along the lake" Mr Fox said. "Anyone planning works in Victoria must first contact Mr Peter Walsh of Goulburn-Murray Water for approval, and those in NSW must contact Corowa Shire Council before carrying out any repairs."

As in previous draw-downs, access to the bed of the lake will be restricted to protect fish habitat.

Remedial works to the Yarrawonga Weir embankment have been under way since July 2001.

The work downstream of the embankment has progressed well. Works to strengthen the upstream of the weir will re-commence after the Australia day weekend.

For further information on the Yarrawonga Weir Remedial Works Project call FREECALL 1800 111 202.

- E N D S -

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The
Institution
of Engineers,
Australia

Institution of Engineers, Australia National Salinity Prize

\$30,000 Prize for innovation in dealing with salinity

"The salinity disease is spreading and is eating away at infrastructure such as roads, pipes, public buildings, homes and machinery in both rural and metropolitan areas."...

Dr Greenwood
National President IEAust.



Co-Sponsor

... "the challenge is to encourage new ideas with an identifiable engineering component that are practical in terms of costs and getting results"

Don Blackmore
Chief Executive Officer, MD&C.



action
Salinity & Water
AUSTRALIA

Co-Sponsor

Salinity has become a major problem in rural and urban Australia. While governments at the state, territory and federal levels have committed significant funding to help create solutions, the Institution of Engineers, Australia (IEAust) has initiated a prize and an award for a new technology or other practical outcome to address the issue. The IEAust has been joined by the Murray Darling Basin Commission and the federal National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality, to offer a prize of \$30,000 to be awarded in May 2002.

Selection Criteria

1. The entry must address the current salinity problem, and must be based on a realised outcome (not a plan to address certain issues).
2. It must help fix the impact of salinity and therefore help the Australian economy and the environment.
3. It has to have provable outcomes at least at the local and/or regional scale.
4. It must be widely applicable.

Categories

There is one open category for all entrants.

Conditions of Entry

1. The prize is open to individuals or organisations. However, there must be an identifiable engineering component.
2. The award is open to individuals or companies who have already developed and implemented an innovative technology or methodology. A working prototype is also acceptable.
3. Entries should include a short report (no more than 6 pages of A4 paper, with minimum 10pt font), or poster paper and adequate graphics to illustrate the innovation.
4. The Institution requires no rights to the innovation, other than the right to use information in publicity activities. Entrants must agree to participation in media/promotion activities.
5. Selected projects may be visited by the judges where appropriate.

Judging

The Salinity Prize will be judged by representatives of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, the Murray Darling Basin Commission and the office of the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality.

Date for Entries

Entries will be accepted until Friday 8 March 2002. Entries received after the closing date of Friday 8 March 2002 will not be accepted.

Address for Entries

Malcolm Palmer
Project Manager
IEAust National Salinity Prize
Public Policy Unit
Institution of Engineers, Australia
11 National Circuit
BARTON ACT 2600

Entry Fee

A fee of \$100.00 is payable by cheque or money order at the time of lodging each entry.

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to The Institution of Engineers Australia.

Award Announcement

The prize will be awarded in May 2002 on a date and at a location yet to be confirmed.

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	476.96	3340	86%	80	3260	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3038	183.07	1544	51%	30	1514	-136
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	25.69	536	79%	100	436	-6
Menindee		1682 *		659	39%	480 #	179	-18
Total		9306		6079	65%	690	5389	-161

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **63%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1026	198	19%	3	195	-35
Blowering Reservoir	1631	526	32%	24	502	-50
Eildon Reservoir	3390	1114	33%	100	1014	-41

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 22-Jan-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1st May
Lake Eucumbene - Total	3091	-24	Snowy-Murray	+23	572
Snowy-Murray Component	1396	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	215
Target Storage	1520		Nett Diversion	20.6	357
			Murray 1 Release	+24	853

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	58.2	952.7
Wakool System loss	0.4	22.1
Western Murray Irrig.	1.5	17.3
Licensed Pumps	13.0	207.6
Lower Darling	8.2	65.4
TOTAL	81.3	1265.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	21.3	316.3
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	25.5	492.8
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.7	99.6
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.7	44.2
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.9	115.5
TOTAL	62.1	1068.3

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217
Flow this week	49.7
Flow so far this month	163
Flow last month	220

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25 C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August
Swan Hill	150	159	215
Euston	170	169	238
Red Cliffs	280	260	310
Merbein	310	310	298
Burtundy	550	544	445
Lock 9	490	489	396
L. Victoria	440	442	383
Berri	520	517	443
Waikerie	580	590	535
Morgan	600	594	533
Mannum	600	598	519
Murray Bridge	610	604	555
Meningie	1290	1300	1195
Goolwa Barrages	1380	1673	1392



River Levels and Flows

	Minor Flood stage	Gauge height	Flow	Trend	Average flow this week	Average flow last week
	m	m	ML/day		ML/day	ML/day
River Murray						
Khancoban	-	-	4910	F	3830	3370
Jingellic	4.0	1.89	6440	R	4940	4140
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.67	1500	R	1220	1170
Heywoods	5.5	3.55	22400	F	23860	23800
Doctors Point	5.5	3.73	23100	F	24370	24290
Albury	4.3	2.81	-	F	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.19	24800	S	24840	23910
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	10400	S	10400	10410
Tocumwal	6.4	2.31	9904	R	9810	9840
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.44	3685	F	3980	4060
Stevens Weir (d/s)		1.52	1430	R	1313	1330
Swan Hill	4.5	0.89	3560	R	3320	3380
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.22	4606	R	4390	4620
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.01	4010	R	3470	3540
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.90	5370	R	5230	5530
Rufus Junction	-	3.53	6676	F	6630	6700
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	4220	R	3910	3830
Tributaries						
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.79	340	R	270	250
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.71	255	R	230	300
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.34	670	R	500	690
Edward at Liewah	-	1.62	1020	F	1070	1140
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	-9.00	-9	F	530	370
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.50	230	R	210	180
Darling at Bourke	-	4.05	310	S	340	500
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.43	4020	S	4110	4560
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.68	0	F	0	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1410	1440
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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	-0.03	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+1.21
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.07	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.21
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.02	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.71
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.26	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.22
No. 9 Kulinine	27.40	+0.03	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.16
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.03

Murrumbidgee	FSL (M AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. metres	Flow ML/day
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.59	0.79	507
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.21	0.21	324

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.73	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.74	All closed

