

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 August 2003

Our Ref: RMW305/01//01/ng:bwh

22 August, 2003



Rainfall

Most of the rainfall across the upper Murray this week (*see map attached*) fell on the evening of Wednesday 13 August and was referred to in last week's report. Since then, little further rain has since been recorded up to 20 August in the southern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin, and tributary inflows have receded significantly. However, light falls of rain were recorded on the 24 hours to 9 am on 22 August, and further rain is forecast.

Commission Storages

Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs respectively peaked at about 18 000 and 45 000 ML/day early in the week, and have since receded to about 4 000 and 14 000 ML/day. This resulted in upper Murray storage volume increasing by a total of 270 GL. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir is now 1 353 GL or 35% of capacity with storage in Hume Reservoir at 1 121 GL (37% of capacity) and still rising.

Storage in Hume at the start of the week was virtually identical to the same time last year when it peaked at about 944 GL on 14 August 2002. By the end of the week, storage had risen to 1 121 GL (200 GL higher than in 2002). However, whilst storage in Hume is better this year than last, the *total* volume in all MDBC storages is about 3 000 GL or 1 700 GL less than the 4 700 GL in storage this time last year (*see storage plot attached*).

System Operation

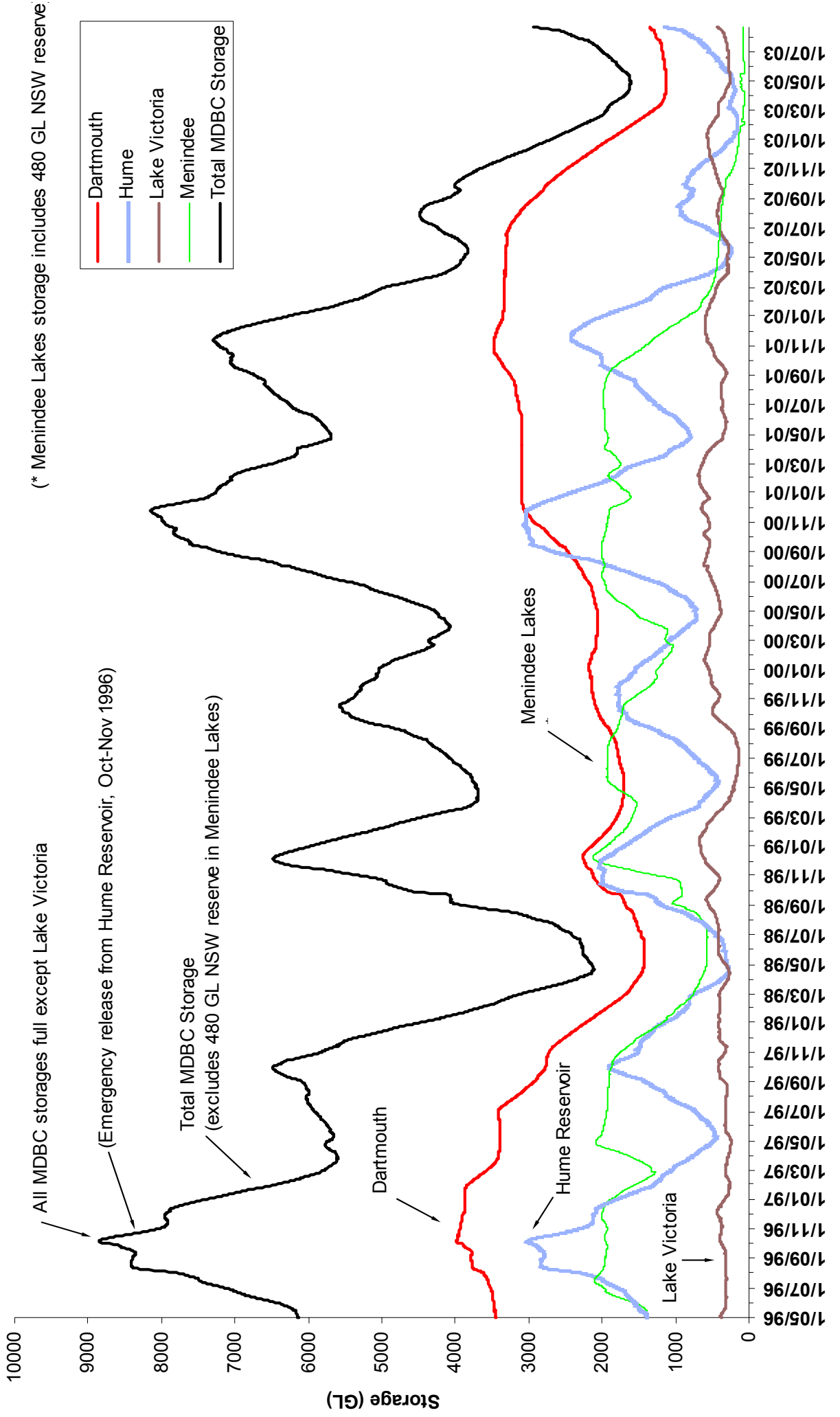
Inflows to the River Murray from the Kiewa, Ovens and Goulburn Rivers peaked during the week at about 9 000, 22 000 and 3 000 ML/day respectively, and are now receding. Release from Yarrowonga Weir was increased to 15 000 ML/day on Saturday 17 August, and is expected to be gradually reduced beginning early next week without further significant rain. Lake Mulwala has been used to capture the peak inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers with the lake level being temporarily surcharged to about 0.1 m above nominal full supply level, and will be drawn down toward normal operating levels next week.

Regulators have again been opened in the Barmah-Millewa Forest as river flows exceed channel capacity in the forest. NSW and Victorian forest agencies are liaising with River Murray Water in order to optimise local environmental benefits consistent with the need to maximise conservation of water resources in this irrigation season in which water availability is currently extremely low.

Increased flows along the mid Murray following recent rain could not be fully captured in Lake Victoria as river flows were greater than the Lake inlet capacity plus the required flow to South Australia for August 2003. Consequently, flow to South Australia peaked at 7 000 ML/day early in the week before gradually falling to 3 500 ML/day, and is expected to remain near this rate next week. Storage in Lake Victoria rose 58 GL and is currently 427 GL (63% of capacity, and about 2.3 m below full supply level) and is expected to continue rising into September.

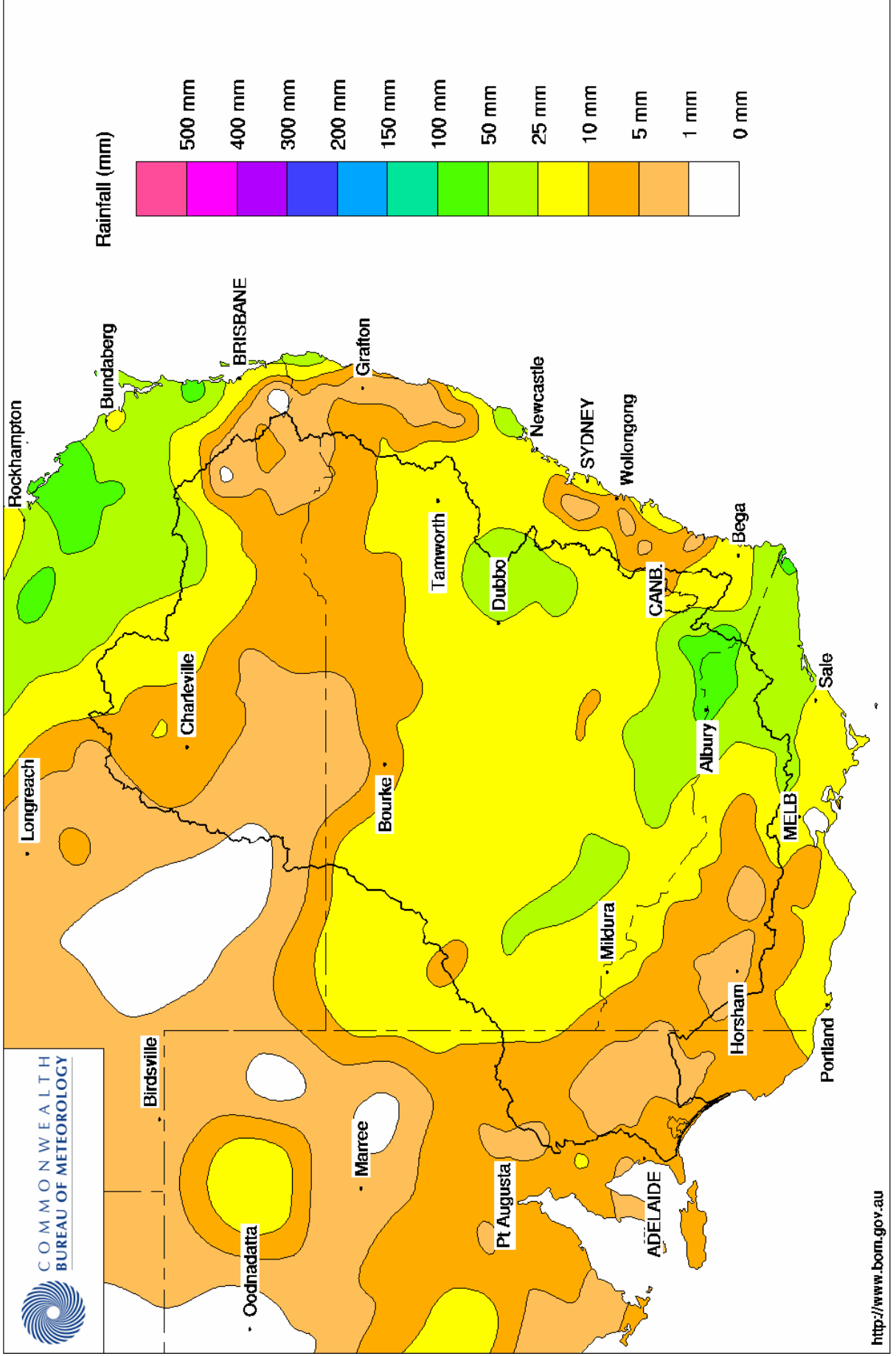
DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MDBC Storages : 1 May 1996 to 20 August 2003



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th August 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 20 Aug 2003

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	434.73	1 353	35%	80	1 273	+60
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.69	1 121	37%	30	1 091	+212
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.65	427	63%	100	327	+58
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		71	4%	640 #	0	+1
Total		9 227		2 972	32%	850	2 691	+330

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **32%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	158	15%	3	155	+36
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	554	34%	24	530	+54
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	739	22%	100	639	+72

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Aug-2003

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 566	+62	Snowy-Murray	+11	410
Snowy-Murray Component	683	-	Tooma-Tumut	+19	72
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-8.7	338
			Murray 1 Release	+33	496

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	15.0	18.7
Wakool System loss	0.3	.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.6
Licensed Pumps	0.6	5.3
Lower Darling	0.1	.5
TOTAL	15.9	25.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	32
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.6	15
TOTAL	2.6	48

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	(5 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	35.6	
Flow so far this month	83	
Flow last month	87	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	110	100	120
Euston	110	120	150
Red Cliffs	110	110	130
Merbein	120	110	130
Burtundy (Darling)	1 600	1 610	1 640
Lock 9	200	200	210
Lake Victoria	250	230	250
Berri	410	390	400
Waikerie	-	590	580
Morgan	580	610	590
Mannum	530	510	500
Murray Bridge	550	540	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	-	1 110	1 090
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	1 060	1 040
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	1 480	1 420
Goolwa Barrages	3 440	3 430	3 780



Week ending Wednesday 20 Aug 2003

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	-	-	-	5 770	F	10 030	6 090
Jingellic	4.0	2.51	209.03	12 450	F	23 170	8 820
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.02	218.91	2 830	F	4 270	2 460
Heywoods	5.5	1.18	154.81	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	1.96	150.43	3 590	R	5 040	3 170
Albury	4.3	1.00	148.44	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.32	127.34	4 580	F	6 690	3 340
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.36	117.40	15 000	S	13 140	8 070
Tocumwal	6.4	2.89	106.73	14 730	S	11 700	9 450
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.17	81.72	10 200	R	9 820	10 270
Swan Hill	4.5	1.78	64.70	9 430	F	9 890	10 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.96	53.08	12 880	S	12 550	14 170
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.32	44.16	12 250	R	12 050	14 100
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.20	11 870	F	12 300	12 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.29	28.05	11 600	S	12 170	11 190
Rufus Junction	-	2.88	19.81	3 040	R	4 680	3 880
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	5 810	F	5 050	2 610
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.36	155.59	3 380	R	5 090	2 940
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.26	147.94	8 298	F	13 940	6 490
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.35	93.77	2 320	F	1 810	1 110
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 610	F	2 270	2 490
Edward at Liewah	-	2.89	58.27	2 560	R	2 250	1 610
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.45	54.94	373	F	380	230
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.54	56.50	221	S	230	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	70	F	140	150
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	190	S	200	280
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	10	S	20	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	38 360	9 460
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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	+0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.56
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.08	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.11
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.06	+0.40	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.06	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+0.65	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.07	+0.36
No. 9 Kulline	27.40	+0.12	+0.03	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.12	+0.23
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.09	-0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.05	0.84	70.19	573
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.02	0.15	61.45	269

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.84	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.85	All closed

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

