

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 May 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/bwh
Trim Ref : 04/5546DO

21 May, 2004



Rainfall and Rainfall Outlook

Light rainfall was recorded along the River Murray, with falls generally of 5 to 10 mm in the mid Murray, and falls of up to 25 mm in upper Murray and tributary catchments but predominantly in Victoria.

The Bureau of Meteorology, in its recent 3 month rainfall outlook for June to August 2004 period inclusive, indicates a near neutral outlook for the southern part of the Murray-Darling Basin, with about a 40 to 50% chance of rainfall greater than median.

Storage Reserves

Total Commission active storage declined to 21 GL to 2 037 GL by 19 May (to 24% of active capacity), and storage is currently 564 GL greater than at the same time last year. Individual and total gross storage (including dead storage) volumes since 1996 are shown on the attached diagram.

System Operation

Storage in Hume Reservoir has slowly declined by 21 GL, and storage is now at a fraction under 7% of capacity. Release from Hume has been reduced from 4 500 to 2 200 ML/day in response to the end of the irrigation season, but remains above minimum release.

Major diversions from Lake Mulwala ceased on 15 May with the closure of diversions to Yarrowonga Main Channel. Similarly, diversion from Torrumbarry Weir pool to National Channel ceased on 16 May.

Release from Yarrowonga Weir has been maintained at 4 000 ML/day in order to continue to meet downstream requirements including flow to South Australia. At the same time last year, storage in Lake Victoria was 70 GL higher, and release from Yarrowonga Weir was at the minimum rate of 1 800 ML/day.

Commencing on 21 May, NSW State Water will draw down Stevens Weir pool on the Edward River over winter for environmental benefit. The pool level at the Weir will be lowered by about 4 m below full supply, but upstream at Deniliquin the effect will be less (see attached Media Release).

The level of the River Murray at Swan Hill reached a low point of 0.66 m gauge height on 14 May, but has since increased to about 0.8 m (or 0.2 m above the target minimum), and is expected to rise a further 0.2 m to 1.0 m as a result of the cessation of diversions to the Torrumbarry Irrigation System.

River Salinity

The effects of the salinity spike from the lower Darling River in March are now quite low in the lower Murray in South Australia, with rises as a result of the first peak now about 40 km upstream of Lock 1 (on 19 May), at a salinity level of 480 EC. The effect of the second peak is 9 km downstream of Lock 3, at a level of 490 EC. Despite these temporary rises, these river salinity levels are well below the long term average for May.

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Media Release

State
water

17 May 2004

STEVENS WEIR POOL LOWERING STARTS FRIDAY 21 MAY

State Water today announced that the annual lowering of the Stevens Weir pool at Deniliquin would begin next Friday, 21 May, with water levels due to fall by more than a metre over the next few weeks.

South Area Customer Service Manager, Lindsay Beck said the weir pool level would be gradually lowered for winter.

“The removal of the weir pool is necessary to improve vegetation, fish migration and water quality and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Edward River system,” Mr Beck said.

“State Water staff will work with our customers to delay the reinstatement of the weir pool for as long as possible, to keep water off the upper banks and floodplain areas.”

Mr Beck said if conditions remained dry, the gauge height at Deniliquin would fall from the present level of 1.83 metres to about 0.45 metres.

“Recent variations to the level at Deniliquin have been due to operational requirements and are not part of the end of season lowering of the weir pool,” Mr Beck said.

From next Friday, releases from the Murray River into the Edward River and Gulpa Creek will be progressively reduced from 450 megalitres (1.53m gauge height) and 240 megalitres per day (2.04m gauge height) to 100 megalitres (1.05m gauge height) and 80 megalitres per day (1.5m gauge height).

Subject to requirements in the Murray River, the gates at the Edward River offtake regulator will then be taken out of the water, allowing unrestricted fish passage and river levels variations that match natural winter patterns.

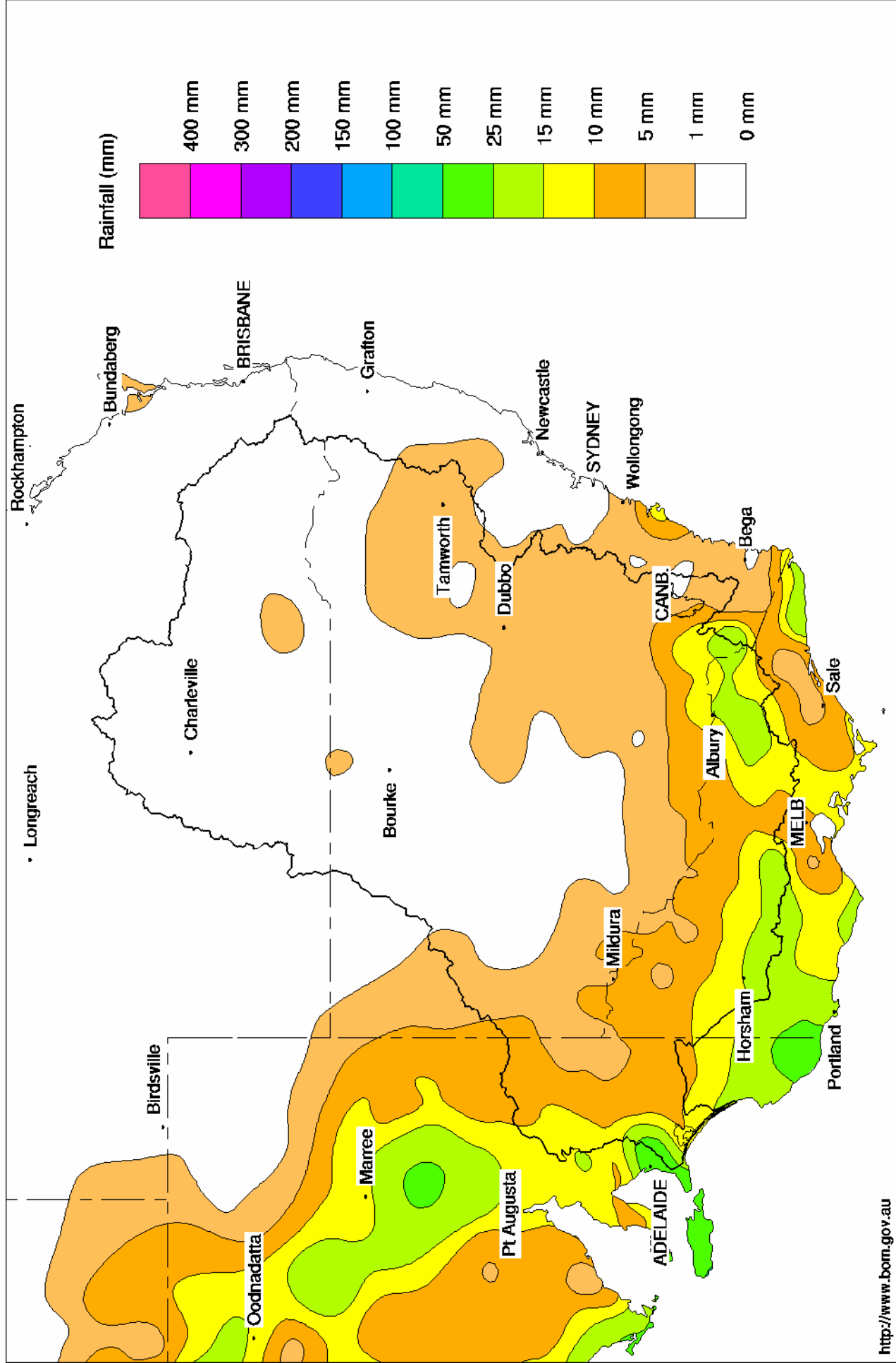
The gates at the Gulpa Creek offtake regulator will remain in the water until maintenance work downstream is completed in July.

Boat owners and other river users should be aware of snags and other obstructions that may appear while water levels are low.

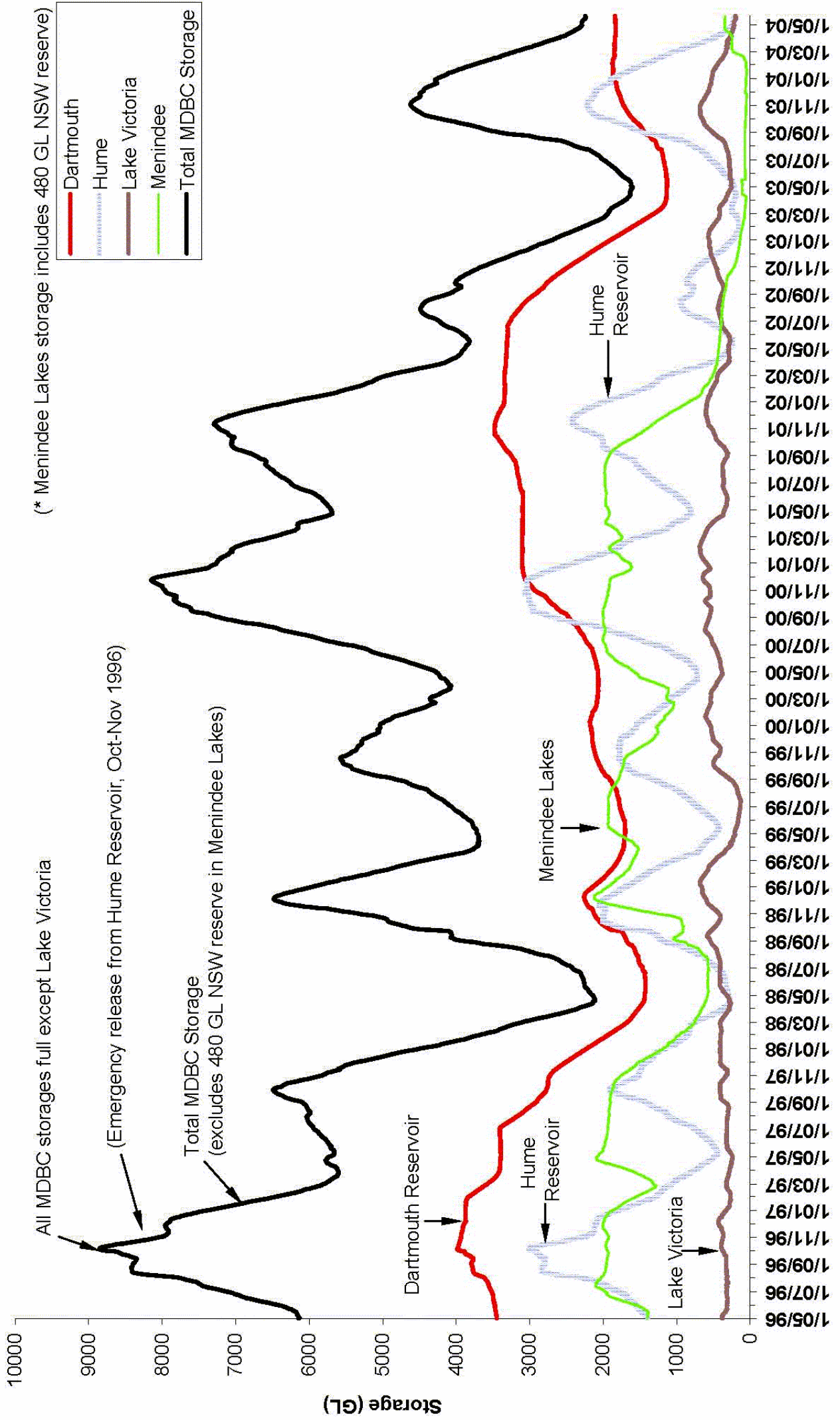
ENDS

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Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th May 2004
 Product of the National Climate Centre



MDBC Storages : 1 May 1996 to 20 May 2004 (Prepared by River Murray Water)



All MDBC storages full except Lake Victoria

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

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

Dartmouth Reservoir

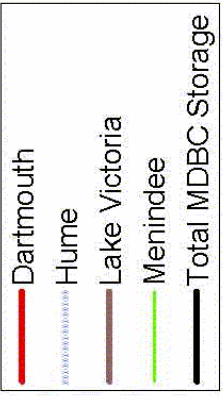
Menindee Lakes

Hume Reservoir

Lake Victoria

Hume Reservoir

(* Menindee Lakes storage includes 480 GL NSW reserve)



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	447.46	1 839	47%	80	1 759	+4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.67	206	7%	30	176	-21
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.34	202	30%	100	102	-3
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		342	21%	640 #	0	-2
Total		9 227		2 589	28%	850	2 037	-21

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **24%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		399	39%	3	396	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		114	7%	24	90	-21
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		604	18%	100	504	-4

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-May-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 810	-11	Snowy-Murray	+18	39
Snowy-Murray Component	933	-18	Tooma-Tumut	+1	3
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	16.5	36
			Murray 1 Release	+17	41

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .4	859.1
Wakool System loss	1.4	55.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	29.6
Licensed Pumps	8.8	306.0
Lower Darling	0.3	28.7
TOTAL	10.4	1 278.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.9	376
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.9	600
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.0	156
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	47
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.5	199
TOTAL	14.4	1 378

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	22.5	(3 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	57	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	120	110	100
Euston	140	150	120
Red Cliffs	130	120	130
Merbein	140	130	140
Burtundy (Darling)	500	530	1 960
Lock 9	170	170	180
Lake Victoria	290	290	240
Berri	330	330	280
Waikerie	420	420	380
Morgan	480	470	400
Mannum	410	410	440
Murray Bridge	470	480	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 050	1 050	1 130
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	600	600	1 050
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 250	2 380	1 780
Goolwa Barrages	1 890	1 780	2 090



River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	3 960	R	2 920	2 430
Jingellic	4.0	1.48	208.00	3 220	R	3 370	2 720
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.29	218.18	460	R	410	450
Heywoods	5.5	1.63	155.26	2 340	F	3 480	4 270
Doctors Point	5.5	1.83	150.30	2 760	S	3 800	4 590
Albury	4.3	0.93	148.37	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.21	127.23	4 010	F	4 860	5 490
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.80	115.84	4 020	S	4 020	4 640
Tocumwal	6.4	1.26	105.10	4 110	R	4 100	4 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.40	79.95	3 590	R	2 860	2 700
Swan Hill	4.5	0.79	63.71	2 990	R	2 450	2 470
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.68	50.80	3 020	R	2 900	3 020
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.66	42.50	2 700	F	2 820	2 870
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.85	2 720	F	2 480	2 630
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.83	27.59	2 630	R	2 480	2 430
Rufus Junction	-	2.78	19.71	2 490	S	2 710	2 270
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 330	F	2 340	2 330
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.75	153.98	330	R	390	460
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.74	145.42	318	R	270	320
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	416	R	360	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	150	F	190	610
Edward at Liewah	-	1.24	56.62	663	R	440	350
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	54.87	271	F	290	320
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.50	56.46	231	R	210	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	90	F	110	150
Darling at Bourke	-	4.08	-	322	S	330	660
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.80	-	305	F	310	300

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	-1 070	1 640
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.49
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.06	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.33
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.19	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	-0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.01	+0.13	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.25

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.43	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.07	0.14	61.44	261

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.57	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.58	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.56	All closed



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