

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 12 January 2005



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14 January, 2005

December Summary

Much of the Basin received above average falls of rain during December with highest on record falls of up to 300 mm occurring in the north-east of the Basin (*see map attached*). Total River Murray System inflows for December, including those from the tributaries, were marginally above average. However, inflows for the season to date (since June 2004) remain well below average, at a level exceeded about 7 years in 10.

Storage levels at the end December remain low, as indicated in the following table, and the total storage is about 350 GL less than at the same time last year. The total storage level fell by about 180 GL since the end of November, however levels would have fallen further if not for the rainfall during the month, which eased diversions and provided some inflow to storages.

Storage	Dartmouth	Hume	Lake Victoria	Total Storage	*Menindee Lakes
End December 2004	1740 GL (or 45% full)	1504 GL (or 49% full)	666 GL (or 98% full)	3910 GL (or 43% full)	*208 GL (or 10% full)
Change for month	-36 GL	-139 GL	-8 GL	-183GL	*-41 GL
Dec Storage levels exceeded about	8 years in 10	8 years in 10	6 years in 10		9 years in 10

*Currently under NSW control and not available to MDBC

Darling River System

Flows from the heavy rainfall in the Barwon-Darling catchment during December are slowly progressing downstream. The flow in the Darling River at Bourke peaked at about 30 000 ML/day on 8 January (below minor flood level), and the flow at Wilcannia has increased to about 15 000 ML/day (12 January) and is still rising. The storage in Menindee Lakes has increased from a low of about 200 GL on 5 January to about 271 GL on 12 January, and current estimates indicate that the storage may rise to about 500 GL by early February. If it reaches this level, there will be about 150 GL more in storage than the peak level reached last year.

River Murray System

Increasing temperatures and dry conditions have prevailed across the Basin this week. Catchment inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs remain low, and are currently about 700 ML/day and 4 000 ML/day respectively. The release from Dartmouth Reservoir is currently 2 300 ML/day, and is being gradually reduced to 1 000 ML/day following a temporary increase for environmental purposes.

Reminder: Second call for proposals for water recovery

The MDBC is now calling for further project proposals to undertake feasibility assessments for infrastructure projects that would deliver water savings (*see attached media release for details*).

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MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, December 17, 2004

Second opportunity for river communities to benefit

The second opportunity for communities to submit ideas on possible water recovery projects under The Living Murray has been announced by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council.

Catchment management authorities, industry, irrigation and community groups are again being asked to propose cost-effective infrastructure improvement projects that can be further investigated and developed for future recovery of water for the environment, according to Murray-Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik.

“MDBC is calling for organisations to identify feasibility studies for possible future water recovery projects that they believe should be undertaken in the southern part of the Basin that will each result in an average annual increase of flows in the rivers of at least two gigalitres but cost \$2000/ML or less to deliver,” Dr Craik said.

“Types of infrastructure improvement projects that would deliver water savings include installation of pipelines, lining of sections of irrigation channels, and installation of more precise flow measurement systems.

“We expect that the funding of the feasibility study for each project will generally be about \$100,000 or less, but special cases would be considered” she said.

Developed in consultation with state agencies, successful projects this round would be additional to four already approved feasibility projects from the first call for proposals in August under the Living Murray’s \$1.2m *Development of Infrastructure Projects Program*. About \$640,000 of funding remains in this program for this round of projects.

“It’s very important for Basin communities to grasp these opportunities to develop proposals for future investment in their regions,” Dr Craik said.

Organisations considering submitting a second round proposal should download the prospectus, background leaflet and short application from the MDBC website. Proposals will be accepted until 12 noon on February 17, 2005.

For previously funded projects and to view the prospectus and application forms:
http://www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au/implementing/water_recovery.html

Further information on The Living Murray initiative: www.thelivingmurray.mdbc.gov.au

For general MDBC information: www.mdbc.gov.au

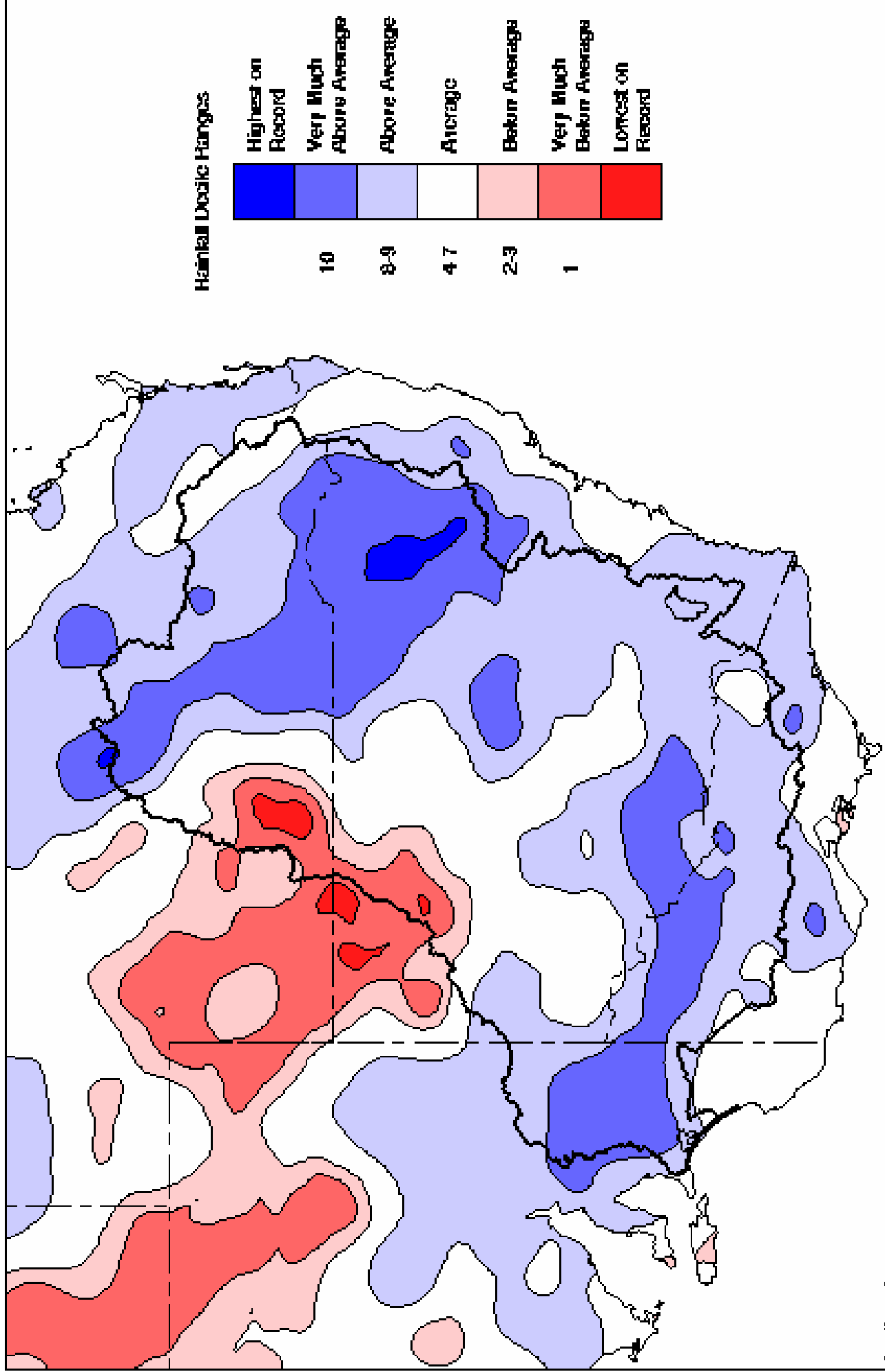
For general enquiries on the Development of Infrastructure Projects Program: contact Leanne Wilkinson, (02) 6279 0516, Leanne.Wilkinson@mdbc.gov.au

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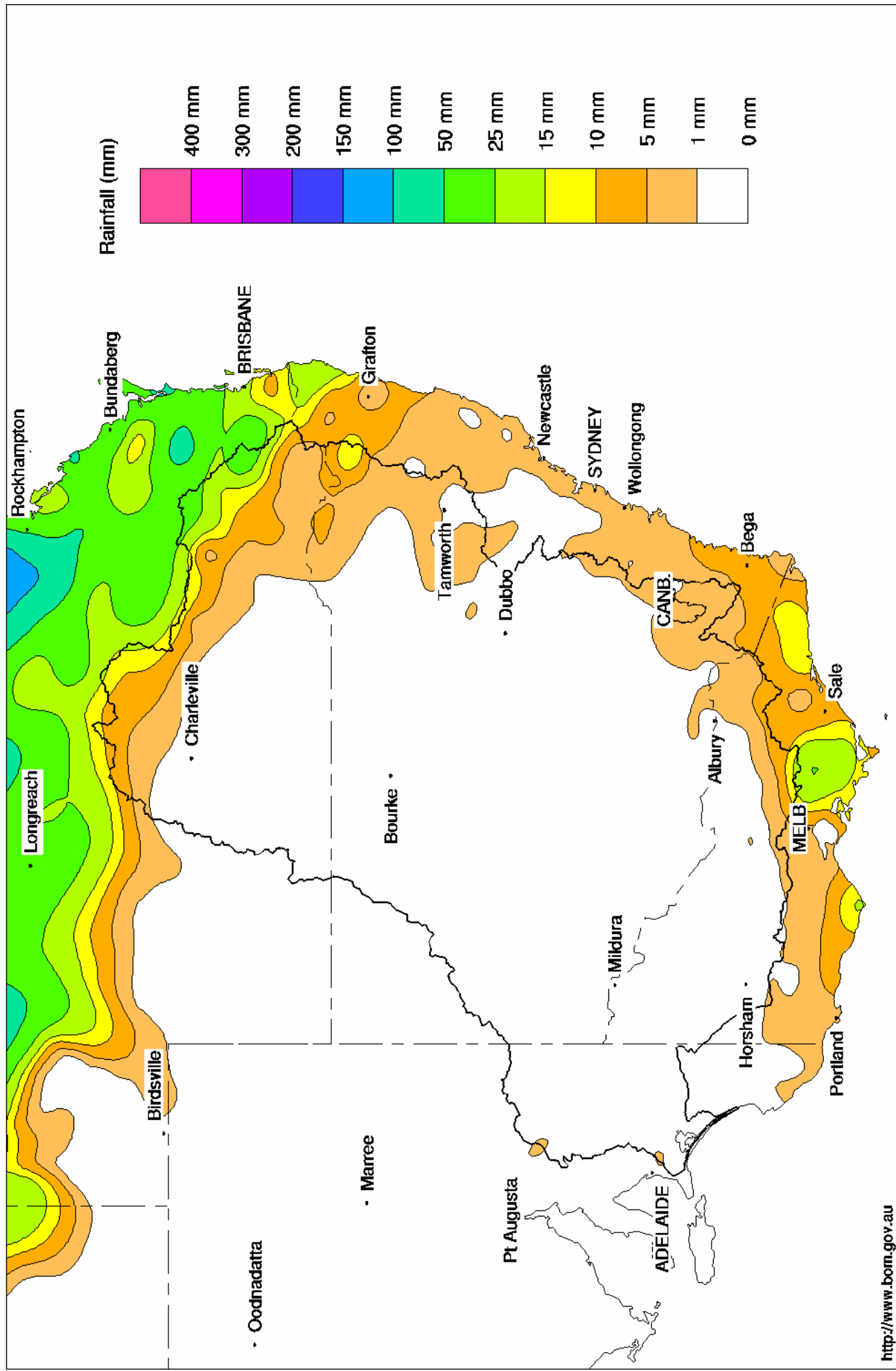
Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles December 2004

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th January 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	444.28	1 708	44%	80	1 628	-25
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	181.70	1 365	45%	30	1 335	-71
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.64	633	94%	100	533	-26
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		271	16%	(- -) #	0	+72
Total		9 352		3 977	43%	--	3 496	-50

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **41%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		258	25%	3	255	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		307	19%	24	283	-47
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 364	40%	100	1 264	-31

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-Jan-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 695	-15	Snowy-Murray	+1	346
Snowy-Murray Component	1 229	+2	Tooma-Tumut	+1	233
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	-0.4	113
			Murray 1 Release	+3	673

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	24.5	414.8
Wakool System loss	0.1	7.5
Western Murray Irrig.	1.5	17.4
Licensed Pumps	7.1	143.1
Lower Darling	1.2	14.6
TOTAL	34.5	597.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	14.1	192
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.1	323
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	8.0	91
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.5	18
Licensed pumps - SRW	7.4	154
TOTAL	50.2	777

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	48.8	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	84	
Flow last month	219	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	110	120	110
Euston	130	140	120
Red Cliffs	170	140	100
Merbein	180	170	110
Burtundy (Darling)	650	650	480
Lock 9	120	120	140
Lake Victoria	180	180	180
Berri	220	210	250
Waikerie	300	310	380
Morgan	330	340	410
Mannum	420	430	500
Murray Bridge	500	500	550
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 370	1 350	1 290
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	680	840	1 000
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 110	2 060	2 090
Goolwa Barrages	2 010	2 080	1 850



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	-	-	-	3 630	R	1 650	730
Jingellic	4.0	1.64	208.16	4 430	R	2 770	2 360
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.02	218.91	2 830	F	4 870	2 980
Heywoods	5.5	3.09	156.72	16 230	S	16 240	16 970
Doctors Point	5.5	3.19	151.66	16 300	S	16 600	17 100
Albury	4.3	2.23	149.67	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.24	129.26	17 300	F	17 700	18 070
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.77	116.81	10 100	R	10 030	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.26	106.10	10 120	F	10 160	10 170
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.69	80.24	4 690	F	5 050	5 090
Swan Hill	4.5	1.03	63.95	4 570	F	4 690	4 850
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.66	51.78	6 560	F	7 010	7 940
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.33	43.17	6 100	F	6 540	7 840
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.84	4 960	F	5 360	8 240
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	4 010	F	4 660	7 360
Rufus Junction	-	3.45	20.38	6 450	F	6 430	6 620
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 320	F	4 290	3 840
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.84	154.07	440	F	650	480
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.87	145.55	519	F	720	750
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	450	F	460	460
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 130	F	2 150	1 950
Edward at Liewah	-	2.37	57.75	1 790	F	1 870	2 140
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.49	54.98	446	F	530	950
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.37	56.33	148	F	180	290
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.14	-	0	F	280	430
Darling at Bourke	-	7.07	-	21 290	F	27 580	23 010
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	111	R	90	110

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 060	3 740
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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	+0.12	+1.21
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.12
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.04	+0.15
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.04	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.64
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.04	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	+0.09

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.48	0.6	69.95	296
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.81	0.17	61.47	287

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.68	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.71	All closed

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

