

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 14 September 2005

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16 September, 2005



## ***Rainfall and Inflows***

Last weekend (9-12 September) brought widespread rain to the Murray-Darling Basin. The south east received the heaviest falls, with rainfall depths ranging from 50 to 90 mm across the catchment of the upper Murray and Murrumbidgee Rivers (*see attached map*).

The rainfall resulted in significant increases in stream flow and storage volumes. Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs increased to about 25 000 ML/day and 47 000 ML/day respectively, and over the past week the storage volumes increased by 100 GL and 220 GL respectively. Further improvements in the storage volumes are expected over the coming week as the inflows gradually recede.

There were also increases in the inflow to the River Murray from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers, which peaked at 10 000 ML/day and 26 000 ML/day respectively, whilst there was little response from the Goulburn River. There were significant rises in the Murrumbidgee River, and an increase in inflow from Murrumbidgee to the Murray is expected in late September/early October.

## ***River Murray Operation***

Following the rainfall over the weekend, there are now two main flow peaks in the River Murray (*see attached figure*).

- The rainfall in late August/early September produced increased inflows from the Kiewa, Ovens and Goulburn Rivers. The peak from the Goulburn River is currently passing Euston, at 17 000 to 18 000 ML/day. The inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers have slowed considerably as they passed through the Barmah-Millewa Forest, and are now resulting in high flows at Barmah on the River Murray and Toonalook on the Edward River.
- The rainfall over the last weekend produced increased inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, and has produced a peak flow currently passing Yarrawonga Weir of about 21 000 ML/day.

The Euston weir pool is currently being refilled to the full supply level, in order to reduce the passing peak flow by about 1 000 ML/day in order to protect major works currently underway at Wentworth Weir (*see attached media release*). Information from the River Murray Wetland Database indicates that this small reduction will not significantly reduce floodplain watering downstream.

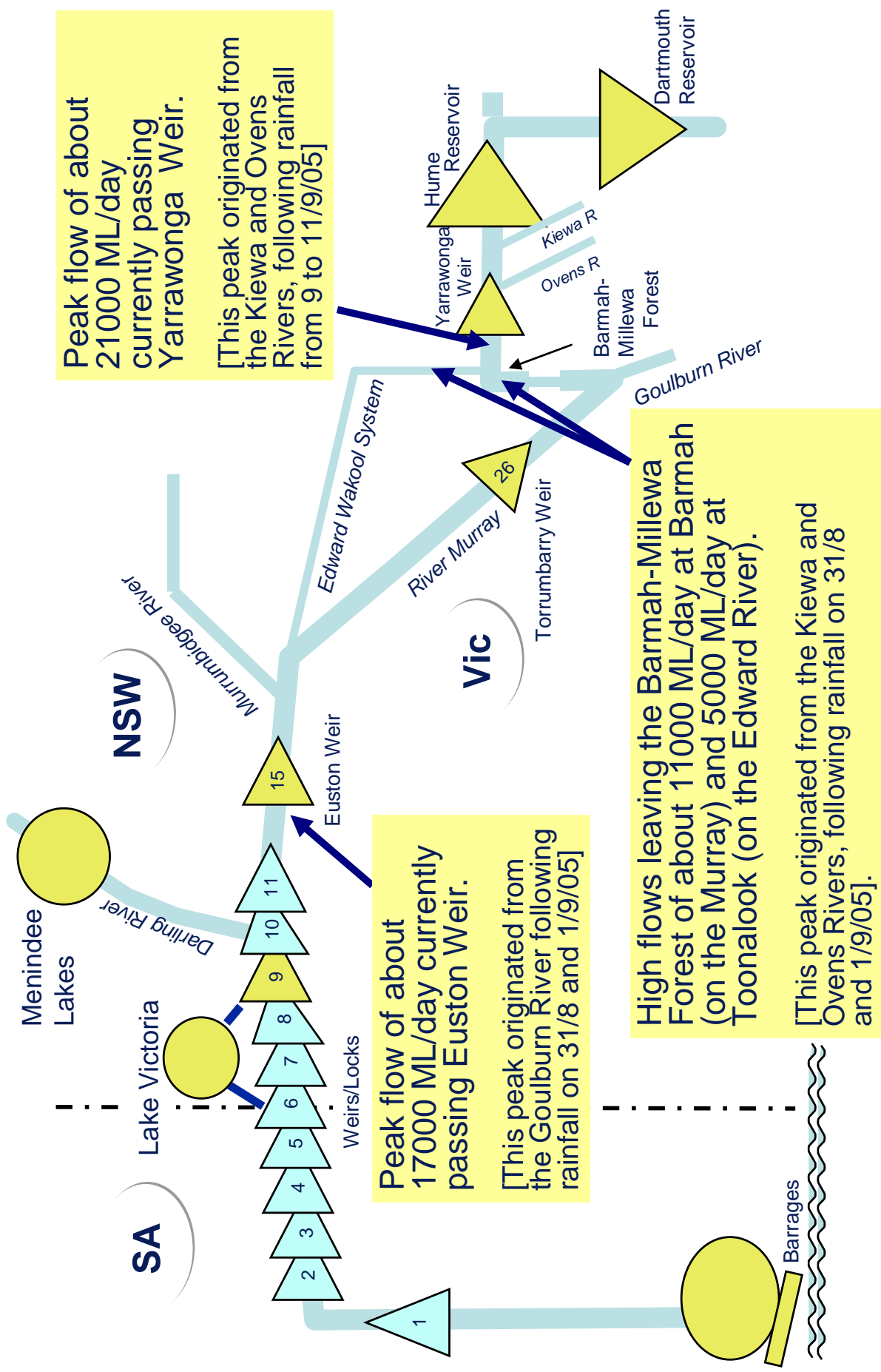
Following the additional rain over the weekend and increase in river flows, it is now expected that Lake Victoria will fill and spill over the coming month, and accordingly RMW has issued advice of 'flows surplus to regulated requirements'. In NSW, diversions from the Yarrawonga Weir pool into the Mulwala Canal increased from about 500 ML/day to about 4 000 ML/day to provide 'supplementary' water to NSW irrigators, whilst in Victoria, the surplus flow is being used for environmental watering at a number of sites along the river. In addition, RMW is working with The Living Murray initiative and State authorities to consider ways of delivering some of the 'surplus' flow to the environment, such as through the potential raising of the upper pool level at a number of locks along the Lower Murray.

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# Location of peak flows in the River Murray

(Situation at 15 September 2005)



Peak flow of about 21000 ML/day currently passing Yarrowonga Weir.  
 [This peak originated from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, following rainfall from 9 to 11/9/05]

Peak flow of about 17000 ML/day currently passing Euston Weir.  
 [This peak originated from the Goulburn River following rainfall on 31/8 and 1/9/05]

High flows leaving the Barmah-Millewa Forest of about 11000 ML/day at Barmah (on the Murray) and 5000 ML/day at Toonalook (on the Edward River).  
 [This peak originated from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, following rainfall on 31/8 and 1/9/05].

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Refilling of Euston Weir Pool



The Euston Weir pool will be refilled to the full supply level (47.60m AHD) over three to four days starting 14 September (today), to allow major works to continue at Weir and Lock 10 at Wentworth, River Murray Water (RMW) announced today.

“As a result of rainfall in the upper catchment during late August, there is currently an increased flow along the River Murray so that the anticipated peak flow at Wentworth would impact on works in progress at Lock 10 to modify the navigable pass and construct a new fishway,” Acting RMW General Manager Tony Morse said.

“The Euston Weir pool was drawn down to 30 cm below full supply level in mid August and the refilling of this weir pool over the coming days is aimed at slightly reducing the current higher flow before it reaches Wentworth so there is minimal disruption to the works being undertaken at that site” he said.

According to Mr Morse there was an expected reduction to the peak flow of the River Murray downstream of Euston Weir from about 18 000 ML/day down to 17 000 ML/day (? 8-10 cm reduction in river height).

He said information from the River Murray Wetland Database indicated this small reduction in flow would not result in significantly less watering of the floodplain between Euston and Wentworth due to the relatively confined nature of that river reach.

“However, RMW are aware of the drought stressed floodplains along the lower parts of the River Murray and are working closely with NSW, Victorian and South Australian Government agencies to ‘boost’ river levels as much as possible after this flow peak passes Wentworth Weir to assist in watering stressed River Red Gums and other floodplain vegetation.

This action may involve surcharging the weir pools downstream of Wentworth to push additional water onto the Lower Murray floodplain, including parts of Wallpolla Island, Lindsay Island and Chowilla floodplains, which combine to form one of the Living Murray significant ecological assets. RMW will provide more information on these potential actions as soon as possible.

Mr Morse advised river diverters, boat operators and other river users to take the changes in river levels into account when planning activities. This operation is subject to change at short notice if there are significant changes to tributary inflows as compared to current predictions.”

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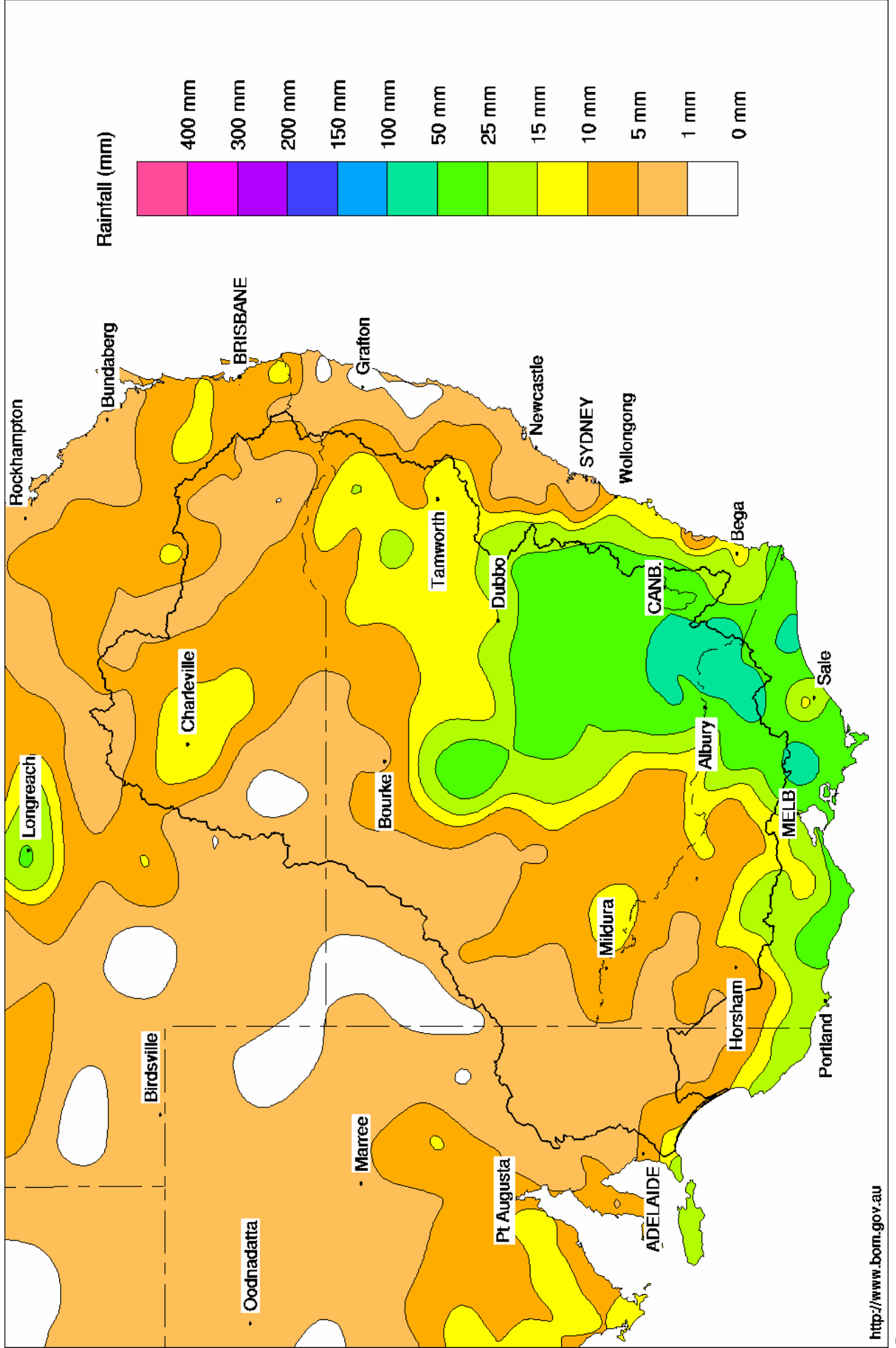
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*(Lawrie Kirk is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)*

*TRIM Ref: 05/15684*

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th September 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	455.34	2 187	56%	80	2 107	+104
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	186.80	2 095	69%	30	2 065	+220
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.38	602	89%	100	502	+49
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		481	28%	(- -) #	0	+0
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>5 366</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4 675</b>	<b>+373</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **55%**

# 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		533	52%	3	530	+51
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		811	50%	24	787	+42
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 415	42%	100	1 315	+49

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-Sep-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 103	+79	Snowy-Murray	+8	306
Snowy-Murray Component	963	+58	Tooma-Tumut	+13	129
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-5.6	177
			Murray 1 Release	+34	464

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.5	40.5
Wakool System loss	-1.1	9.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.8
Licensed Pumps	6.4	14.1
Lower Darling	0.4	9.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>74.6</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.0	7
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	18.0	70
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	4
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.1	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.8</b>	<b>107</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	48.8	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	83	
Flow last month	124	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	190	130	120
Euston	140	140	140
Red Cliffs	150	170	150
Merbein	130	140	110
Burtundy (Darling)	520	530	530
Lock 9	140	150	150
Lake Victoria	190	170	190
Berri	250	260	290
Waikerie	-	450	480
Morgan	410	410	450
Mannum	510	500	460
Murray Bridge	540	500	440
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 400	1 390	1 390
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 000	960	1 020
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 010	2 040	2 090
Goolwa Barrages	2 070	2 050	2 220



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	6 870	F	8 620	5 090
Jingellic	4.0	3.71	210.23	26 770	F	20 830	15 420
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.45	219.34	5 090	F	4 850	4 590
Heywoods	5.5	1.24	154.87	600	S	600	600
Doctors Point	5.5	2.37	150.84	7 230	F	6 560	7 180
Albury	4.3	1.38	148.82	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.16	128.18	9 090	R	6 320	6 720
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	3.13	118.17	21 500	R	18 360	21 570
Tocumwal	6.4	2.97	106.81	16 030	F	20 970	17 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.32	81.87	10 790	F	15 270	12 910
Swan Hill	4.5	2.39	65.31	13 680	F	14 610	10 190
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.92	54.04	18 020	R	16 030	13 610
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	2.85	44.69	16 700	R	14 660	13 350
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.35	16 660	F	15 970	14 350
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.37	28.13	11 990	S	11 860	10 700
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	6 690	S	6 440	4 350
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	7 060	S	6 810	4 270
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.60	155.83	8 500	F	8 120	7 690
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	11.71	149.39	22 216	F	16 520	23 160
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.51	93.93	2 747	R	3 400	9 110
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 080	F	2 830	2 860
Edward at Liewah	-	3.32	58.70	3 210	S	3 220	3 090
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.61	55.10	818	S	820	850
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	249	S	250	300
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	70	F	50	110
Darling at Bourke	-	4.08	-	294	F	350	500
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	61	S	60	40

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	45 390	37 260
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.10	+1.24
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.21
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.25	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.29
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.55	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.10	+0.92
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.10	+0.73	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.32
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	+0.09	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.25
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.32	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+0.12

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.12	1.15	70.5	1090
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.16	0.2	61.5	314

**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.85

**Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.80	4
Mundoo	26 openings	0.86	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	2
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	11
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.83	5

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

