

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 1 February 2006



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2 February, 2006

Rainfall and Temperature

During the past week, a jetstream has drawn moisture south-east from the tropics bringing light showers to the southern parts of the Murray-Darling Basin (*see attached map*). This pattern is expected to continue, with further light falls possible until Saturday. Despite the light rain, temperatures have remained high across most of the Basin.

River Murray Operation

Following the light rain over the weekend, there has been a minor reduction in irrigation demand. Accordingly, the release from Hume Reservoir was adjusted to target a flow at Doctors Point (near Albury) of 21 000 ML/day, which is about 2 000 ML/day less than the flow experienced a week ago. The release from Hume has averaged 21 000 ML/day since Christmas, and has reduced the volume of water held in the storage by about 0.5% per day.

The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been kept steady at 10 200 ML/day in recent weeks. Additional regulators within the Barmah-Millewa Forest were closed during the week as the forest watering event draws towards a close. About 510 GL has been released from the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Account since early October last year. The event is expected to finish in early March when the waterbirds complete their breeding cycle.

Flows along the mid and lower Murray have continued to gradually improve after the low flow period earlier this month. The flows at Euston, Mildura and Wentworth are now about 5 800 ML/day, 4 000 ML/day and 3 400 ML/day respectively. The improved flows, combined with the forecast for further improvements, have allowed RMW to reduce its call on additional water from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade accounts. Inflows from the Goulburn River have steadily reduced from 2 200 ML/day in mid January, to 1 700 ML/day, and are expected to gradually reduce towards 1 300 ML/day over the coming weeks. Inflows from the Murrumbidgee River increased to about 600 ML/day on 22 January as part of the call on the inter-valley trade account. Although the call on that account has ended, surplus flows in the Murrumbidgee have temporarily increased the inflow to the River Murray to 1 500 ML/day.

Summary for January 2006

The New Year in the Murray-Darling Basin has commenced with a month of above average temperatures and about average rainfall (*see attached map*). Inflows to the River Murray System for January (excluding the Darling) were also close to average. During January, the total MDBC active storage volume fell by about 730 GL to 4 670 GL (63% of active storage capacity*). This significant draw on the storage volume was mostly driven by releases from Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria to meet consumptive demands, river losses and to provide environmental flows. At the end of January, the volume in storage was about 1 500 GL greater than at the same time last year, and about 820 GL below the long-term average for that time of year.

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

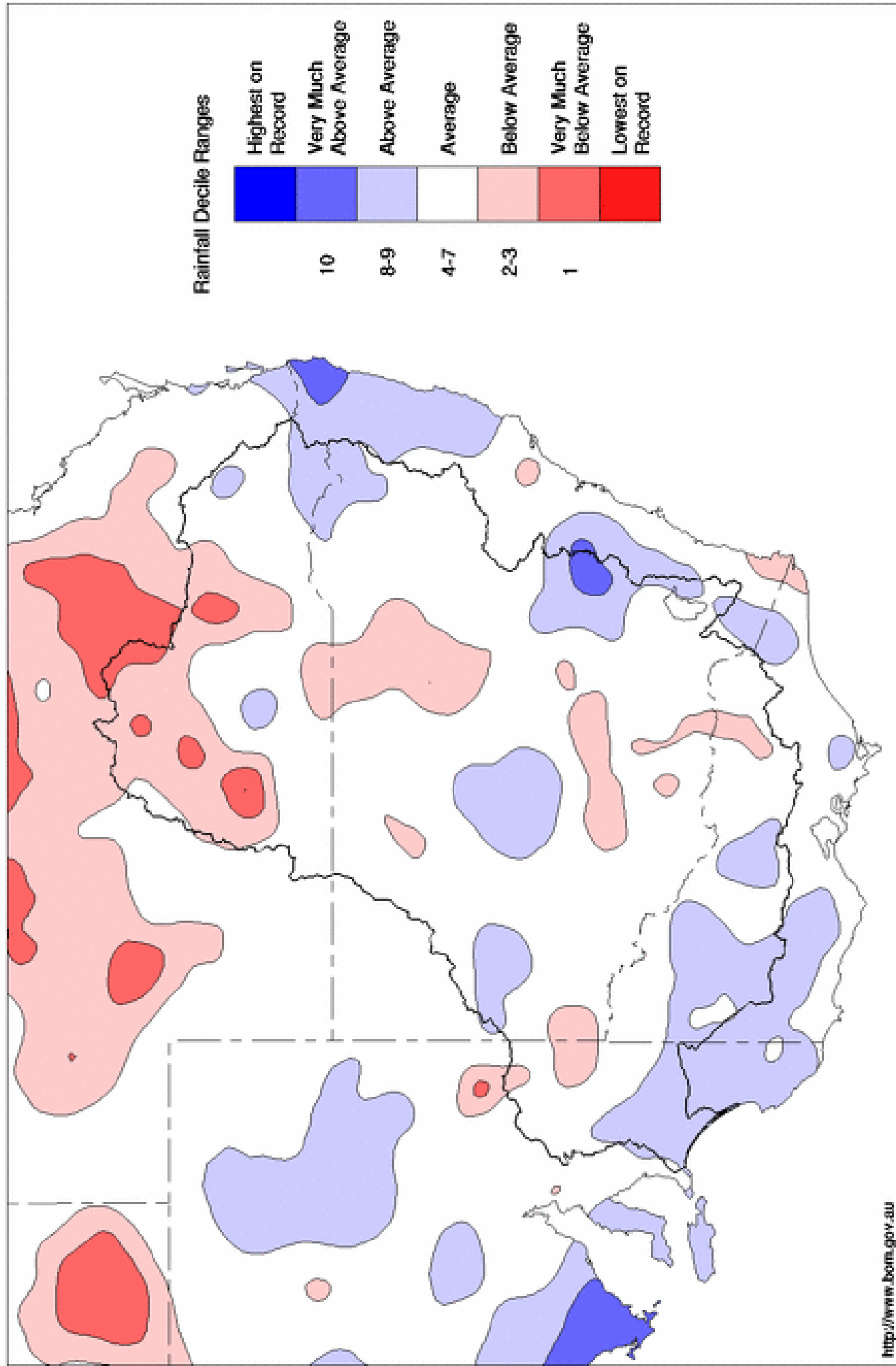
*Please note that in the 11 January 2006 edition of the Weekly Report, the end of December 2005 storage level should have been reported as 73% of active storage level, not 63%.

River Murray Water

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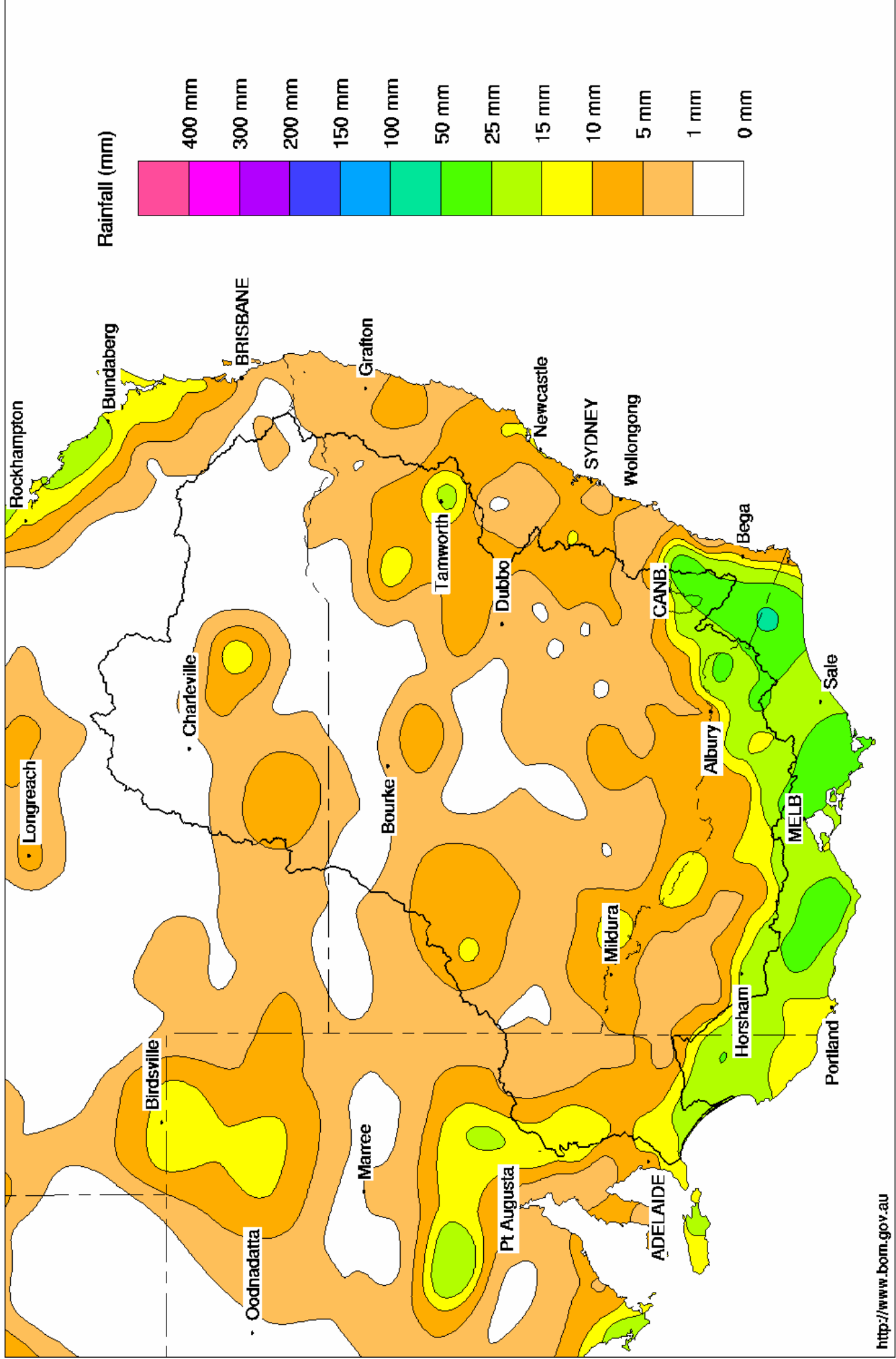
Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles January 2006

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st February 2006

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	462.49	2 536	65%	80	2 456	+0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	185.41	1 880	62%	30	1 850	-109
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.92	440	65%	100	340	-49
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		343	20%	(- -) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		5 199	56%	--	4 646	-163

* 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		433	42%	3	430	-31
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		891	55%	24	867	-31
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 304	38%	100	1 204	-52

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 31-Jan-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 982	-59	Snowy-Murray	+34	657
Snowy-Murray Component	987	-32	Tooma-Tumut	+0	247
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	33.6	410
			Murray 1 Release	+32	960

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	41.6	756.6
Wakool System loss	2.0	14.5
Western Murray Irrig.	1.4	18.8
Licensed Pumps	12.5	192.0
Lower Darling	3.5	45.6
TOTAL	61.0	1 027.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	15.9	225
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.5	413
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	7.1	97
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	25
Licensed pumps - SRW	8.6	161
TOTAL	57.8	921

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	
Flow this week	51.8	(7 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	7	
Flow last month	220	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	70	80	110
Euston	110	110	120
Red Cliffs	160	170	140
Merbein	190	190	130
Burtundy (Darling)	660	640	560
Lock 9	160	160	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	230	220	220
Waikerie	310	290	340
Morgan	320	320	320
Mannum	300	300	360
Murray Bridge	330	340	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 130	1 150	1 290
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 060	1 100	950
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 220	2 210	2 110
Goolwa Barrages	1 850	1 940	1 800



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	-	-	-	6 610	R	4 930	3 550
Jingellic	4.0	1.98	208.50	6 990	R	5 330	4 020
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.35	218.24	560	F	600	1 530
Heywoods	5.5	3.45	157.08	20 600	R	20 730	20 330
Doctors Point	5.5	3.56	152.03	21 300	R	22 190	22 160
Albury	4.3	2.63	150.07	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.77	129.79	22 600	F	23 340	22 370
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 200	S	10 200	10 200
Tocumwal	6.4	2.34	106.18	11 020	S	10 950	10 990
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.00	80.55	5 750	R	5 630	5 600
Swan Hill	4.5	1.12	64.04	5 130	R	5 110	5 020
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.61	51.73	6 340	R	6 290	5 950
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.24	43.08	5 790	S	5 660	4 970
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.87	4 000	F	3 410	2 560
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.88	27.64	3 440	R	2 920	1 750
Rufus Junction	-	3.55	20.48	6 750	F	7 040	6 730
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 590	F	4 000	3 640
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.77	154.00	300	F	490	910
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.84	145.52	514	F	490	470
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.97	93.39	1 761	F	1 800	2 090
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 910	F	2 580	1 960
Edward at Liewah	-	2.27	57.65	1 640	R	1 570	1 470
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.38	54.87	315	R	300	270
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.03	57.99	1 430	R	800	570
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.59	-	1 050	F	1 070	330
Darling at Bourke	-	4.01	-	85	S	100	220
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	R	50	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 300	3 030
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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	+0.07	+1.23
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.06	+0.21
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.30
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.09	+0.73
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.24	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.22
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.06	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.11	+0.15

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.13	1.07	70.42	935
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	1.47	62.77	1860

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.76

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.78	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.72	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.70	1

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