

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 30 April 2003

Our Ref : MDBC:269 :bwh

1 May, 2003



Rainfall

Widespread rain of at least 25 mm was recorded throughout much of the Darling River system catchment, with some areas receiving up to 50 mm. The central Victorian part of the Murray-Darling Basin, together with parts of the Murrumbidgee catchment, recorded falls of 10 to 25 mm.

System Storages

Inflows to Dartmouth Reservoir remain very low and have averaged about 500 ML/day over the week. With release from Dartmouth being held at 600 ML/day, storage has remained near steady at 29% of capacity. Commencing Monday 5 May, Dartmouth Reservoir release will be reduced from 600 to 400 ML/day.

With continuing dry conditions in the catchment of Hume Reservoir, unregulated inflows averaged only 300 ML/day whilst inflow from the Snowy Mountains Scheme via Murray 1 power station averaged 5 700 ML/day during the week. Release from Hume has been reduced from 6 500 to 4 300 ML/day in response to declining irrigation demand, and further reductions will be made early next week. As a result, storage in Hume has increased by 3 GL to 216 GL or 7.1% of capacity.

Storage in Lake Victoria is continuing to be drawn down to assist in meeting flow requirements for South Australia. At the end of April, net release from Lake Victoria was contributing about one half of South Australia's entitlement, with the remainder being supplied by the River Murray upstream of Lake Victoria. Behaviour of Commission storages for 2002/03 and some previous years is shown in the attached diagram.

Mid Murray Operation

Total diversion from Lake Mulwala averaged 3 100 ML/day and will reduce significantly next week after diversion to Mulwala Canal ceases on 1 May. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been further reduced from 4 200 to 3 500 ML/day in response to reduced irrigation demand, and further minor reductions in release are expected to be made next week. Diversion to the Torrumbarry Irrigation System via National Channel has remained steady at 1 300 ML/day over the week, and is expected to cease on 15 May.

River users are reminded that Mildura Weir pool is scheduled to be drawn down for weir maintenance purposes commencing mid May (see *Media Release attached*).

Darling River System

As a result of rain in parts of the Darling River system catchment over recent weeks, total inflow to Menindee Lakes arising from these events is forecast to be about 70 GL by end of June. Flow in the Darling River at Bourke is currently peaking at about 1 700 ML/day. Further downstream at Wilcannia, flow has fallen from 900 to 800 ML/day, but is forecast to begin to rise next week. Current salinity in Lake Wetherell is about 2 000 EC.

DAVID DOLE
General Manager

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 30 April 2003

Mildura Weir Removal & Lock Overhaul



River Murray Water and Goulburn-Murray Water confirmed today that significant maintenance and replacement works are planned for Mildura Weir commencing mid-May 2003. The works will result in the Weir being temporarily removed from the River Murray and a subsequent extended closure of the Lock.

The Weir is to be temporarily removed to allow some existing weir trestles to be removed for overhaul, and to be replaced by other trestles, whilst works in the Lock will see the gates and valves refurbished/replaced. It is necessary to complete the trestle maintenance after the end of the current irrigation season, and before the commencement of the next season. The Lock overhaul has been planned to limit the impact on boating activity.

The proposed schedule for works is as follows:

Proposed Date	Action
15 May 2003	Commence removal of weir bars and trestles, and commence gradual lowering of weir pool
31 May 2003	Expected date of commencement of refilling of weir pool
5 June 2003 to 10 June 2003	Expected date of completion of refilling of weir pool to near full supply level. This date will be dependent on available river flows.
10 June 2003 to 31 August 2003	Expected period for Lock overhaul

The above schedule will be adhered to as far as possible; however, some minor variations in timing may be required in response to river conditions and other circumstances that may arise at the time. The schedule remains unchanged from that notified in February 2003.

Withdrawal of the weir will lead to a lowering of the weir pool level by about 3.6 m below the normal full supply level. A lowering of the weir pool is not required for the Lock overhaul. Temporary increases in river salinity may occur due to saline input from the adjacent water table, especially if river flows are low at the time.

Limited availability of Lock passage will be provided as far as is possible within the constraints of work requirements during the withdrawal of the weir, and given the low water levels as the weir is removed. It is advised that Lock passage will be unavailable in the period 20 May to 3 June inclusive and 10 June to 30 August inclusive.

Boat operators are advised that navigation upstream of the weir will be more difficult than usual as a result of the lower water levels when the weir is removed.

Any inconvenience to river pumpers and river navigation is regretted, however, the purpose of the weir withdrawal is to ensure the long-term serviceability of the works.

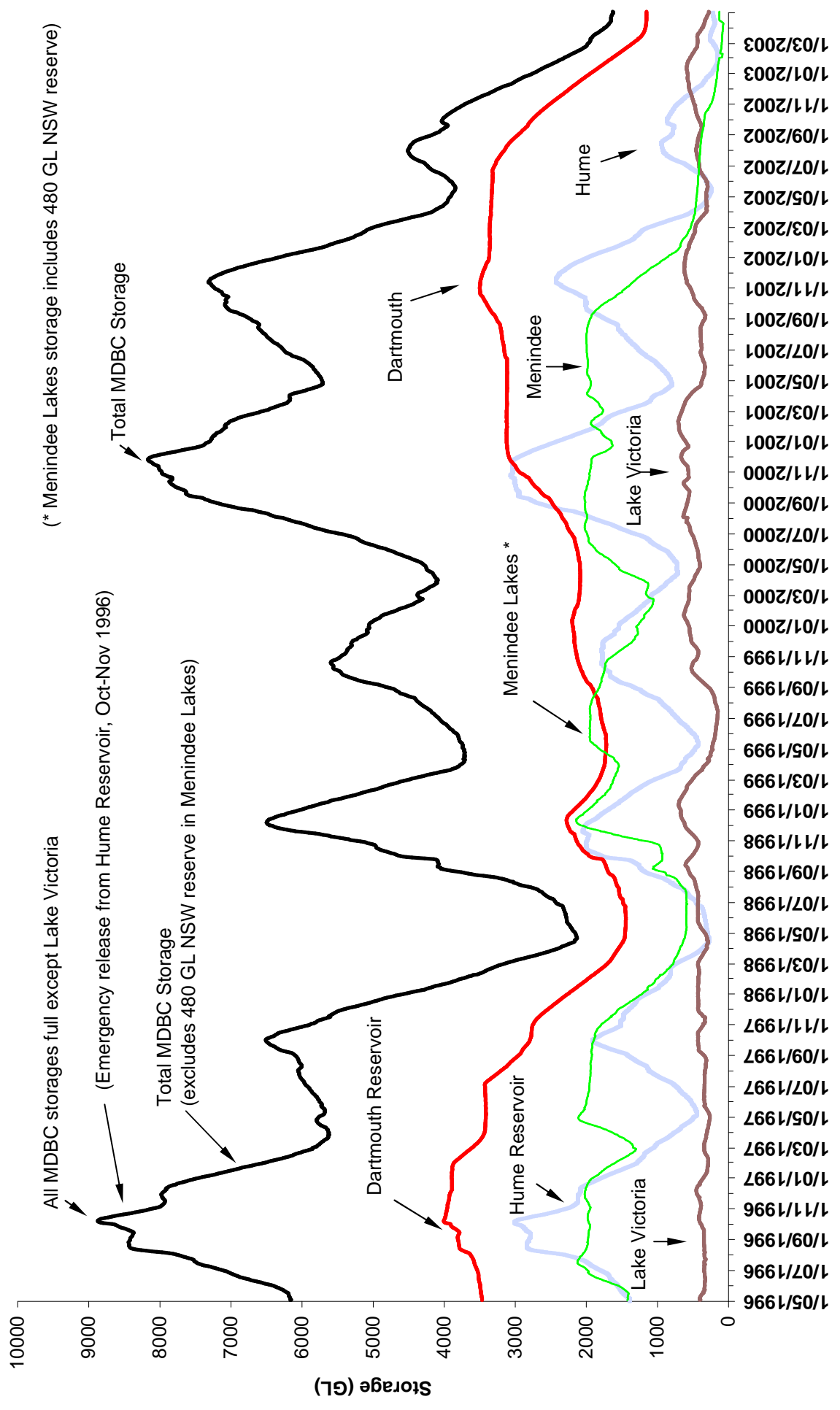
For further information contact:

Lawrie Kirk
Manager Communication
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E-mail: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au

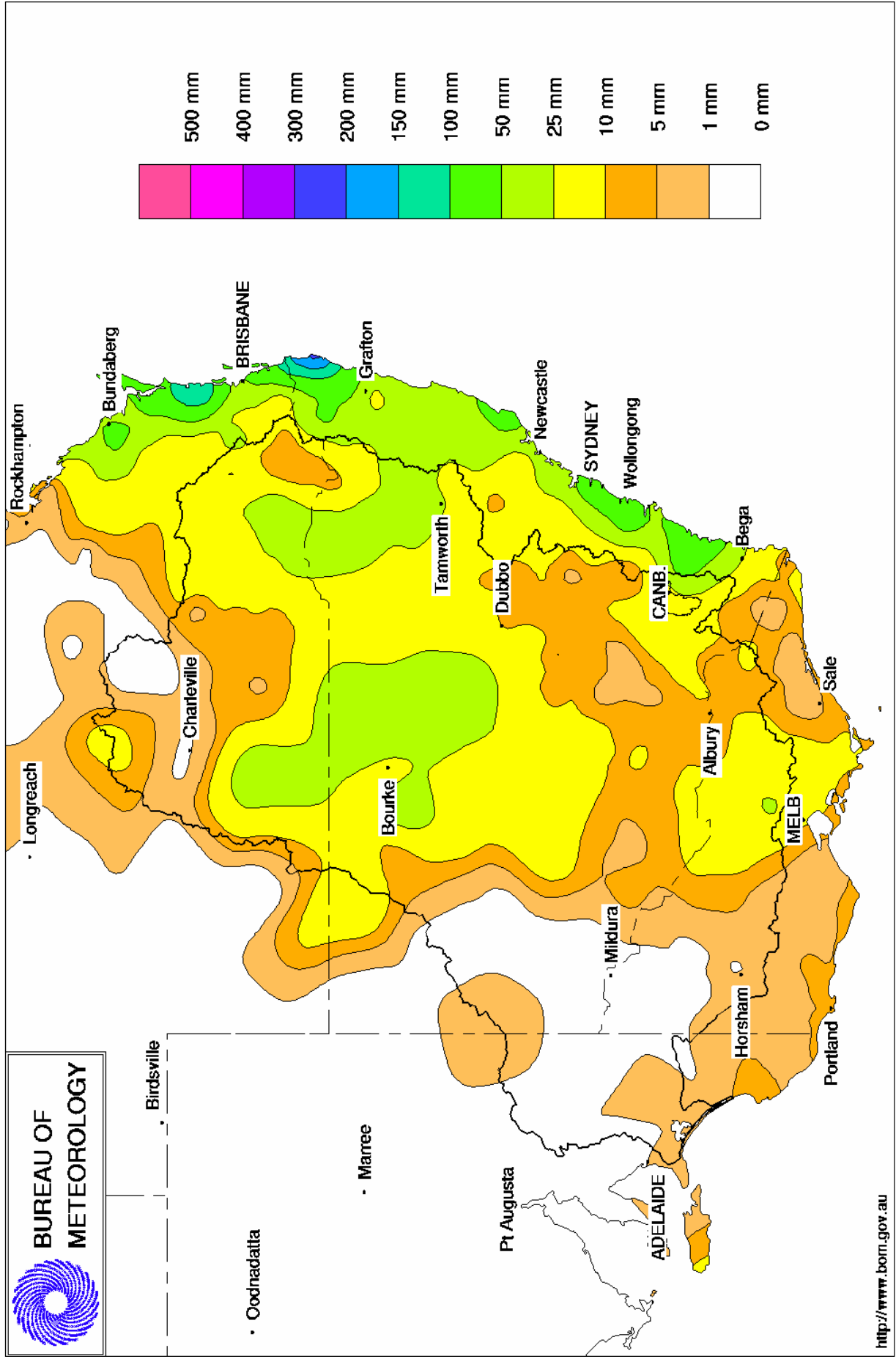
Roly Miller
Senior Reservoir Officer – Mildura
Weir
Ph: 03 5023 1396

Note: These contacts are *not* to be quoted as spokesperson

MDBC Storages : 1 May 1996 to 30 April 2003



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 30th April 2003
 Product of the National Climate Centre



Week ending Wednesday 30 Apr 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	427.98	1 132	29%	80	1 052	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	168.88	216	7%	30	186	+3
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	22.90	253	37%	100	153	-25
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		110	7%	640 #	0	+3
Total		9 306		1 712	18%	850	1 392	-20

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **16%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	49	5%	3	46	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	61	4%	24	37	+1
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	290	9%	100	190	-8

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 29-Apr-2003

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 165	-30	Snowy-Murray	+38	948
Snowy-Murray Component	934	-	Tooma-Tumut	+0	205
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	37.6	744
			Murray 1 Release	+41	1 169

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2002
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	16.3	528.6
Wakool System loss	1.6	53.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	28.5
Licensed Pumps	2.2	195.7
Lower Darling	0.7	121.0
TOTAL	21.2	927.4

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2002
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	6.7	470
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.2	788
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.9	153
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	70
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.4	181
TOTAL	18.5	1 661

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	31.3	
Flow so far this month	135	
Flow last month	186	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2002
Swan Hill	110	80	80
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	160	170	150
Burtundy (Darling)	1 420	1 430	1 160
Lock 9	180	170	170
Lake Victoria	270	250	290
Berri	300	300	320
Waikerie	370	360	400
Morgan	360	360	480
Mannum	400	400	560
Murray Bridge	450	440	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 200	1 180	1 160
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 060	1 300	1 170
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 630	1 710	1 630
Goolwa Barrages	3 540	3 630	3 270



Week ending Wednesday 30 Apr 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	-	-	-	6 130	F	5 620	5 980
Jingellic	4.0	1.93	208.45	6 800	R	6 240	7 440
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.41	218.30	760	S	730	760
Heywoods	5.5	1.84	155.47	4 170	F	6 080	4 160
Doctors Point	5.5	2.06	150.53	4 290	F	6 120	4 810
Albury	4.3	1.09	148.53	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.69	127.71	6 660	F	6 800	5 410
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.71	115.75	3 480	S	3 800	4 400
Tocumwal	6.4	1.20	105.04	3 690	F	3 860	4 360
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.19	79.74	2 870	F	2 830	3 440
Swan Hill	4.5	0.81	63.73	3 120	R	3 000	3 330
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.93	51.05	3 570	R	3 580	3 500
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.81	42.65	3 430	S	3 780	3 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.88	3 610	F	3 290	2 920
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.97	27.73	2 740	R	2 520	2 080
Rufus Junction	-	3.04	19.97	4 150	F	4 100	4 130
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 040	S	3 060	3 270
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.75	153.98	330	R	170	350
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.67	145.35	232	R	220	410
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.23	92.65	490	R	450	790
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	140	F	150	190
Edward at Liewah	-	1.08	56.46	560	S	470	270
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.44	54.93	357	S	360	360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.55	56.51	227	S	200	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.53	-	870	F	880	550
Darling at Bourke	-	4.30	-	1 670	R	1 300	870
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.71	-	130	S	110	90

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	910	1 010
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.22	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.69
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	-0.01
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.09
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.33	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.14
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.37

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.93	0.6	69.95	296
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.32	0.18	61.48	296

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.42	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.41	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.35	All closed

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

