

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 19 November 2003

Our Ref: RMW305/01/01/prs

29 April, 2004



Weather

Dry and mild to warm weather prevailed along the Murray this week resulting in minor rises in irrigation demands and the continued recession of tributary inflows. The latest three month outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology is headlined “*Neutral odds for summer rainfall*” and shows no tendency towards wet or dry conditions.

MDBC Storage

Dartmouth inflows continue to recede with storage rising only by 10 GL to 45% of capacity. The rise in volume was limited by increased release from Dartmouth Reservoir for electricity generation (*see media release attached*) which rose to 2 200 ML/d on 17 November. Flow had returned to the minimum rate at Colemans (200 ML/day) by 20 November. Storage in Hume Reservoir fell by 60 GL to 70% of capacity. The total volume in MDBC storage peaked at about 4 680 GL on 3 November and has since fallen to about 4 550 GL (*see attached graph*). In comparison, the peak volume last year was about 200 GL higher at 4 870 GL occurring much earlier in the season on 28 July 2002. However, by this time last year the volume in store had fallen to 3 530 GL which is 1 000 GL below the current level.

System Update

Irrigation diversions increased slightly during the week and are expected to gradually rise as conditions warm. However, possible thunderstorm activity in coming days may reduce demands and lead to a temporary reduction in release from Hume Dam next week.

To meet downstream flow requirements, which includes the transfer of water from Hume Reservoir to Lake Victoria, release from Stevens Weir on the Edward River has been increased from about 700 to 1000 ML/day. The release rate will be further increased next week to about 2 500 ML/day. In addition, an order of 80 ML/day was made during the week at Rices Weir on Broken Creek as a further means of passing water around the Barmah Choke. This will also provide localised environmental benefits by maintaining flow through the fishway and sustain the flows needed to prevent accumulation of the floating aquatic fern, azolla.

Improved water availability

Recent improvements in River Murray water availability have allowed increased allocations in New South Wales from 41% to 50% of General Security and in South Australia from 85% to 95%. Victorian Murray allocations remain at 100% of Water Right.

Salinity

River salinities remain low along the mid and upper Murray with readings at Euston averaging about 120 EC since August. Salinities in South Australia are generally rising after the temporary reductions brought about by the higher flows in September and October. Readings at Morgan have risen since early October from about 240 EC to the current level of 400 EC. Salinity in the lower Darling River remains elevated and has increased from 1600 to 2000 EC since August.

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MEDIA RELEASE



Sunday, 16 November 2003



Increase in Release from Dartmouth Reservoir for Electricity Generation

Southern Hydro and River Murray Water announced today that release from Dartmouth Reservoir is being increased specifically for electricity generation purposes as a result of increased electricity demand.

Commencing at about 10 a.m. today, Southern Hydro started to gradually increase flows at Colemans above the earlier rate of 200 ML/day (0.9 m gauge height). Flows will continue to be gradually increased to about 2 200 ML/day (1.75 m gauge height) by late this afternoon.

Further downstream in the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Tallandoon is currently 900 ML/day (1.5 m gauge height) and is expected to increase to about 2 800 ML/day (2.0 m gauge height) by tomorrow morning. If, however, there is significant rainfall in the Mitta Mitta Valley between Dartmouth Dam and Tallandoon, this flow will rise further.

It is currently anticipated that the release will be gradually reduced commencing late this afternoon, and reach minimum flow rate of 200 ML/day at Colemans by about late Wednesday 19 November. However, the actual release program is dependent on electricity demand.

A further media release will be issued if there is a significant change to the release program.

For further information contact:

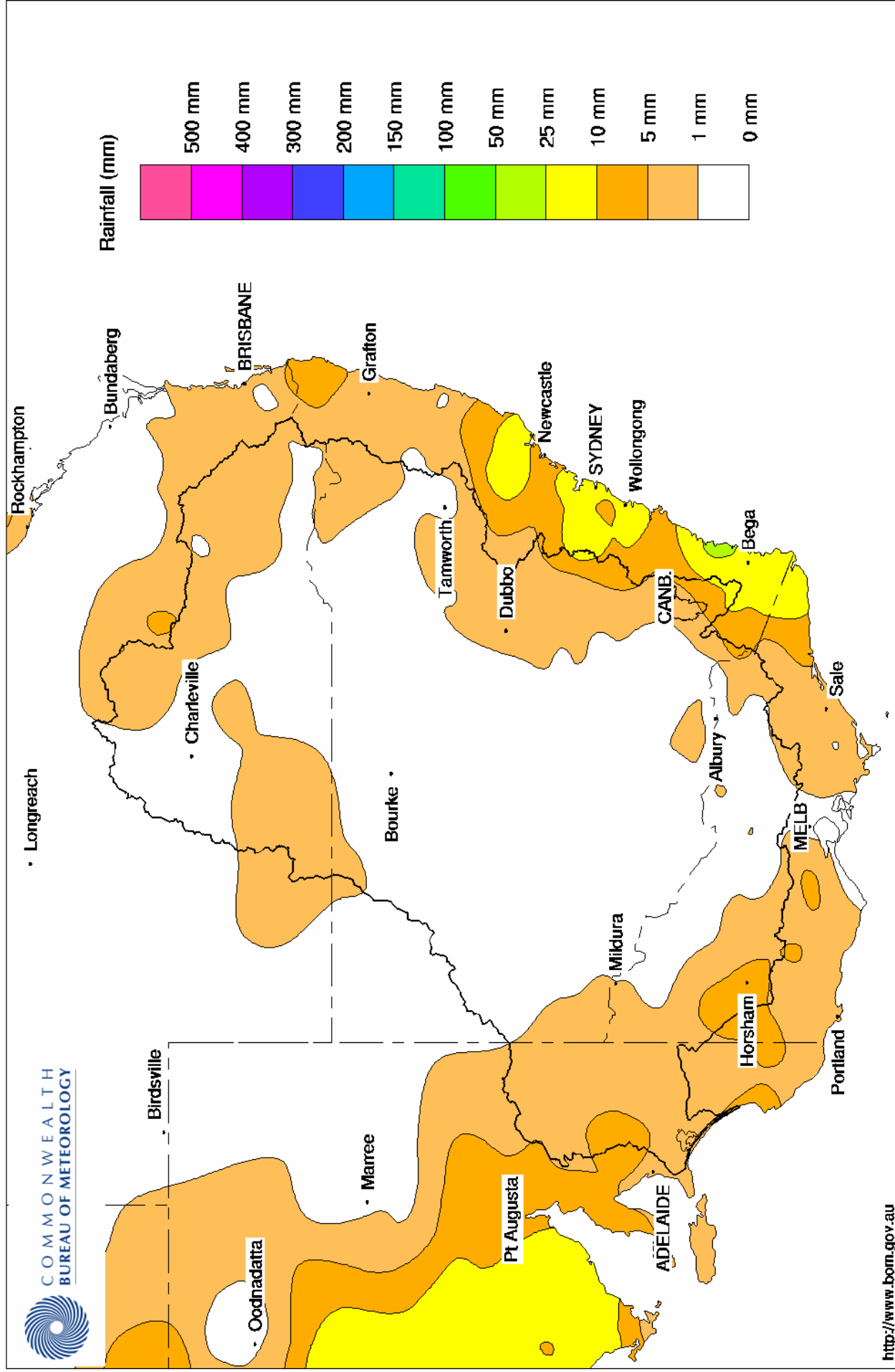
Lawrie Kirk
Manager Communication
Phone: (02) 6279 0100
Email: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au
(Lawrie Kirk is *not* to be quoted as a spokesperson)

or

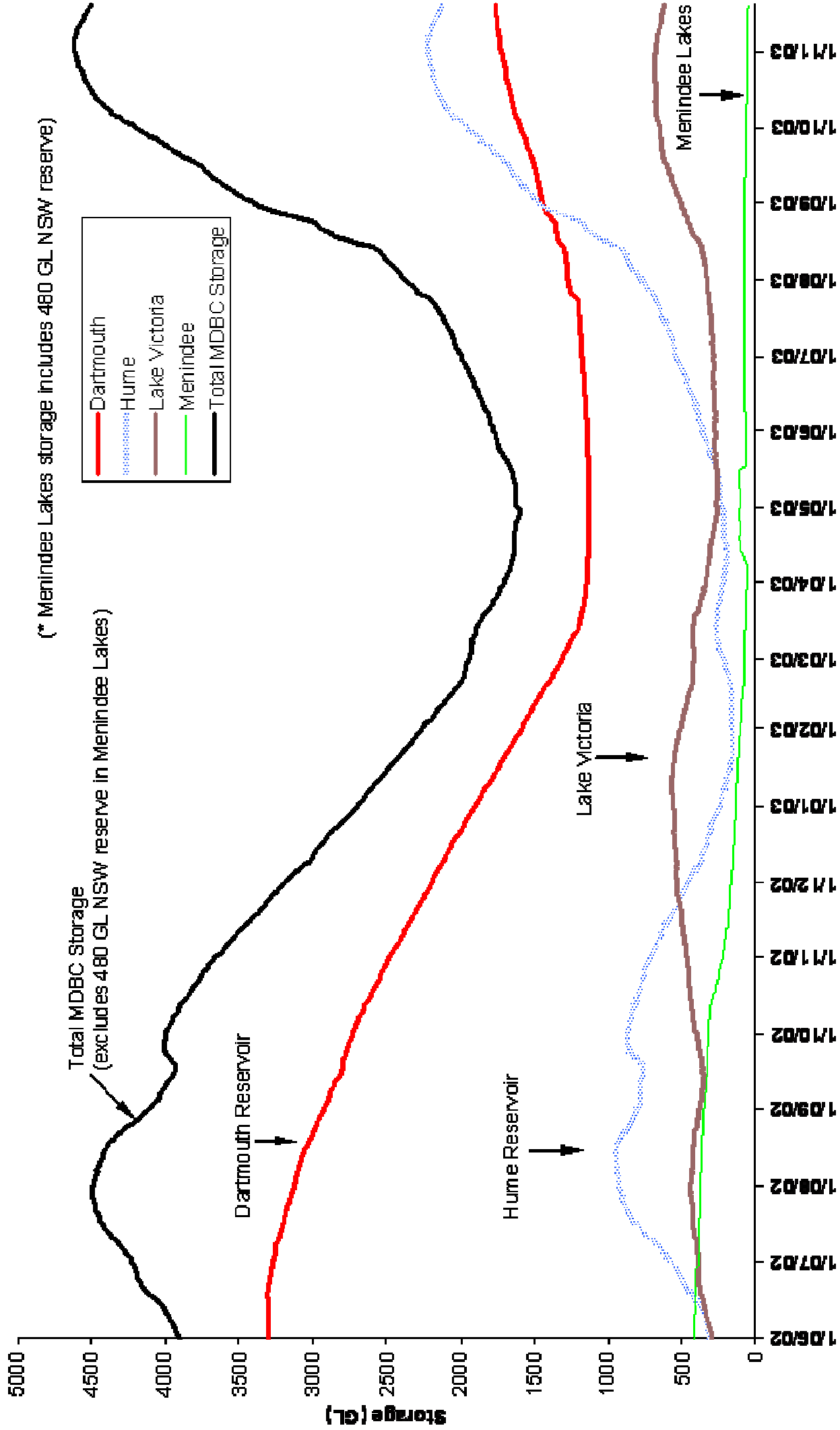
Peter Billsdon
Production Manager
Southern Hydro
Phone (03) 5754 3220

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 19th November 2003

Product of the National Climate Centre



MDBC Storages : 1 June 2002 to 19 November 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	445.64	1 763	45%	80	1 683	+10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	187.00	2 126	70%	30	2 096	-58
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	26.40	613	90%	100	513	-24
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		49	3%	640 #	0	-1
Total		9 227		4 552	49%	850	4 293	-73

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 51%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	444	43%	3	441	+1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	927	57%	24	903	+2
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 448	43%	100	1 348	+2

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18-Nov-2003

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 797	-15	Snowy-Murray	+4	519
Snowy-Murray Component	992	-	Tooma-Tumut	+6	197
Target Storage	1 450		Nett Diversion	-1.7	322
			Murray 1 Release	+10	779

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	28.0	243.3
Wakool System loss	1.3	8.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	6.1
Licensed Pumps	6.1	62.3
Lower Darling	0.4	2.6
TOTAL	36.7	323.0

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	14.6	85
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	21.2	190
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.7	35
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	6
Licensed pumps - SRW	6.2	68
TOTAL	49.8	383

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	180	
Flow this week	41.5	(5 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	114	
Flow last month	208	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	170	120	120
Euston	120	120	130
Red Cliffs	170	160	130
Merbein	200	180	130
Burtundy (Darling)	2 020	1 980	1 720
Lock 9	170	170	170
Lake Victoria	220	220	230
Berri	260	250	280
Waikerie	350	360	430
Morgan	410	410	440
Mannum	330	320	470
Murray Bridge	370	370	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 360	1 160	1 030
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 140	1 090	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 650	1 530	1 480
Goolwa Barrages	1 500	1 390	2 440



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	-	-	-	2 770	F	2 900	2 440
Jingellic	4.0	1.72	208.24	5 040	F	5 220	5 370
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.70	218.59	1 600	F	1 510	960
Heywoods	5.5	2.88	156.51	14 660	R	13 980	10 570
Doctors Point	5.5	3.11	151.58	15 200	S	14 640	11 790
Albury	4.3	2.09	149.53	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.98	129.00	15 300	R	15 030	12 500
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.85	116.89	10 700	S	10 700	10 110
Tocumwal	6.4	2.37	106.21	11 280	S	11 160	10 630
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.61	80.16	4 380	R	4 180	4 680
Swan Hill	4.5	0.89	63.81	3 690	R	3 700	4 830
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.15	51.27	4 630	F	4 980	5 960
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.95	42.79	4 110	R	4 710	5 150
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.90	3 430	F	3 770	3 380
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.83	27.59	2 960	S	2 930	2 640
Rufus Junction	-	3.36	20.29	5 910	R	5 590	5 670
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 030	R	4 050	4 160
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.40	154.63	1 220	F	1 400	2 000
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.44	146.12	1 941	R	2 080	2 930
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.17	92.59	399	F	390	400
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 510	F	900	770
Edward at Liewah	-	1.42	56.80	796	F	910	940
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.43	54.92	359	R	360	380
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.52	56.48	210	F	210	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.31	-	250	R	170	190
Darling at Bourke	-	4.05	-	213	F	270	570
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.65	-	18	R	20	20

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 310	10 330
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+1.04
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.55
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.07	+0.19	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.13
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.01	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.08	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	+0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.51	0.66	70.01	355
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.19	0.11	61.41	236

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.90	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.88	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.87	All closed

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

