

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 14 July 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/jm:ng:bwh  
Trim Ref : 04/8752DO

16 July, 2004



## ***Rainfall***

Upper Murray and tributary catchments recorded further light rainfall, in the range 5 to 25 mm this week, whilst falls of up to 10 mm were recorded across northern NSW.

The latest seasonal rainfall outlook, prepared by the Bureau of Meteorology for the three month period August to October 2004, indicates a neutral outlook for the River Murray system with about an equal chance of above or below median rainfall, with neither wet nor dry conditions favoured (*see map attached*).

## ***System Operation***

In response to the local rain, inflows to Dartmouth Reservoir peaked at 2 500 ML/day, producing an increase in storage of 11 GL. Release from Dartmouth is currently at close to the minimum rate, however, this is to be increased to between 500 and 1500 ML/day next week, to commence a program of transfer of water resources to Hume Reservoir (*see attached media release*).

Inflow to Hume Reservoir peaked at about 7 000 ML/day during the week, however, with release averaging about 6 000 ML/day as part of the ongoing transfer of water to Lake Victoria, storage volume in Hume remained near steady at 11% of capacity.

Flow in the mid-Murray is gradually increasing as the previous increase in transfer to Lake Victoria takes effect, with 9 500 ML/day passing Euston Weir and 8 500 ML/day passing Wentworth Weir at the end of this week. Flows at these locations are forecast to continue to gradually increase, an peak at about 10 000 ML/day in late July without further significant rain.

Storage volume in Lake Victoria has continued to rise steadily from 41% to 45% of capacity over the week, and is now slightly higher than at the same time last year.

River flows across the upper Darling River catchment continue to recede with flow reaching Bourke averaging only 170 ML/day this week. Sustained heavy rainfall is required across the Darling tributary catchments before there is any chance of further significant inflows to Menindee Lakes.

## ***Irrigation Allocations***

Current irrigation water allocations recently announced by the relevant State agencies for the commencement 2004/05 irrigation season are as follows:

| Region           | Date Effective | Announced Allocation                        |
|------------------|----------------|---|
| NSW Murray       | 15 July 2004   | 0% General Security<br>97% High Security    |
| Victorian Murray | 15 July 2004   | 51% Water Right/Licensed Volume<br>0% Sales |
| SA Murray        | 1 July 2004    | 70% of individual licensed entitlement      |

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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Friday, 16 July 2004

## Start of Transfer of Water from Dartmouth to Hume



River Murray Water (RMW) announced today that the transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir is scheduled to commence by early next week at low rates.

This release is required to supplement storage in Hume as part of the ongoing transfer of water to Lake Victoria.

Release is currently at close to minimum rates and is expected to be increased to between 500 and 1500 ML/day early next week subject to construction work currently underway downstream of Dartmouth Dam.

RMW's General Manager David Dreverman said that "It is expected there will be a need to further increase the rate of transfer in August to ensure we can meet the combined requirements of South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria this season".

Unless there is a significant change in inflow conditions, it is expected that release will be increased early in August to target an average flow of about 5 000 ML/day (or 2.4 m gauge height) at Tallandoon. However, variations can be expected as a result of inflows from tributaries downstream of Dartmouth.

The rate of transfer will be kept under review in the light of conditions across the River Murray System, and storage in Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria. Should inflows improve significantly over the coming months, the volume required to be transferred would reduce.

RMW will provide regular updates throughout the season on the program of release from Dartmouth Reservoir.

For further information contact:

**Lawrie Kirk**

*Manager Communication*

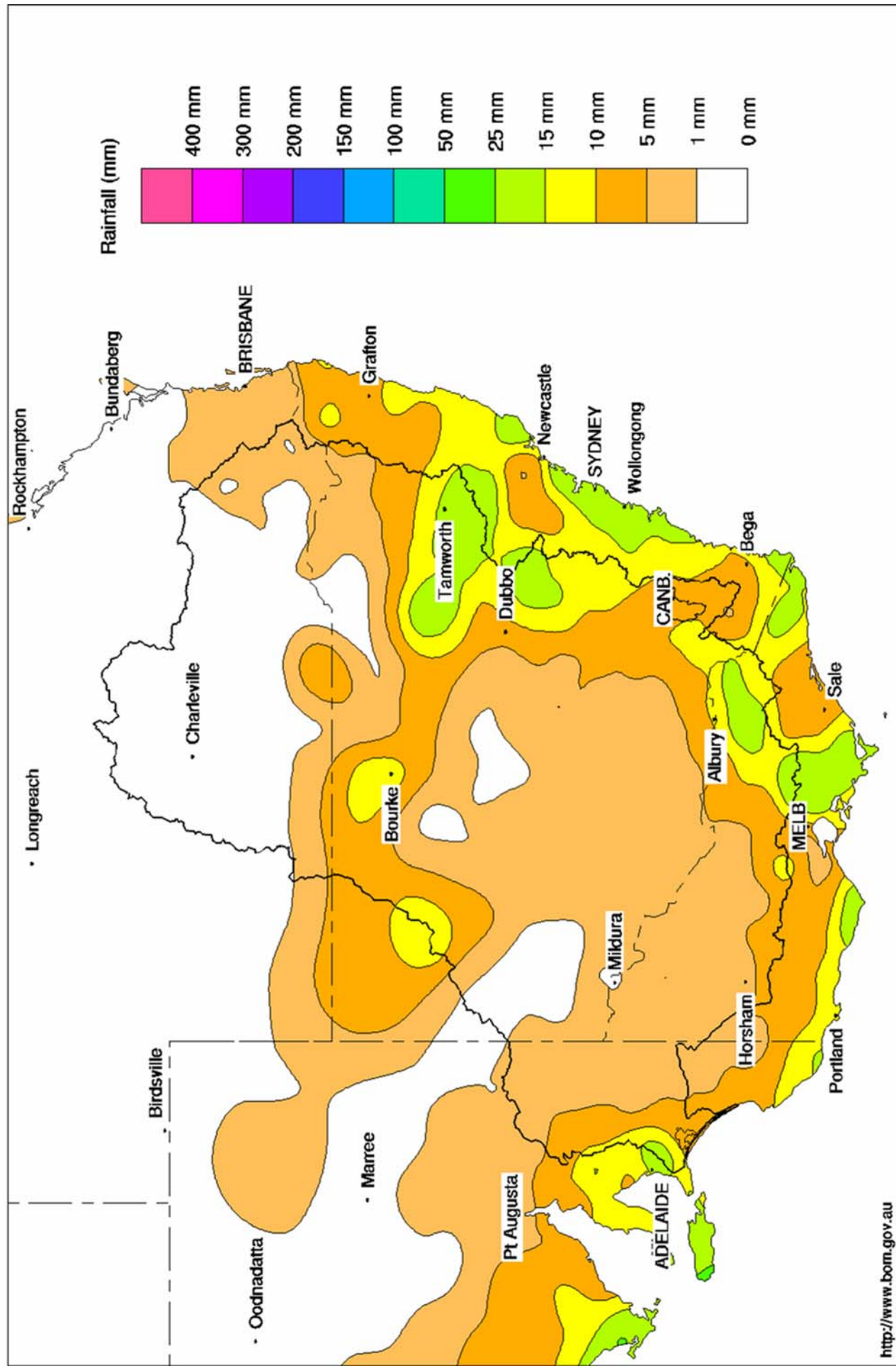
*Phone: 02 6279 0100*

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

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 14th July 2004

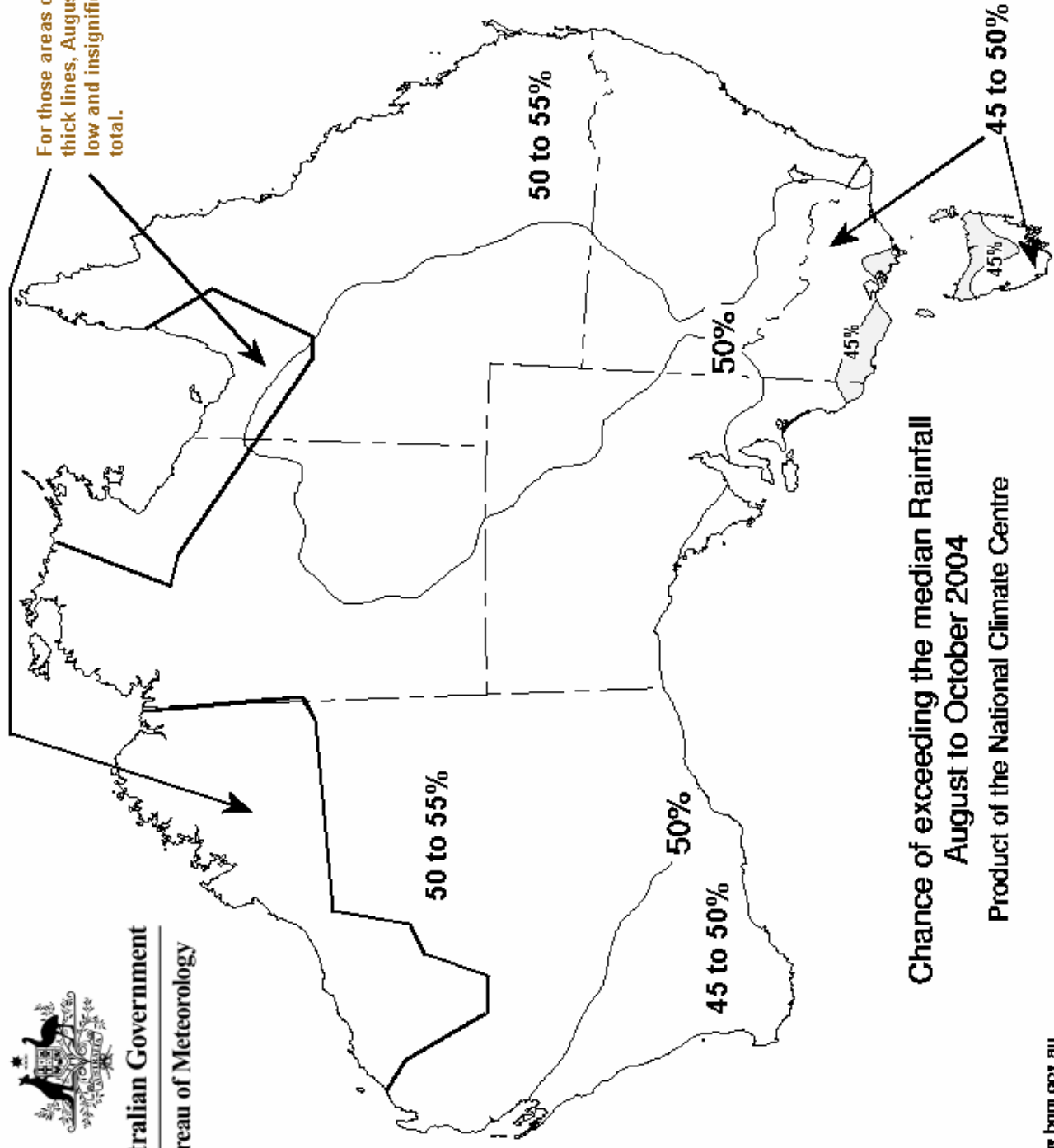
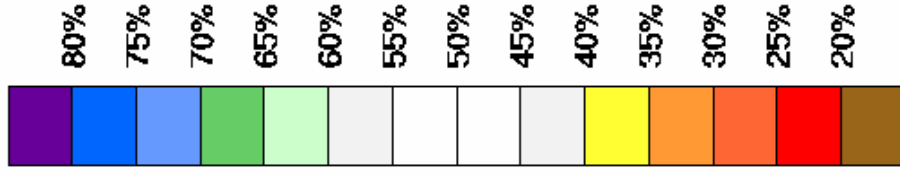
Product of the National Climate Centre





**Australian Government**  
Bureau of Meteorology

For those areas of northern Australia within the thick lines, August to October rainfall is commonly low and insignificant compared with the annual total.



**Chance of exceeding the median Rainfall  
August to October 2004**  
Product of the National Climate Centre

<http://www.bom.gov.au>

**Water in Storage**

| MDBC Storages       | Full Supply Level<br>(m AHD) | Full Supply Volume<br>(GL) | Current Storage Level<br>(m AHD) | Current Storage |            | Dead Storage<br>(GL) | Active Storage<br>(GL) | Change in Storage for the week<br>(GL) |
|---------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
|                     |                              |                            |                                  | (GL)            | %          |                      |                        |  |
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00                       | 3 906                      | 449.18                           | 1 911           | 49%        | 80                   | 1 831                  | +11                                    |
| Hume Reservoir      | 192.00                       | 3 038                      | 170.94                           | 331             | 11%        | 30                   | 301                    | +3                                     |
| Lake Victoria       | 27.00                        | 680                        | 23.45                            | 306             | 45%        | 100                  | 206                    | +27                                    |
| Menindee Lakes      |                              | 1 603 *                    |                                  | 328             | 20%        | 640 #                | 0                      | -2                                     |
| <b>Total</b>        |                              | <b>9 227</b>               |                                  | <b>2 876</b>    | <b>31%</b> | <b>850</b>           | <b>2 338</b>           | <b>+39</b>                             |

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **28%**

# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

**Major State Storages**

|                      |       |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 405 | 40% | 3   | 402 | +2  |
| Blowering Reservoir  | 1 631 | 96  | 6%  | 24  | 72  | +6  |
| Eildon Reservoir     | 3 390 | 733 | 22% | 100 | 633 | +30 |

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 13-Jul-2004

| Storage                | Active storage<br>(GL) | Weekly change<br>(GL) | Diversion (GL)   | This week | From 1 May 2004 |
|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 1 859                  | +18                   | Snowy-Murray     | +14       | 173             |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 846                    | -                     | Tooma-Tumut      | +6        | 34              |
| Target Storage         | 1 170                  |                       | Nett Diversion   | 8.2       | 140             |
|                        |                        |                       | Murray 1 Release | +18       | 206             |

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

| New South Wales         | This week  | From 1 July 2004 |
|-------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | .0         | .0               |
| Wakool System loss      | 0.1        | - 1.1            |
| Western Murray Irrig.   | 0.2        | .4               |
| Licensed Pumps          | 1.0        | 2.3              |
| Lower Darling           | 0.1        | .1               |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>1.4</b> | <b>1.7</b>       |

| Victoria                        | This week  | From 1 July 2004 |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)   | .0         |                  |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 0.0        |                  |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts      | 0.1        |                  |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0.1        |                  |
| Licensed pumps - SRW            | 1.9        | 4                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>2.0</b> | <b>4</b>         |

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

|                        |       |                |
|------------------------|-------|----------------|
| Entitlement this month | 108.5 | (3 500 ML/day) |
| Flow this week         | 24.7  |                |
| Flow so far this month | 49    |                |
| Flow last month        | 90    |                |

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

|                         | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2003 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill               | 100     | 100                        | 100                         |
| Euston                  | 110     | 110                        | 120                         |
| Red Cliffs              | 60      | 70                         | 120                         |
| Merbein                 | 80      | 90                         | 140                         |
| Burtundy (Darling)      | 330     | 340                        | 1 710                       |
| Lock 9                  | 150     | 160                        | 180                         |
| Lake Victoria           | 240     | 250                        | 250                         |
| Berri                   | 330     | 330                        | 290                         |
| Waikerie                | -       | 630                        | 380                         |
| Morgan                  | 520     | 500                        | 420                         |
| Mannum                  | 490     | 490                        | 440                         |
| Murray Bridge           | 460     | 460                        | 480                         |
| Milang (Lake Alex.)     | 930     | 930                        | 1 110                       |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 1 010   | 990                        | 980                         |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.)    | 1 990   | 2 000                      | 1 830                       |
| Goolwa Barrages         | 4 360   | 4 550                      | 2 300                       |



**River Levels and Flows**

|                                  | Minor Flood stage<br>(m) | Gauge height |         | Flow<br>(ML/day) | Trend | Average flow this week<br>(ML/day) | Average flow last week<br>(ML/day) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                  |                          | local (m)    | (m AHD) |                  |       |                                    |                                    |
| <b>River Murray</b>              |                          |              |         |                  |       |                                    |                                    |
| Khancoban                        | -                        | -            | -       | 2 630            | F     | 2 940                              | 3 720                              |
| Jingellic                        | 4.0                      | 1.70         | 208.22  | 4 900            | F     | 5 150                              | 6 590                              |
| Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River ) | 4.2                      | 1.48         | 218.37  | 850              | F     | 840                                | 870                                |
| Heywoods                         | 5.5                      | 2.07         | 155.70  | 6 000            | R     | 5 660                              | 5 100                              |
| Doctors Point                    | 5.5                      | 2.40         | 150.87  | 7 550            | R     | 6 970                              | 6 400                              |
| Albury                           | 4.3                      | 1.40         | 148.84  | -                | -     | -                                  | -                                  |
| Corowa                           | 7.0                      | 1.68         | 127.70  | 6 100            | F     | 7 080                              | 6 380                              |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)            | 6.4                      | 1.73         | 116.77  | 9 790            | S     | 9 790                              | 9 790                              |
| Tocumwal                         | 6.4                      | 2.23         | 106.07  | 10 260           | S     | 10 270                             | 10 180                             |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)           | 7.3                      | 2.72         | 81.27   | 8 400            | S     | 8 360                              | 8 010                              |
| Swan Hill                        | 4.5                      | 1.57         | 64.49   | 8 010            | S     | 7 880                              | 7 310                              |
| Wakool Junction                  | 8.8                      | 3.42         | 52.54   | 10 010           | R     | 9 680                              | 8 380                              |
| Euston Weir (d/s)                | 8.8                      | 1.92         | 43.76   | 9 580            | F     | 9 080                              | 7 940                              |
| Mildura Weir (d/s)               | -                        | -            | 31.13   | 13 640           | F     | 10 010                             | 8 110                              |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s)             | 7.3                      | 3.08         | 27.84   | 8 530            | R     | 7 790                              | 7 080                              |
| Rufus Junction                   | -                        | 2.85         | 19.78   | 2 870            | F     | 3 100                              | 3 140                              |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)         | -                        | -            | -       | 3 810            | R     | 3 030                              | 2 470                              |
| <b>Tributaries</b>               |                          |              |         |                  |       |                                    |                                    |
| Kiewa at Bandiana                | 2.7                      | 1.67         | 154.90  | 1 730            | R     | 1 520                              | 1 640                              |
| Ovens at Wangaratta              | 11.9                     | 9.06         | 146.74  | 3 795            | R     | 3 130                              | 2 750                              |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge        | 9.0                      | 1.20         | 92.62   | 450              | R     | 420                                | 440                                |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)     | -                        | -            | -       | 1 700            | S     | 1 730                              | 1 680                              |
| Edward at Liewah                 | -                        | 2.27         | 57.65   | 1 660            | R     | 1 580                              | 930                                |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing        | -                        | 0.39         | 54.88   | 287              | F     | 400                                | 470                                |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald        | 5.0                      | 0.54         | 56.50   | 261              | F     | 290                                | 280                                |
| Barwon at Mungindi               | -                        | 3.20         | -       | 60               | S     | 60                                 | 70                                 |
| Darling at Bourke                | -                        | 4.03         | -       | 171              | S     | 170                                | 190                                |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks        | -                        | 0.67         | -       | 36               | F     | 50                                 | 60                                 |

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| <b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 6 350 | 7 300 |
|---|-------|-------|

**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      | -0.19 | -     | No. 7 Rufus River    | 22.10       | +0.08 | +0.57 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05       | +0.00 | -     | No. 6 Murtho         | 19.25       | +0.03 | -0.03 |
| No. 15 Euston     | 47.60       | -0.04 | -     | No. 5 Renmark        | 16.30       | +0.01 | +0.12 |
| No. 11 Mildura    | 34.40       | +0.05 | +0.33 | No. 4 Bookpurnong    | 13.20       | +0.04 | +0.41 |
| No. 10 Wentworth  | 30.80       | +0.06 | +0.44 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80        | +0.05 | +0.17 |
| No. 9 Kulnine     | 27.40       | +0.01 | +0.07 | No. 2 Waikerie       | 6.10        | +0.05 | +0.14 |
| No. 8 Wangumma    | 24.60       | +0.06 | +0.11 | No 1. Blanchetown    | 3.20        | +0.09 | -0.05 |

| <b>Murrumbidgee</b> | FSL<br>(m AHD) | relation<br>to FSL | d/s gauge ht. |         | Flow<br>(ML/day) |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------|---------|------------------|
|                     |                |                    | local (m)     | (m AHD) |                  |
| No. 7 Maude         | 75.40          | +0.00              | 1.1           | 70.45   | 991              |
| No. 5 Redbank       | 66.90          | +0.04              | 0.15          | 61.45   | 269              |

**Barrages**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

|                | Openings     | Level | Status     |
|----------------|--------------|-------|------------|
| Goolwa         | 128 openings | 0.68  | All closed |
| Mundoo         | 26 openings  | 0.68  | All closed |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings   | -     | All closed |
| Ewe Island     | 111 gates    | -     | All closed |
| Tauwichee      | 322 gates    | 0.69  | All closed |



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