

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 August 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/jm/ng
Trim Ref :04/9253DO

5 August, 2004



Rainfall

Light to moderate falls of rain were recorded across most of the Murray-Darling Basin over the last week, with good falls of up to 50 mm in the upper Murray and tributary catchments. This rain has resulted in renewed, yet modest, rises in tributary inflows to the Murray, particularly from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. Up to 100 mm fell to the east of Adelaide in South Australia and it is hoped that this will help boost inflows to the River Murray's lower lakes.

July Overview

Rainfall in July was generally average to below average across the Basin (*see map attached*), however due to the dry nature of the catchments streamflows remain relatively low. Inflows to Dartmouth and Hume in July were at a level exceeded in about 7 years in 10 on average. Total River Murray system inflows, including those from all the tributaries, were at a level exceeded in about 8 years in 10 on average.

Rainfall Outlook

According to the Bureau of Meteorology a return to El Niño conditions later in the year cannot be ruled out and forecast conditions in the Pacific may increase the risk of drier than normal conditions persisting over parts of eastern Australia. In addition to this, the Queensland Government's website "*The Long Paddock*" (<http://www.longpaddock.qld.gov.au/>) indicates that based on historical observations from years when the SOI has been consistently negative in June and July, as is currently the case, that it is more likely than not, that spring and early summer will be drier than normal. River Murray Water will continue to provide updates on the rainfall outlook over the coming months.

System Operation

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir is currently being increased to transfer resources to Hume Reservoir for the coming season. Release, currently at about 3 000 ML/day, will increase to 4 500 ML/day early next week and will be maintained at about that rate in the near future unless there is a significant change in inflow conditions in the River Murray system.

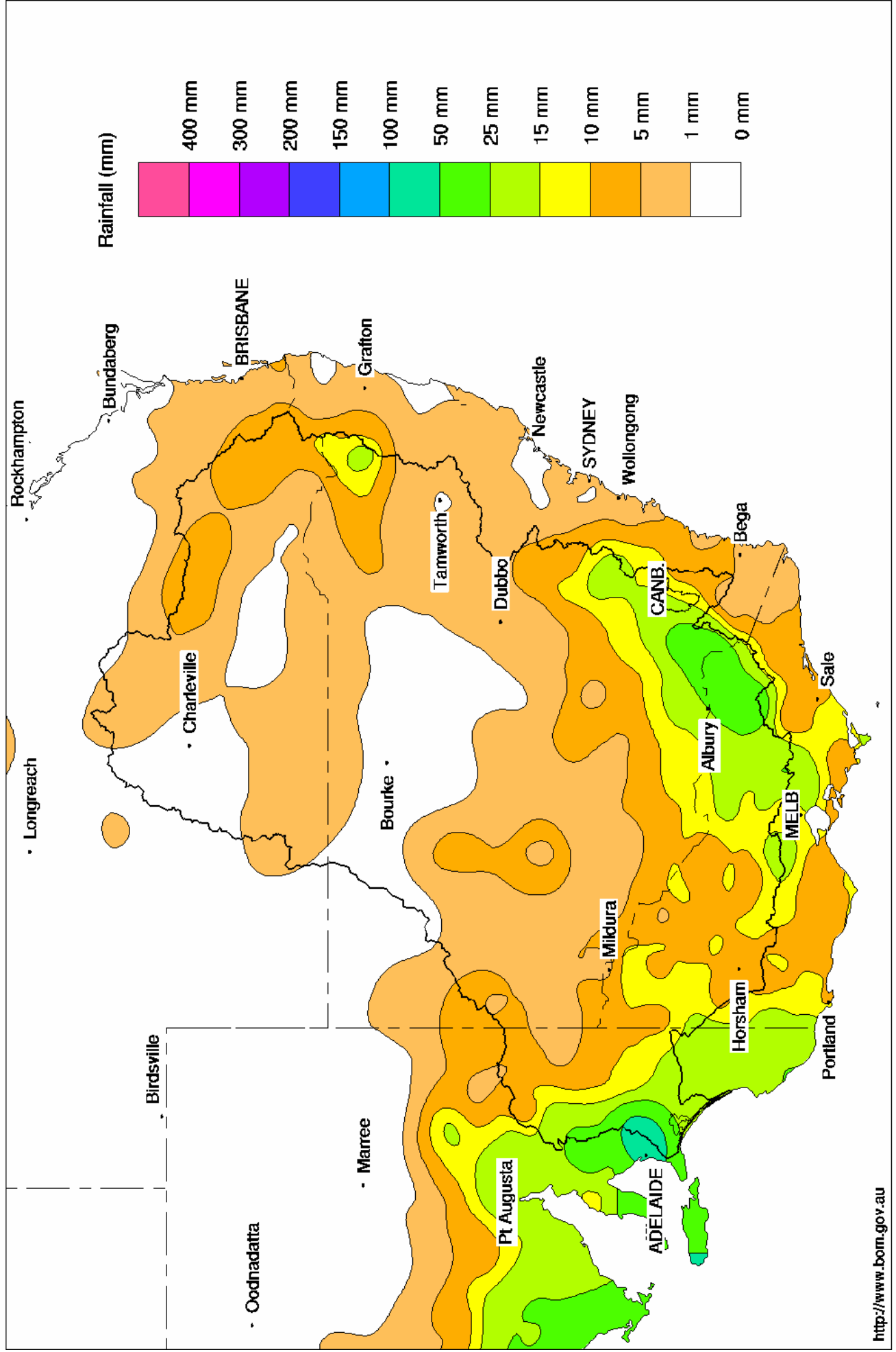
Inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, currently at 3 000 and 9 000 ML/day respectively, are continuing to rise in response to the rain. These welcome inflows have permitted release from Hume to be reduced to the minimum required riparian flow of 600 ML/day, contributing to an increase in storage in Hume of 60 GL.

Release from Yarrawonga Weir continues to be maintained at about 10 000 ML/day with river levels through the Barmah-Millewa Forest near to channel capacity. However, with the Kiewa and Ovens rivers still rising, and further rain forecast, it is possible that release from Yarrawonga Weir will be increased next week resulting in the need to open regulators and pass water into the Barmah-Millewa Forest.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

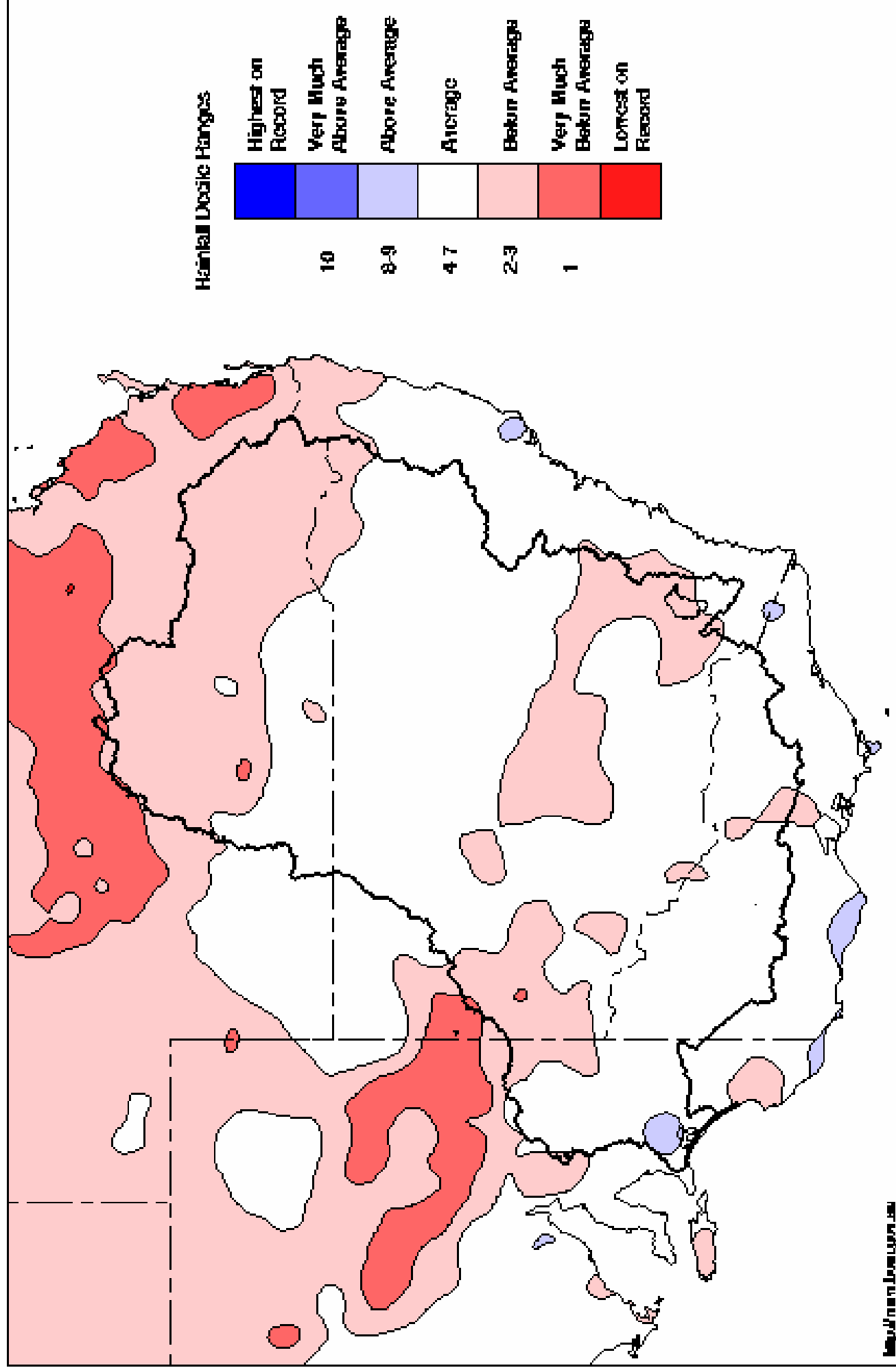
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th August 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Deficits July 2004

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
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)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	449.71	1 934	50%	80	1 854	+7
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.98	402	13%	30	372	+59
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	24.60	422	62%	100	322	+39
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		323	20%	640 #	0	-1
Total		9 227		3 080	33%	850	2 547	+104

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 30%

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		405	40%	3	402	+0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		201	12%	24	177	+47
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		873	26%	100	773	+61

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Aug-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 890	+15	Snowy-Murray	+10	209
Snowy-Murray Component	820	-	Tooma-Tumut	+5	50
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	4.7	159
			Murray 1 Release	+15	257

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	9.4	19.8
Wakool System loss	0.6	.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.6
Licensed Pumps	1.0	5.1
Lower Darling	0.1	.4
TOTAL	11.1	26.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.3	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	1
Licensed pumps - SRW	2.0	9
TOTAL	2.3	11

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124	(3 800 ML/day)
Flow this week	26.6	
Flow so far this month	16	
Flow last month	109	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	90	90	90
Euston	90	100	100
Red Cliffs	50	50	50
Merbein	60	70	70
Burtundy (Darling)	350	350	350
Lock 9	130	130	130
Lake Victoria	190	190	180
Berri	350	350	360
Waikerie	420	440	430
Morgan	480	490	480
Mannum	510	540	530
Murray Bridge	520	520	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	930	940	950
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	860	970	950
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 000	1 990	2 000
Goolwa Barrages	3 730	3 510	3 520

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	-	-	-	2 820	F	3 160	2 380
Jingellic	4.0	2.09	208.61	8 300	R	6 430	5 200
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.47	219.36	5 210	R	2 600	1 450
Heywoods	5.5	1.23	154.86	920	F	870	6 230
Doctors Point	5.5	1.94	150.41	3 580	R	2 980	7 680
Albury	4.3	1.00	148.44	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.96	126.98	2 700	F	3 860	8 790
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.77	116.81	10 100	S	10 100	10 160
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 690	S	10 690	10 610
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	81.39	8 860	R	8 540	8 410
Swan Hill	4.5	1.60	64.52	8 210	R	8 140	8 090
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.43	52.55	10 060	S	10 070	10 060
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.95	43.79	9 780	S	9 790	9 770
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.18	12 790	F	11 100	11 680
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.14	27.90	9 450	R	9 340	9 250
Rufus Junction	-	2.96	19.89	3 530	F	3 420	3 140
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 390	F	3 670	3 660
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.26	155.49	3 060	R	2 240	1 800
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.32	148.00	8 607	R	7 770	4 630
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.47	92.89	845	S	740	440
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 800	F	1 550	1 440
Edward at Liewah	-	2.15	57.53	1 520	F	1 600	1 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.33	54.82	198	R	180	190
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.51	56.47	238	F	250	270
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	S	20	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	151	S	160	160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	48	R	40	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	8 790	8 070
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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	-0.04	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.07	+0.68
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.05	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.03	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.38	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.48
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.50	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	-0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	+0.07

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.23	0.9	70.25	658
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.08	0.09	61.39	220

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.74	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.84	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.76	All closed

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

