

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 6 October 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs/jm
Trim Ref : 04/10934DO

8 October, 2004



Rainfall

Light to moderate rain fell across the Basin this week, with 50 to 100 mm being received over the central part of the Basin (*see map attached*). Falls in the Upper Murray catchment were however only light (up to 5 mm) and consequently only small increases in flow occurred in the Upper Murray this week.

September Overview

Total rainfall for the month of September showed quite a varied pattern across the Basin. It was above average in the headwaters areas of the Upper Murray and tributary catchments, as well as in the north of the Basin. It was below average in the central parts of the Basin and near average elsewhere (*see map attached*).

Following on from the average rainfall received in August, good stream flow responses occurred in the Upper Murray in September such that inflows to Dartmouth and Hume were marginally better than average in September (at level exceeded about 4 years in 10). Total River Murray system inflows (including all tributaries) were marginally below average (at a level exceeded in about 6 years in 10). Despite the good response that occurred in September, total system inflows for the season remain well below average (at a level exceeded about 7.5 years in 10 for the period since 1 June 2004).

Storages have responded well to the September inflows - total MDBC storage has increased by nearly 700 GL, from 38% of capacity at the end of August to 46% at the end of September.

System Operation

Transfers of water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir continue and will be increased on the morning of Thursday 7 October to about 7 000 ML/day. These transfers are required to supplement storage in Hume in preparation for the rest of the 2004/05 irrigation and water supply season (*see attached media release*).

The warm and dry conditions over recent weeks has brought a gradual increase in irrigation demands and continued recession of tributary inflows to the Murray. In order to meet demands, and continue to transfer water to Lake Victoria, the release from Hume has been increased to rates in excess of 10 000 ML/day for the first time this season.

Storage in Lake Victoria increased by 28 GL this week, to 633 GL (or 94% of capacity), partly due to the small fresh which originated in the tributaries in mid September. Despite continuing transfers of water from Hume Reservoir, storage levels in Lake Victoria are expected to peak in the next couple of weeks. The lake will then be gradually drawn down over summer and autumn to provide water to South Australia, unless there is significant further rainfall in the next few months. Flow to South Australia was increased to the regulated requirement of 5 500 ML/day in October, up from the September entitlement flow of 4 500 ML/day.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 6 October 2004

Increase in Release from Dartmouth Reservoir



TRIM Ref: 04/10935DO

River Murray Water (RMW) announced today that the rate of transfer of water from Dartmouth Reservoir to Hume Reservoir is to be increased to further supplement storage in Hume in preparation for the remainder of the 2004/05 irrigation and water supply season.

RMW General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said the increase is needed because of the relatively low storage volume in Hume Reservoir, and to assist in meeting water supply requirements along the River Murray.

“Storage in Hume Reservoir has risen from 26% of capacity at end August to 45% of capacity by end of September 2004 as a result of improved inflows and transfer of water from Dartmouth”, Mr Dreverman said. He noted that this is well below average for this time of year, despite the rain and subsequent rise in storage level in Hume over September 2004.

In addition, the continuing demand on Dartmouth is significant this season because there is currently no Commission storage available in Menindee Lakes.

“A substantial volume of water is likely to be transferred from Dartmouth to Hume to meet downstream requirements over the remainder of 2004-05”. Under very dry conditions, the remaining volume required to be transferred may be up to about 1 500 GL, whereas under median conditions, the volume would be much less at about 500 GL. Under dry conditions, storage in Dartmouth and Hume would be drawn down to low levels by the end of the season.

Because of limited channel capacity in the Mitta Mitta River, it is often necessary to transfer water to Hume well in advance of periods of high water use along the River Murray. This is to ensure that the combined requirements of South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales can be met throughout the irrigation season.

Mr Dreverman said the release from Dartmouth was currently at about 5 500 ML/day or about 2.3 m on the Colemans gauge in the Mitta Mitta River.

Beginning on the morning of Thursday 7 October, release is to be increased to about 7 000 ML/day (2.5 m gauge height). Further downstream at Tallandoon, it is expected that the river level (currently 2.75 m) will initially rise to about 2.9 m gauge height, and continue near this rate if there is no further significant rain.

However, greater variation in river level at Tallandoon might occur in response to significant rain and increased flows in tributaries of the Mitta Mitta River. If this occurs, release from Dartmouth will be reduced with the aim to avoid flow exceeding channel capacity.

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“In coming months, as the opportunity arises, it is planned to vary the release from Dartmouth in a cyclic pattern to mimic to some extent the variability of river levels seen under natural conditions,” Mr Dreverman said.

“This mode of operation aims at providing environmental benefits including reduced impact on stream banks of the Mitta Mitta River.”

The rate of transfer will continue to be kept under close review by River Murray Water in the light of conditions across the River Murray System. If there is a return to dry conditions, the rate of transfer may need to be further increased. However, significant improvements in inflow conditions across the River Murray System would reduce the volume of transfer required.

River Murray Water will provide further updates throughout the season on the program of release from Dartmouth Reservoir, particularly when significant changes are required.

For further information contact:

Lawrie Kirk

Manager Communication

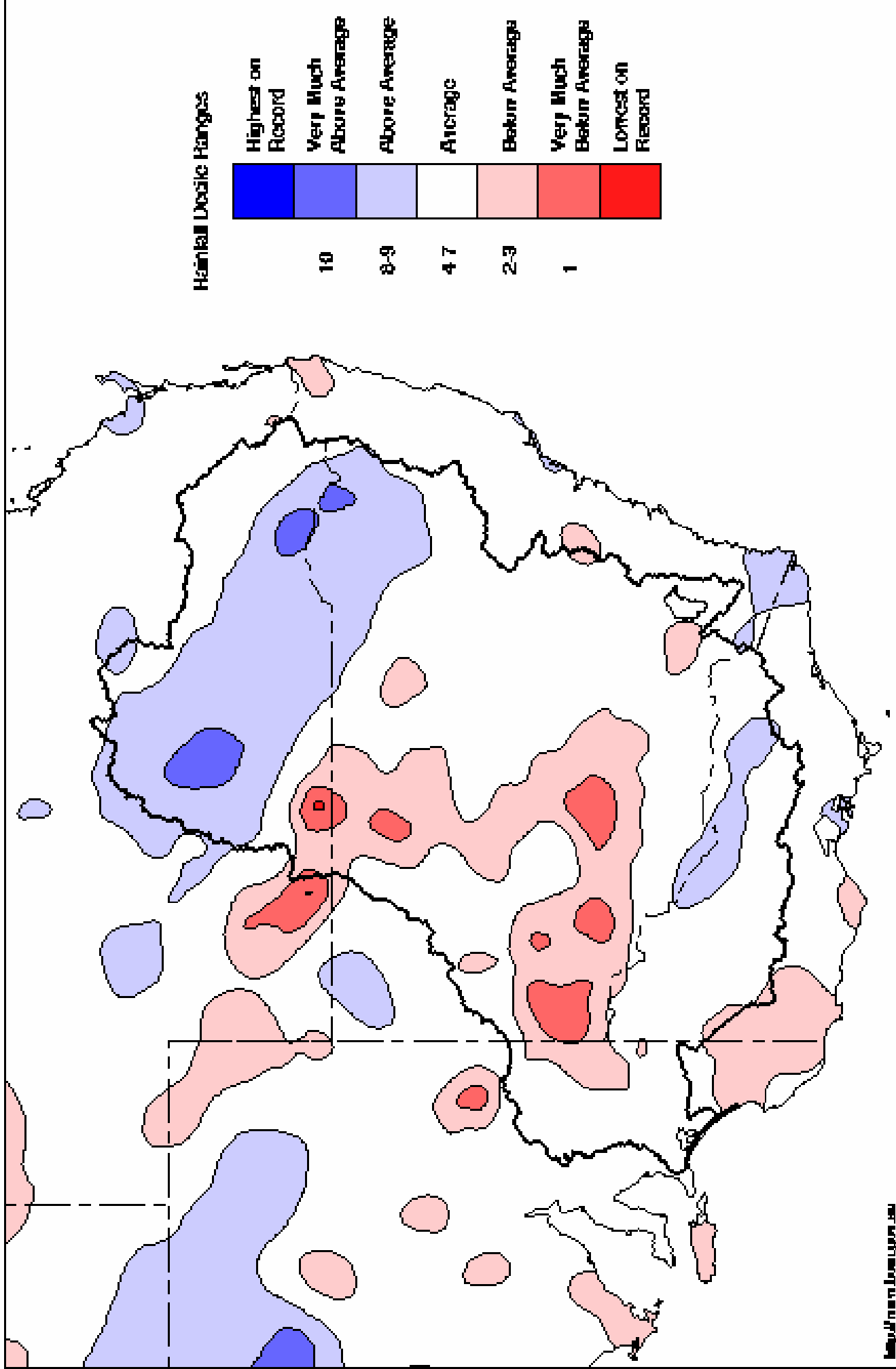
Phone: 02 6279 0100

E-mail: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au

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

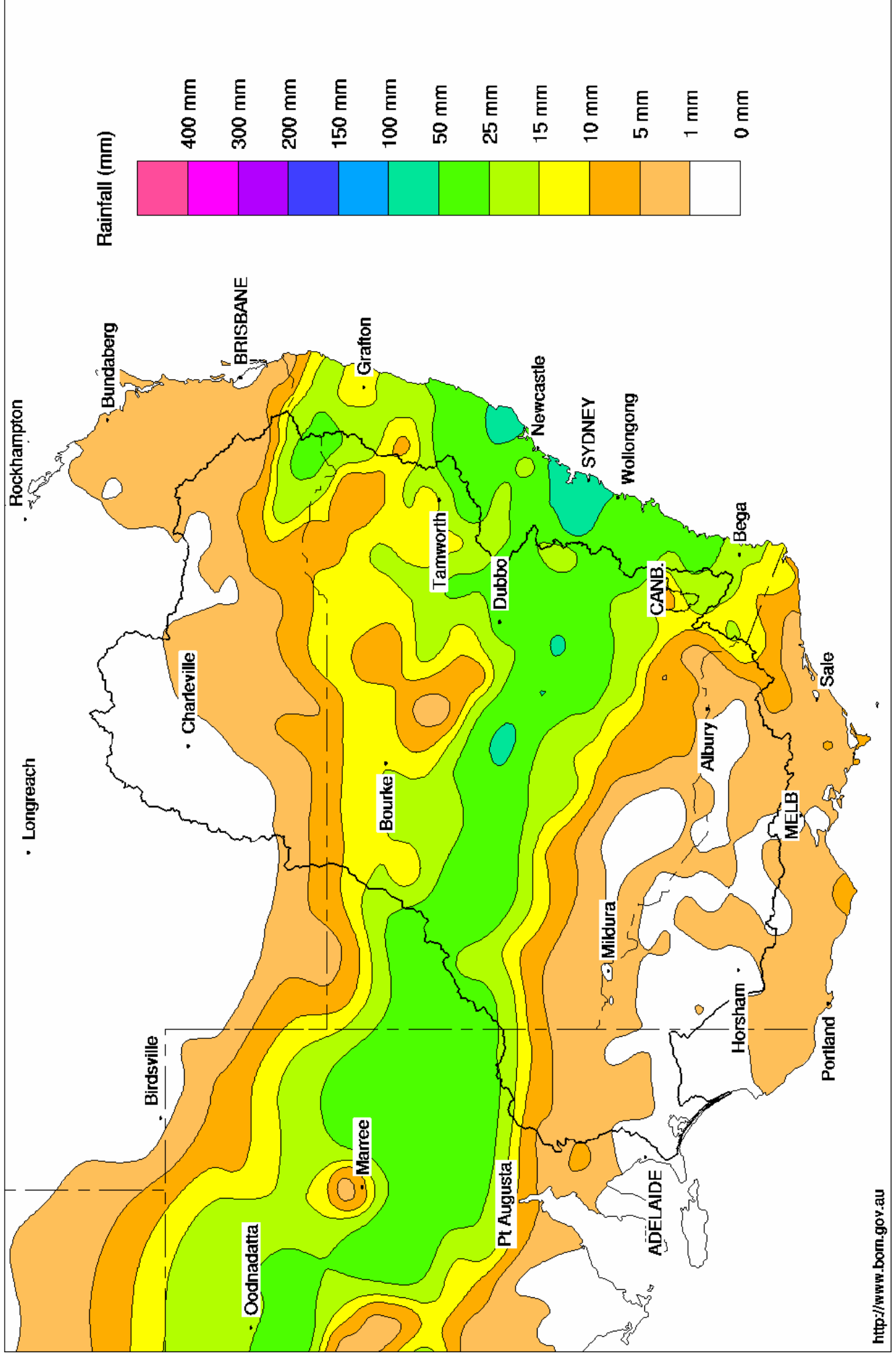
Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles September 2004

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th October 2004

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	449.84	1 940	50%	80	1 860	-10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	182.32	1 445	48%	30	1 415	+85
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.64	633	94%	100	533	+28
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		304	19%	640 #	0	-3
Total		9 224		4 322	47%	850	3 808	+101

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **45%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	335	33%	3	332	-24
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	445	27%	24	421	+14
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 385	41%	100	1 285	+24

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Oct-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 308	+64	Snowy-Murray	+4	255
Snowy-Murray Component	1 000	+45	Tooma-Tumut	+14	156
Target Storage	1 400		Nett Diversion	-10.5	99
			Murray 1 Release	+34	436

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	24.6	145.2
Wakool System loss	1.3	4.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	3.3
Licensed Pumps	4.6	43.1
Lower Darling	1.8	3.6
TOTAL	32.8	200.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	10.8	37
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.2	128
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.4	16
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.5	2
Licensed pumps - SRW	5.4	38
TOTAL	37.3	221

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	170	(5 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	37.0	
Flow so far this month	33	
Flow last month	135	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	90	100	110
Euston	120	120	120
Red Cliffs	100	90	90
Merbein	110	100	90
Burtundy (Darling)	480	470	400
Lock 9	140	160	130
Lake Victoria	180	180	190
Berri	240	240	270
Waikerie	400	410	440
Morgan	430	430	460
Mannum	500	500	520
Murray Bridge	580	580	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 310	1 290	1 180
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	970	1 000	1 040
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 100	2 080	2 030
Goolwa Barrages	1 500	1 530	1 990

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	-	-	-	7 050	R	6 820	6 640
Jingellic	4.0	2.18	208.70	9 100	R	11 780	10 500
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	2.75	219.64	7 080	S	6 880	6 360
Heywoods	5.5	2.65	156.28	11 400	R	6 180	4 930
Doctors Point	5.5	3.00	151.47	14 000	R	9 840	8 650
Albury	4.3	1.99	149.43	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.58	128.60	11 900	R	9 300	7 390
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 030	10 140
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 350	S	10 480	11 470
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.24	80.79	6 590	F	7 660	9 720
Swan Hill	4.5	1.41	64.33	7 060	F	8 000	9 260
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.42	52.54	10 010	S	9 950	11 930
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.90	43.74	9 460	S	9 650	11 810
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.07	9 170	F	10 390	10 650
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.03	27.79	8 090	R	9 340	9 240
Rufus Junction	-	3.17	20.10	4 800	F	4 750	4 080
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 690	R	3 610	3 330
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.19	155.42	2 890	F	4 280	4 310
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.02	146.70	3 672	F	4 460	5 980
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.30	92.72	591	F	640	1 160
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 510	F	3 010	3 400
Edward at Liewah	-	2.53	57.91	1 990	R	1 360	1 390
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.73	55.22	1 060	R	640	480
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	283	F	310	440
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.25	-	130	F	440	810
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	F	20	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.63	-	10	F	10	10

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	18 970	17 610
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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	-0.19	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.87
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.16	+0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.27	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.09	+0.51
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.39	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.02	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.14
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.17	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.09	+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	-0.11	0.6	69.95	296
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.10	0.21	61.51	324

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.94	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.90	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.94	2

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

