

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 1 June 2005

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3 June, 2005



Autumn 2005 and the Continuing Drought

May 2005, like March and April, was exceptionally warm and dry across the Murray-Darling Basin. Bureau of Meteorology figures indicate that autumn temperatures were 1 to 3 degrees above average. Extensive areas of the Basin experienced very much below average rainfall during autumn with large areas in the south of the Basin experiencing *record low* autumn rainfall (*see attached map*). Similarly, inflows to River Murray were near the driest on record during autumn. Inflows over the last four years remain the lowest on record.

Low Storage Levels

During May, the total volume of water available in MDBC storages increased marginally by about 60 GL to 2 600 GL (active storage). The increase occurred primarily due to release from the Snowy Scheme, combined with the significant decrease in demand at the end of the 2004/05 irrigation season. The volume in active storage is about 500 GL more than at the same time last year, however about 2 100 GL less than average for this time of year.

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology reports that “*continued warmer than average conditions in the tropical Pacific combined with negative values of the SOI, suggest that the least likely scenario for winter and spring is widespread above average rainfall across eastern Australia*”. In addition to this, past river flow records reveal that autumn inflows can provide a strong indication of inflows to the River Murray system over the subsequent winter/spring. Therefore, the likelihood of the coming season being wet enough to return MDBC storage to normal levels is low. Should June also prove to be dry the prospects for a wet winter/spring will be very poor.

River Murray Operation

Due to the continuing drought, the imperative to conserve water is stronger than ever and therefore releases from Hume Dam and Yarrawonga Weir have been reduced to near minimum levels. Flows along the length of the Murray, Edward-Wakool and Lower Darling Rivers continue to recede.

The river level at Swan Hill is currently 0.7 m gauge height and is expected to gradually fall toward the target minimum level of 0.6 m over the coming weeks if conditions remain dry. Such low river levels may persist for at least another month unless significant rainfall boosts river levels.

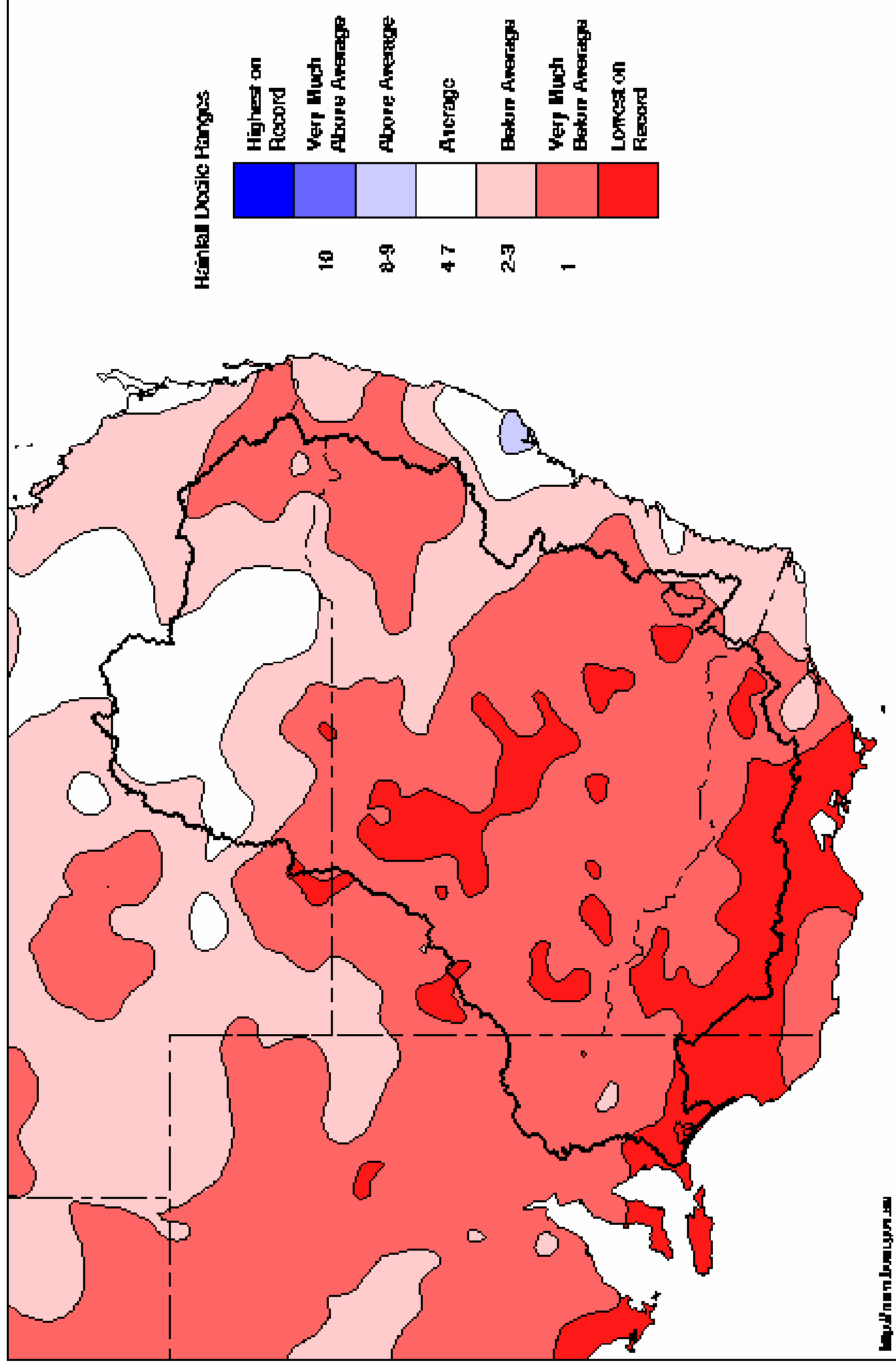
Boat operators are advised to exercise additional caution during the period of low river flows. Landholders, river pumpers and other river users are also advised to take into account the low river levels.

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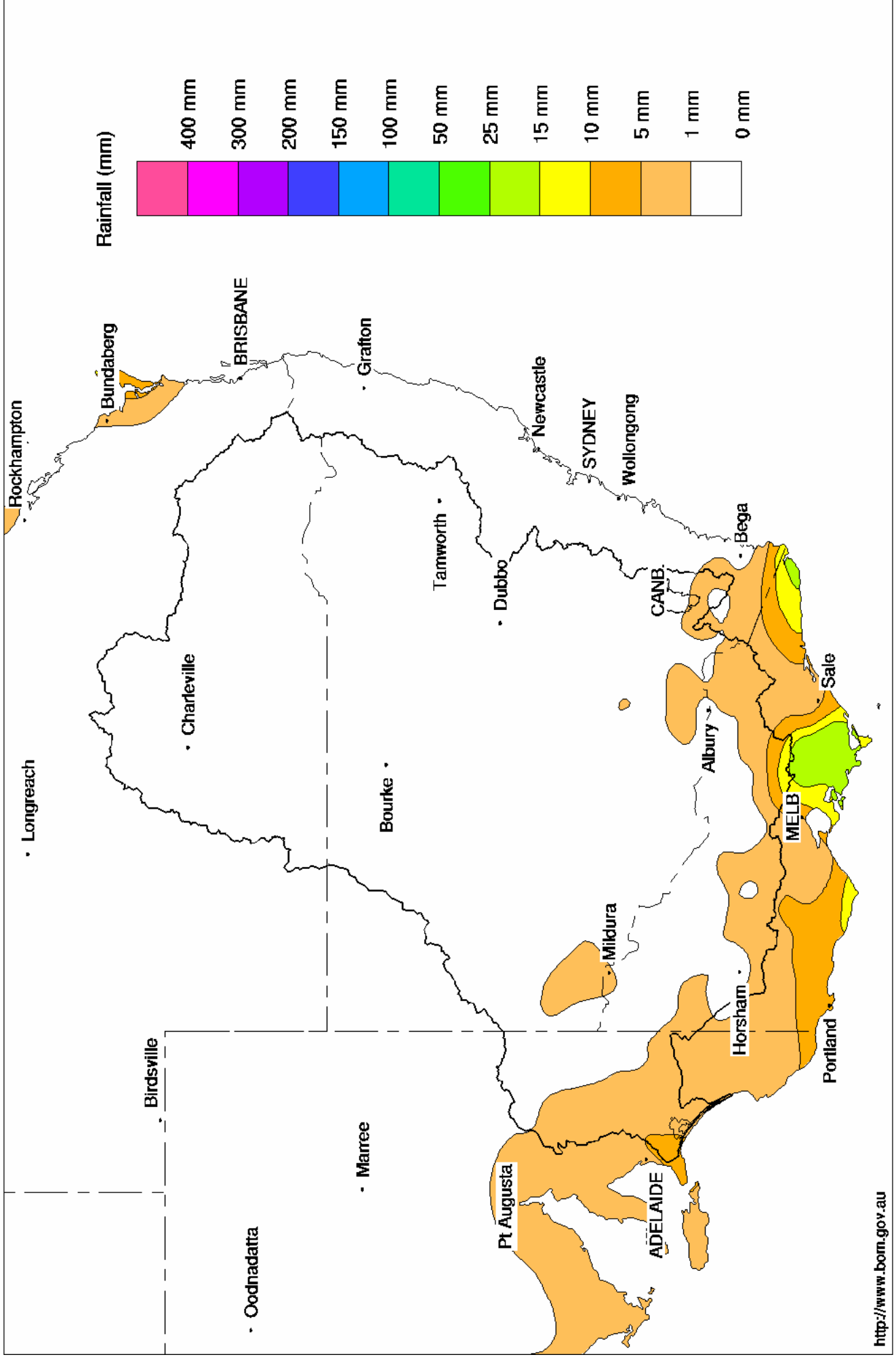
Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles 1 March to 31 May 2005

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st June 2005

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)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	444.45	1 715	44%	80	1 635	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.82	719	24%	30	689	+28
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.30	375	55%	100	275	-8
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		337	19%	(- -) #	0	-3
Total		9 352		3 146	34%	--	2 599	+15

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **31%**

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		239	23%	3	236	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		158	10%	24	134	+32
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		894	26%	100	794	-1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 31-May-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 883	-60	Snowy-Murray	+30	139
Snowy-Murray Component	827	-30	Tooma-Tumut	+1	5
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	28.6	134
			Murray 1 Release	+31	138

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .1	843.2
Wakool System loss	-0.8	25.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	31.5
Licensed Pumps	4.7	329.8
Lower Darling	0.2	36.0
TOTAL	4.3	1 266.2

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	.0	388
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	644
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	160
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	49
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.6	255
TOTAL	1.8	1 497

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	90	
Flow this week	21.6	(3 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	3	
Flow last month	93	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	120	110	110
Euston	110	110	120
Red Cliffs	170	170	140
Merbein	120	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	550	550	540
Lock 9	190	190	150
Lake Victoria	200	200	190
Berri	260	260	240
Waikerie	400	400	360
Morgan	420	410	380
Mannum	400	400	450
Murray Bridge	400	420	470
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 500	1 490	1 350
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	-	1 110	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	-	2 480	2 170
Goolwa Barrages	2 410	2 360	2 000



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	-	-	-	4 530	F	4 640	4 640
Jingellic	4.0	1.79	208.31	5 390	R	4 990	5 890
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.37	218.26	610	F	640	630
Heywoods	5.5	1.39	155.02	1 050	S	1 050	1 050
Doctors Point	5.5	1.51	149.98	1 210	S	1 260	1 200
Albury	4.3	0.71	148.15	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.57	126.59	1 500	F	1 520	1 580
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.48	115.52	2 280	R	2 130	2 200
Tocumwal	6.4	0.89	104.73	2 100	R	2 100	2 300
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.07	79.62	2 450	S	2 610	3 000
Swan Hill	4.5	0.71	63.63	2 610	F	2 860	3 270
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.72	50.84	3 030	F	3 320	3 590
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.75	42.59	3 190	F	3 500	3 290
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.86	3 250	F	3 160	2 910
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	3 120	S	2 930	2 740
Rufus Junction	-	2.78	19.71	2 210	F	2 520	2 340
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	1 780	R	1 720	1 780
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.73	153.96	300	S	340	290
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.90	145.58	575	R	570	530
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	416	F	450	610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	220	F	250	350
Edward at Liewah	-	0.74	56.12	344	F	380	500
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.22	54.71	114	F	150	250
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.48	56.44	204	F	220	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.09	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.95	-	14	S	10	30
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.68	-	48	S	50	30

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 070	2 820
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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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.14	+0.48
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	-0.03
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.31
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+0.18	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.26

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.35	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-2.23	0.11	61.41	236

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.56

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.57	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed



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