

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 3 May 2006

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5 May, 2006



## Rainfall and Inflow

Moderate rainfall occurred along the River Murray over the past week, with 20 mm falling at Torrumbarry Weir, 42 mm at Stevens Weir (Edward River) and 32 mm at Berri (*see attached map*). In the upper catchment, 38 mm fell at Mount Buffalo and 28 mm at Thredbo, however inflow to the River Murray from the major tributaries remains at very low levels.

## River Murray System Operations

The rain throughout the irrigation districts and along the river system was sufficient to significantly reduce irrigation demands and river losses. In response, the release from Hume Dam has been progressively reduced at the maximum permissible rate to provide a flow at Doctors Point of about 9 100 ML/day (4 May), down from 18 000 ML/day last week. Further reductions in the release from Hume Dam are expected over the coming week as the irrigation season nears closure.

The level of Lake Mulwala has been temporarily surcharged to 125.02 m, 12 cm above the full supply level, to temporarily store excess water that had been earlier intended to be diverted for irrigation. This additional water in Lake Mulwala will now be used to assist with a gradual reduction in the river level downstream of Yarrawonga Weir over the coming weeks in order to minimise the potential for bank erosion through the Barmah-Millewa Forest. Over the past week the flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced gradually from 9 800 to 9 100 ML/day, with further gradual reductions expected this week.

The flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has increased from 6 500 ML/day to 8 000 ML/day primarily as a result of reduced irrigation demand at the National Channel. If conditions remain dry, this higher flow will continue over the coming weekend and then begin to gradually decline. NSW State Water has announced that the annual lowering of the Stevens Weir pool will commence on 8 May (*see attached media release*). At Euston, the flow is currently 9 100 ML/day and it is expected to increase to about 11 000 ML/day on 11 May. Further downstream at Wentworth, the flow is also increasing and expected to reach about 9 800 ML/day by mid May.

This present higher flow along the river system will be captured and re-regulated in Lake Victoria and current forecasts indicate that storage in Lake Victoria will increase to over 400 GL in early June. Given this improved outlook for Lake Victoria, the transfer of water from Hume Dam will now cease for the time being to conserve water in the Upper Murray storages. The flow to South Australia has also been reduced to 3 000 ML/day in order to meet the May entitlement flow of 93 GL.

## April Summary

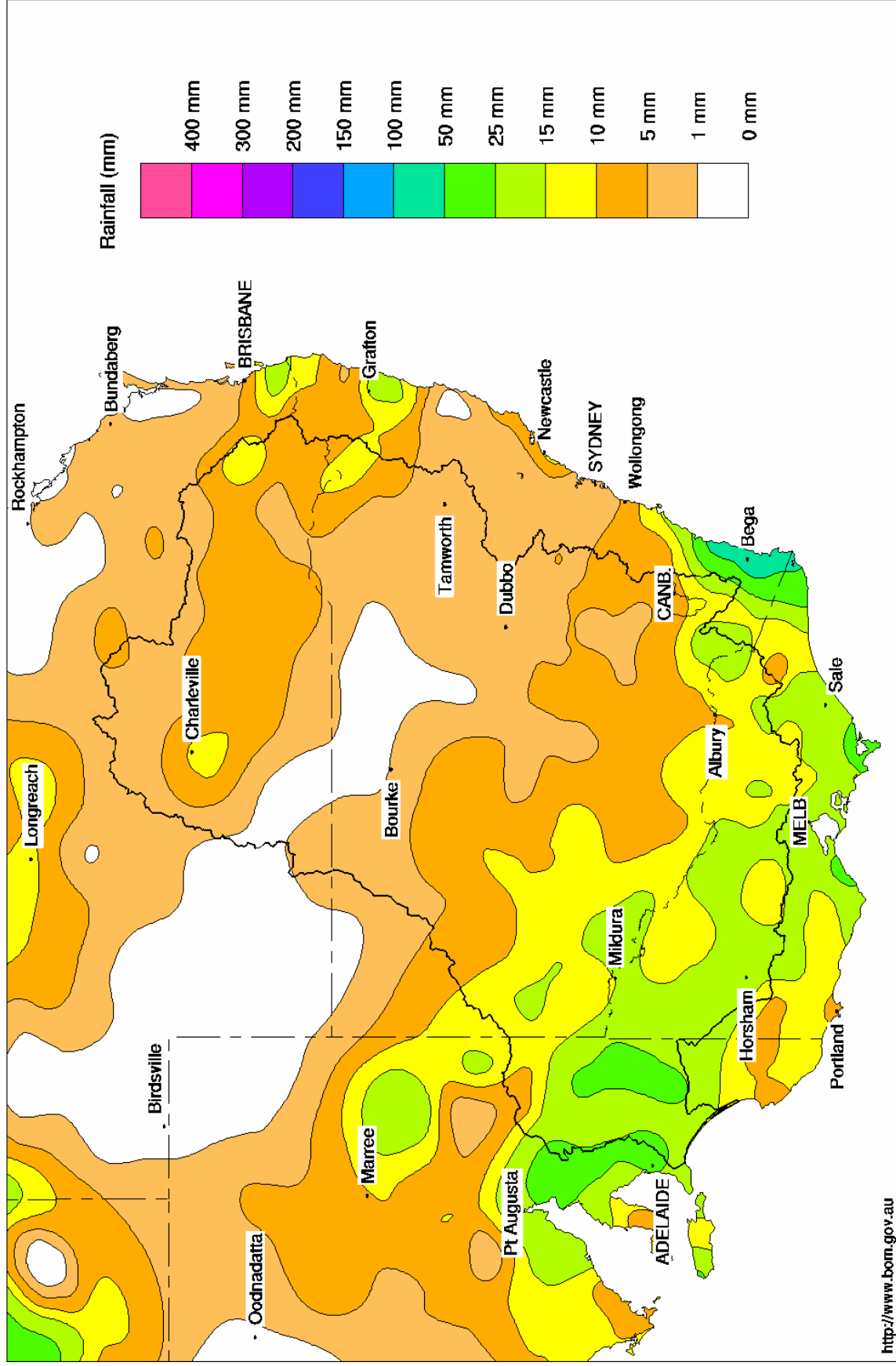
Dry conditions continued into April leading to below average rainfall for much of the Basin between February and April (*see attached map*). Unregulated inflow into Hume Reservoir for these three months was only 21 GL, which is at a level expected to be exceeded 99 years in 100. At the end of April, the total storage (including Menindee Lakes) was 3 466 GL, which is about 1 500 GL below the long-term average for this time of year, but 360 GL higher than at the end of April 2005.

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# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 3rd May 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



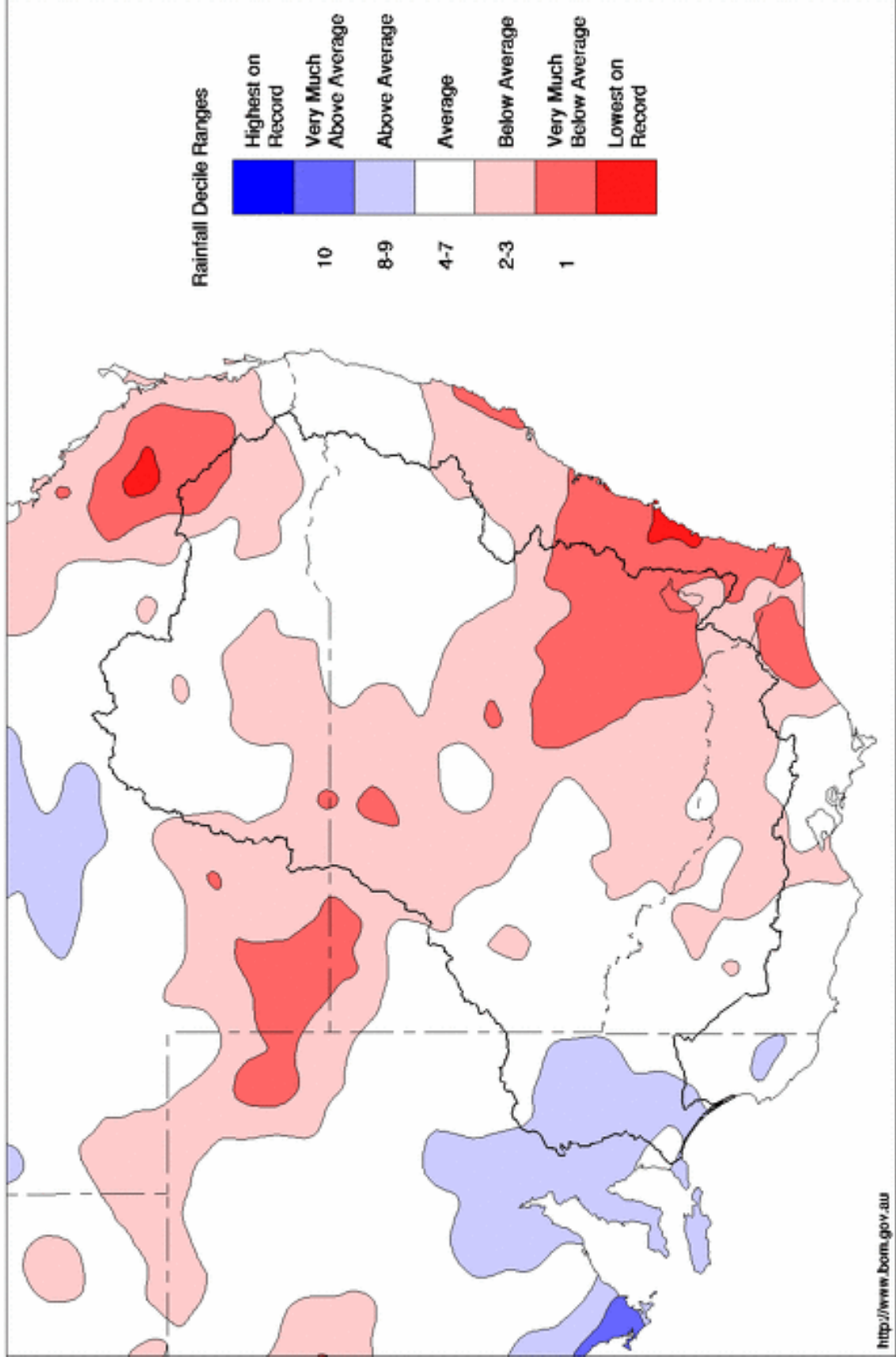
<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 03/05/2006

**Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles 1 February to 30 April 2006**

Distribution Based on Gridded Data  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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# Media Release State water

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4 May 2006

## **STEVENS WEIR POOL LOWERING TO START MONDAY**

State Water today announced that the annual lowering of Stevens Weir pool will start on Monday 8 May.

South Area Customer Service Manager Lindsay Beck, said the weir pool level will be gradually lowered for the winter period following the completion of irrigation requirements for the 2005-2006 season.

"The lowering of the weir pool is expected to improve river bank vegetation, fish migration and water quality to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Edward River system.

"Boat owners and other river users should be aware of snags and other obstructions that may appear while water levels are low.

"Subject to weather conditions and system requirements, the Edward River gauge height at Deniliquin could fall from the present level of 2.28 metres to about 0.45 metres," Mr Beck concluded.

**- ENDS -**

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For **Water Delivery Announcements** and State Water Media Releases go to:  
[http://statewater.com.au/whats\\_new](http://statewater.com.au/whats_new)

For **Available Water Determinations** and DIPNR Media Releases go to:  
<http://dipnr.nsw.gov.au/mediarel>

For more information about **storage levels** and **river heights**  
go to the *Waterinfo Website* at <http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/>

## Week ending Wednesday 03 May 2006

### 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	462.14	2 518	64%	80	2 438	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	171.85	393	13%	30	363	-78
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.10	262	39%	100	162	+13
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		281	16%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>3 453</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>- -</b>	<b>2 963</b>	<b>-68</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **35%**

# 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	341	33%	3	338	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	722	44%	24	698	+1
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	718	21%	100	618	-4

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 02-May-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 384	-41	Snowy-Murray	+16	4
Snowy-Murray Component	758	-12	Tooma-Tumut	+0	
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	15.7	4
			Murray 1 Release	+16	5

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	21.8	1 209.9
Wakool System loss	1.2	32.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	28.0
Licensed Pumps	7.4	375.0
Lower Darling	1.1	60.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31.6</b>	<b>1 705.7</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	4.3	401
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	5.2	692
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.7	140
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	52
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	234
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>1 519</b>

### Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	
Flow this week	31.7	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	10	
Flow last month	134	

### Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	60	70	100
Euston	80	80	120
Red Cliffs	120	110	140
Merbein	100	100	120
Burtundy (Darling)	690	690	590
Lock 9	110	110	140
Lake Victoria	210	190	190
Berri	240	240	220
Waikerie	-	330	330
Morgan	350	340	330
Mannum	370	360	360
Murray Bridge	340	330	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 150	1 150	1 250
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	880	900	960
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 360	2 400	2 170
Goolwa Barrages	2 670	2 920	1 930



**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	-	-	-	2 630	F	3 190	1 620
Jingellic	4.0	1.63	208.15	4 150	F	3 370	1 750
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.40	218.29	640	F	700	680
Heywoods	5.5	2.63	156.26	10 390	F	14 620	15 630
Doctors Point	5.5	2.72	151.19	10 900	F	15 200	16 660
Albury	4.3	1.73	149.17	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.94	128.96	14 700	F	17 390	16 310
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.68	116.72	9 420	F	9 640	9 840
Tocumwal	6.4	2.25	106.09	10 320	F	10 500	10 700
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.60	81.15	7 930	S	7 400	6 380
Swan Hill	4.5	1.44	64.36	7 250	R	6 560	5 490
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.30	52.42	9 410	R	8 660	7 430
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.78	43.62	9 050	R	8 260	6 990
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.03	7 710	F	7 030	5 730
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.11	27.87	7 170	R	6 370	5 230
Rufus Junction	-	2.89	19.82	2 790	R	3 980	3 370
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.78	-	4 830	R	4 150	3 620
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.70	153.93	230	F	260	290
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.84	145.52	514	R	480	450
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.29	92.71	572	S	530	550
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 760	F	2 830	2 810
Edward at Liewah	-	3.08	58.46	2 690	R	2 610	2 450
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.52	55.01	588	R	500	340
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	249	S	240	230
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	150	S	130	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.07	-	258	F	280	280
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	75	R	60	60

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	310	550
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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	+0.09	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.12	+0.60
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.23	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.47	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.11	+0.33
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.09	+0.42	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.13	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.43	+0.15	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.03

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.12	0.77	70.12	481
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.08	0.13	61.43	252

**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	0.75

**Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.72	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.79	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.66	All closed

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

