

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 8 March 2006

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10 March, 2006



River Operations

As a result of the continuing dry conditions in the southern half of the Basin over the past week (*see attached map*), inflow to the River Murray System remains at very low levels, while irrigation diversions and evaporative losses have again increased to very high levels. In response, the release from Hume Reservoir has been increased to provide 25 000 ML/day at Doctors Point, which is the regulated channel capacity of the River Murray downstream of Hume Dam.

A combination of increased irrigation diversions, strong westerly winds and high evaporative losses resulted in the level of Lake Mulwala falling earlier this week to 124.66 m (AHD) (24 cm below FSL). The lake level has now stabilised and is expected to gradually increase over the coming week as the increased release from Hume Reservoir reaches the lake.

Flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir has reduced to 5 000 ML/day as a result of increased diversions into the National Channel and a lower inflow from the Goulburn River. Similarly, flow downstream of Stevens Weir (Edward River) has reduced to 2 300 ML/day due to a gradual increase in losses and irrigation diversions. Further reductions in flow downstream of Torrumbarry Weir and Stevens Weir are expected to occur over the coming week.

With the continuing warm and dry conditions, storage in Lake Victoria has further declined by 32 GL to 276 GL (41% capacity). If conditions remain dry, the lake will fall to very low levels at which the lake has a reduced outlet capacity. In response, a package of measures is being implemented to assist in meeting River Murray flow requirements over the coming months. RMW has requested an additional 500 ML/day release from the Goulburn River inter-valley trade account to increase the flow at McCoys Bridge to about 2 000 ML/day by about mid March.

In addition, the weir pools of Locks 7 and 9 have been raised to 20 cm above the full supply level (FSL) and will remain at this level until required to be drawn down to provide additional water to maintain flow requirements further downstream. The Lock 8 weir pool is currently 25 cm above FSL and will be raised to 50 cm above FSL by late March, then lowered as required during April.

As announced last week, flow to South Australia for this March is being provided at a rate of 6 600 ML/day early in the month, and then 5 400 ML/day later in the month to achieve the March average of 6 000 ML/day. This pattern of flow has been arranged to assist in meeting River Murray flow requirements if there are limitations in Lake Victoria outlet capacity if the storage reaches low levels in late March.

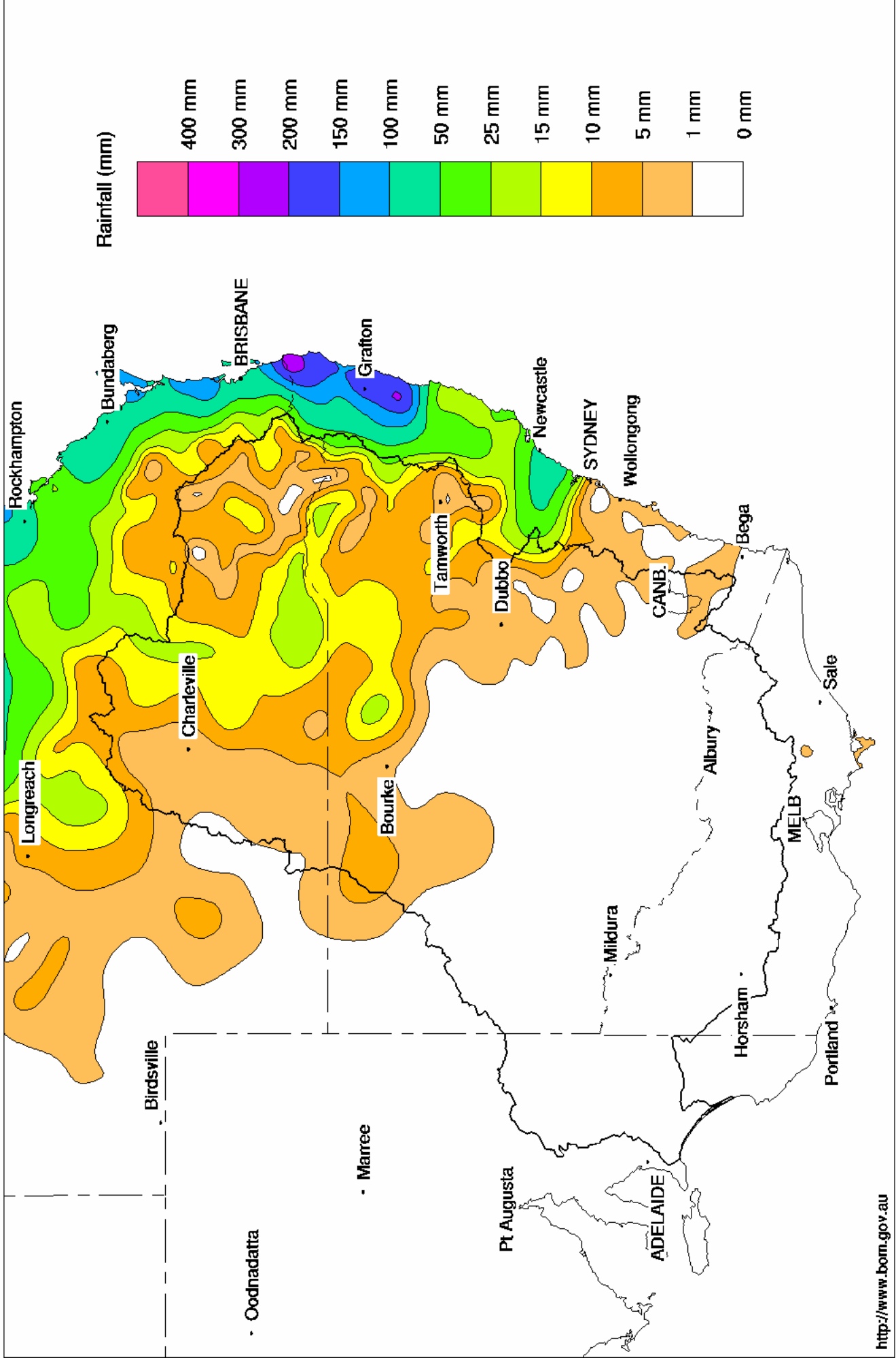
February Summary

Rainfall during February was generally near average in the north of the Basin but average to below average in the south. This has resulted in relatively low inflows to the River Murray System (including Menindee Lakes) over the past month of 110 GL (this level of inflow is exceeded 8 years in 10 in the long term). During February, unregulated inflow into Hume Reservoir was only 14 GL (a level expected to be exceeded 9 years in 10) and the Total System Storage (including Menindee Lakes) fell by 605 GL to 4 594 GL (49% capacity), which is about 1 000 GL below the long-term average.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

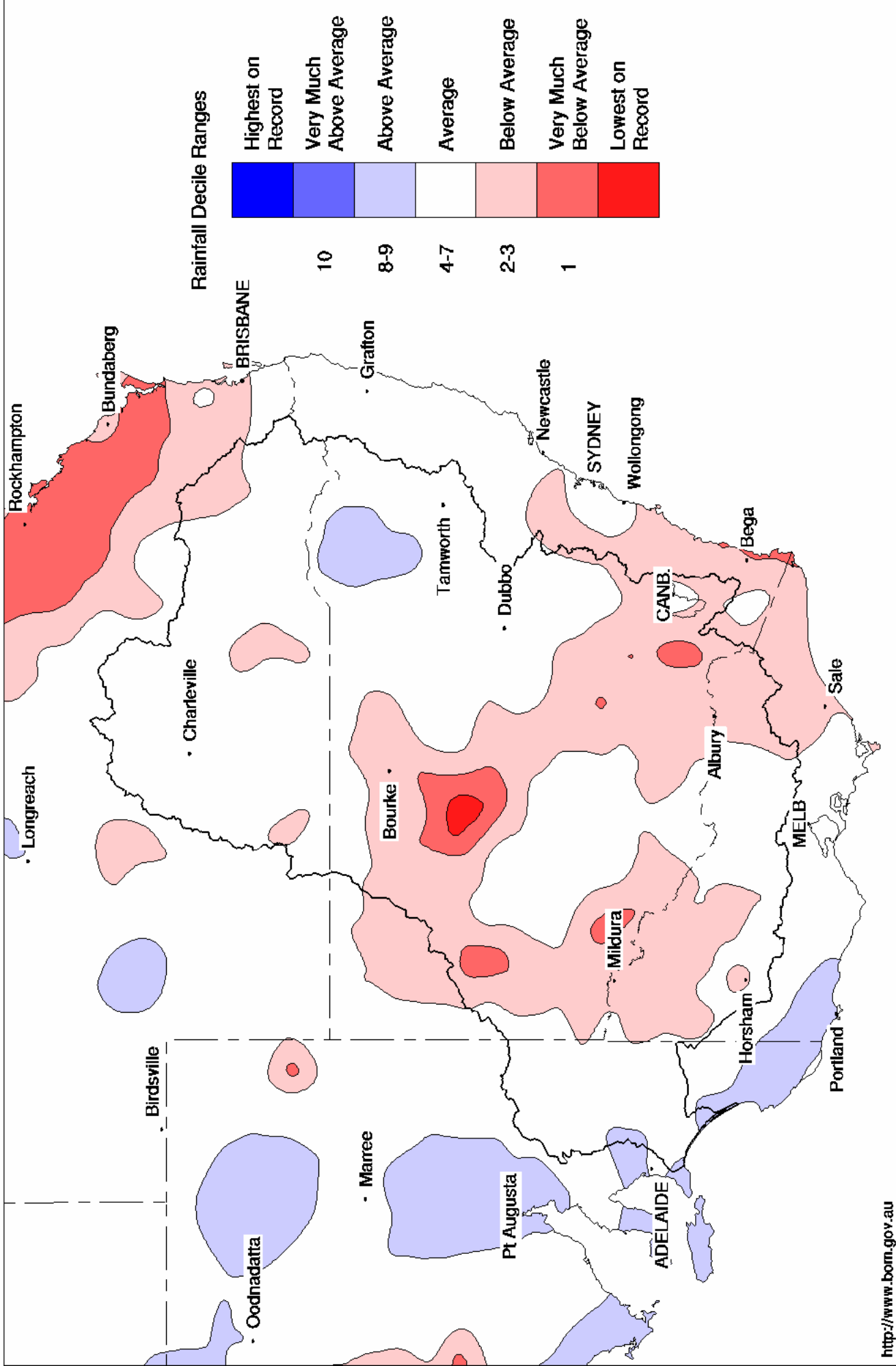
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 8th March 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles February 2006

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)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	462.22	2 522	65%	80	2 442	-4
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	181.29	1 313	43%	30	1 283	-141
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.31	276	41%	100	176	-32
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		301	17%	(- -) #	0	-5
Total		9 352		4 412	47%	--	3 901	-182

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **46%**

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		352	34%	3	349	+2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		779	48%	24	755	-18
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		987	29%	100	887	-58

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 07-Mar-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 705	-56	Snowy-Murray	+21	797
Snowy-Murray Component	839	-24	Tooma-Tumut	+2	253
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	19.2	544
			Murray 1 Release	+20	1 102

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	39.7	930.9
Wakool System loss	0.6	20.5
Western Murray Irrig.	1.1	24.5
Licensed Pumps	15.8	258.8
Lower Darling	0.4	56.7
TOTAL	57.5	1 291.3

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	17.9	302
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	26.1	527
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.0	124
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.1	40
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.9	196
TOTAL	56.0	1 190

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	
Flow this week	46.1	(6 600 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	52	
Flow last month	199	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	80	80	100
Euston	110	100	120
Red Cliffs	130	130	140
Merbein	120	130	130
Burtundy (Darling)	650	640	560
Lock 9	140	150	140
Lake Victoria	210	200	190
Berri	240	240	220
Waikerie	280	290	330
Morgan	320	320	320
Mannum	360	350	360
Murray Bridge	350	350	380
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 180	1 180	1 270
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 110	1 110	970
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 330	2 260	2 130
Goolwa Barrages	1 890	1 910	1 820



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	-	-	-	3 930	F	3 340	2 600
Jingellic	4.0	1.63	208.15	4 150	R	3 210	3 750
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	530	S	510	1 090
Heywoods	5.5	3.76	157.39	23 420	S	22 080	18 480
Doctors Point	5.5	3.87	152.34	25 000	S	23 670	20 140
Albury	4.3	2.95	150.39	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.00	130.02	25 000	R	22 300	21 430
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 000	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.30	106.14	10 710	S	10 810	10 890
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.84	80.39	5 200	F	5 600	5 980
Swan Hill	4.5	1.10	64.02	4 940	F	5 240	5 270
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.86	51.98	7 420	F	7 610	7 490
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.43	43.27	6 940	S	6 940	6 730
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.92	5 460	F	5 220	4 960
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	4 780	R	4 790	4 540
Rufus Junction	-	3.46	20.39	6 220	R	5 890	6 440
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 770	F	4 730	4 680
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	-	-	345	F	410	160
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.66	145.34	230	R	240	260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.83	93.25	1 501	F	1 780	1 610
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 480	F	2 810	2 900
Edward at Liewah	-	2.97	58.35	2 540	F	2 620	2 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.51	55.00	565	S	570	520
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.15	57.11	654	R	490	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.58	-	1 010	S	1 300	1 020
Darling at Bourke	-	4.17	-	685	R	340	250
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	25	R	20	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	- 30	1 780
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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	-0.24	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.19	+1.14
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.15
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.12	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.36	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.18	+0.20	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.21	+0.22	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-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	-0.10	1.4	70.75	1610
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.41	0.9	62.2	1100

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.71

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.75	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.73	All closed



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