

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 11 January 2006

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13 January, 2006



Rainfall and Temperature

Weather conditions across the Murray-Darling Basin have eased from the extreme conditions experienced over the Christmas/New Year period. However, continuing hot and dry conditions have kept river losses and diversions across the River Murray System at high levels. On Wednesday 11 January a change brought a slight decrease in temperatures, light showers and some respite in losses.

River Murray Operation

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir was temporarily increased this week for the purposes of electricity generation. The release was increased from the minimum flow of 200 ML/day, to 1 000 ML/day, before being gradually reduced back to the minimum flow by 8 January.

Release from Hume Reservoir was reduced slightly during the week, from the channel capacity rate of 25 000 ML/day at Albury to 24 000 ML/day. The high rates of release have steadily drawn down Hume storage, which is now at 2 200 GL (or 72% capacity).

Further downstream, release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased marginally from 10 000 to 10 200 ML/day. Inflow from the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge has increased to 2 300 ML/day, following a call by RMW on water available in a trade account held in Eildon Reservoir. This water will be used to help meet downstream diversions and maintain river flows through Sunraysia.

The forecast for flow passing Wentworth has improved slightly with the recent change in weather, however, hotter conditions may return again this weekend and flows may fall below 1 000 ML/day for a short period. RMW is currently drawing on water stored in Euston Weir pool to assist in maintaining meeting downstream requirements and the pool is now 15 cm below Full Supply Level. Depending on weather conditions over the coming week further drawdown of Euston Weir pool, and possibly other weir pools, may be required (as per the Media Release issued by RMW last week) to ensure that supplies are sufficient to meet demand.

Summary for December 2005

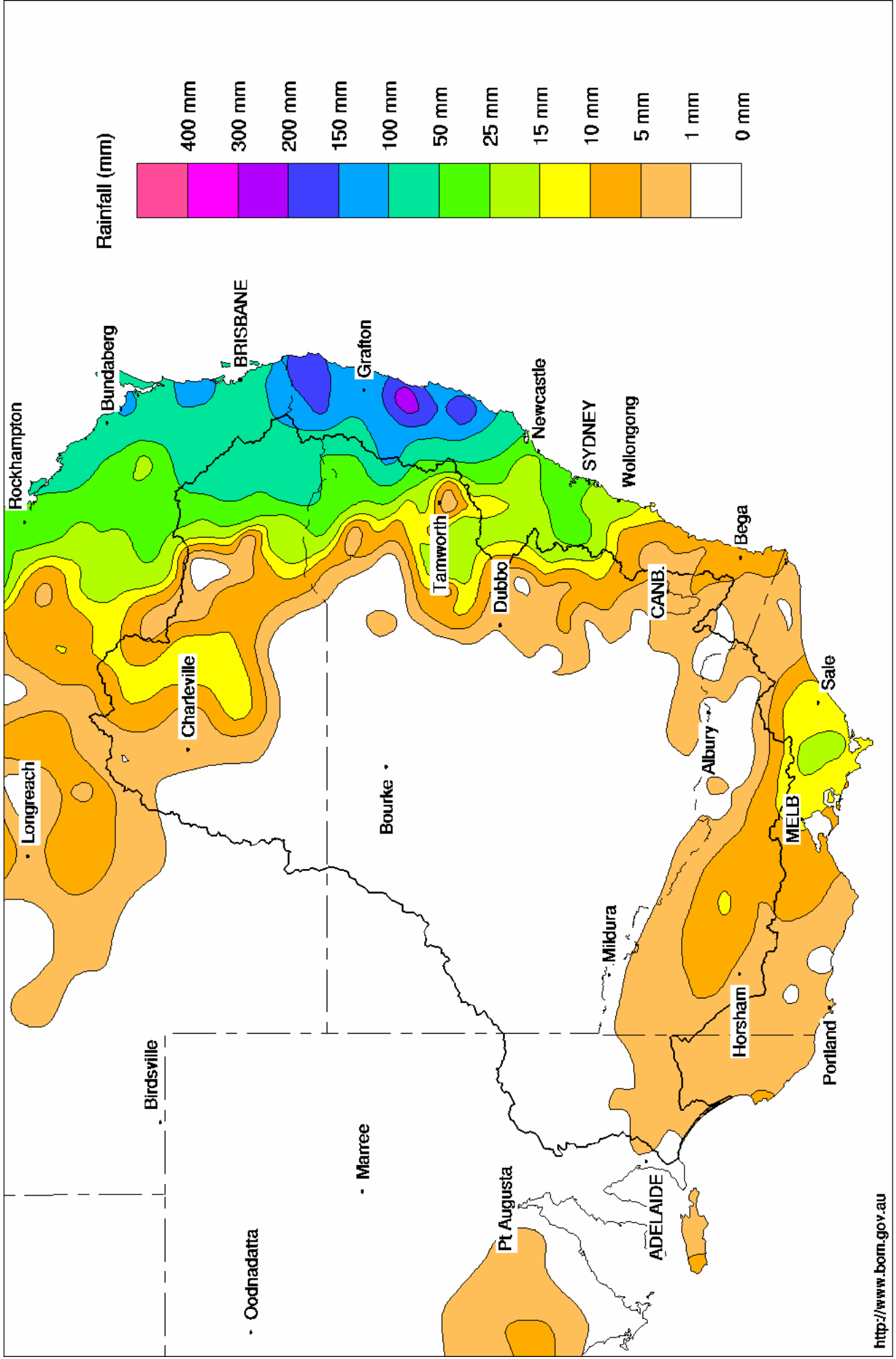
During December 2005, at the end of Australia's warmest year on record, temperatures across the Murray-Darling Basin were generally warmer than average. Rainfall for the month was average to below average (*see attached map*). North-west NSW, in particular, was exceptionally dry with some areas recording the lowest December rainfall on record.

Inflows to the River Murray System for December (excluding the Darling) were about average. In stark contrast, there was effectively no inflow from the Darling River into Menindee Lakes. During December, the total volume in MDBC storage fell by about 220 GL to 5 400 GL (63% active storage capacity) as releases were made to meet consumptive demands, river losses and to provide environmental flows. At the end of the month, the volume in storage was about 1 700 GL greater than at the same time last year, but about 630 GL below the long-term average for that time of year.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

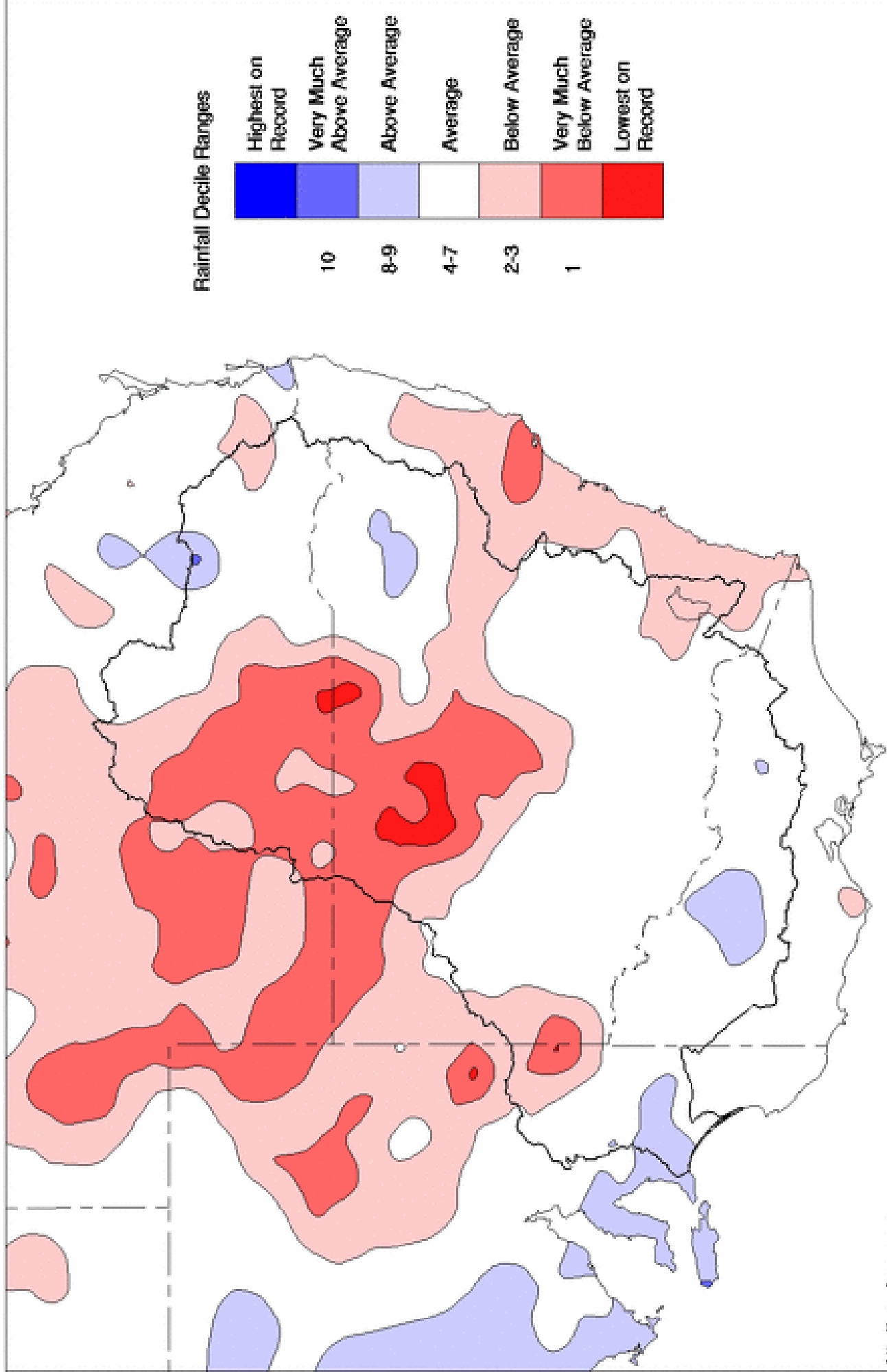
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 11th January 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles December 2005

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	462.47	2 535	65%	80	2 455	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	187.51	2 211	73%	30	2 181	-146
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.23	585	86%	100	485	-50
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		355	20%	(- -) #	0	-13
Total		9 352		5 686	61%	--	5 121	-207

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL
 # NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBC when storage next reaches 640 GL
 % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **60%**

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	547	53%	3	544	-63
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	940	58%	24	916	-48
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 479	44%	100	1 379	-64

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 10-Jan-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	N/A	N/A	Snowy-Murray	N/A	N/A
Snowy-Murray Component	N/A	N/A	Tooma-Tumut	N/A	N/A
Target Storage	N/A	N/A	Nett Diversion	N/A	N/A
			Murray 1 Release	N/A	N/A

Note: Data not supplied by Snowyhydro for the period 05/01/2006 - 11/01/2006

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005	Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	58.4	614.5	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	18.3	173
Wakool System loss	1.3	8.6	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.3	337
Western Murray Irrig.	1.8	14.0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	8.5	75
Licensed Pumps	12.5	153.5	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	20
Lower Darling	3.6	37.2	Licensed pumps - SRW	6.8	134
TOTAL	77.5	827.9	TOTAL	55.6	739

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	217	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.8	
Flow so far this month	78	
Flow last month	278	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	100	100	110
Euston	110	110	130
Red Cliffs	180	160	140
Merbein	160	160	120
Burtundy (Darling)	610	610	550
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	190	190	190
Berri	200	200	220
Waikerie	270	280	350
Morgan	290	280	330
Mannum	290	290	370
Murray Bridge	330	330	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 150	1 130	1 300
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 110	1 120	930
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 060	2 050	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	1 990	1 910	1 790



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	-	-	-	4 220	F	1 930	5 910
Jingellic	4.0	1.69	208.21	4 620	R	3 010	7 410
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.40	218.29	640	F	950	700
Heywoods	5.5	3.63	157.26	22 330	S	22 890	21 090
Doctors Point	5.5	3.80	152.27	24 200	S	24 570	22 890
Albury	4.3	2.90	150.34	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	4.05	130.07	25 400	F	25 530	22 440
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.79	116.83	10 200	S	10 060	10 010
Tocumwal	6.4	2.33	106.17	10 950	R	10 770	10 840
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.87	80.42	5 310	R	4 760	4 540
Swan Hill	4.5	0.97	63.89	4 190	R	3 860	4 570
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.03	51.15	4 100	F	4 620	6 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.87	42.71	3 810	F	4 570	6 180
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.87	2 680	F	3 240	4 870
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.97	27.73	1 960	F	2 350	4 060
Rufus Junction	-	3.54	20.47	6 690	R	6 600	6 930
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 520	F	4 470	5 060
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.06	154.29	670	R	560	1 020
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.91	145.59	650	S	750	1 010
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.18	93.60	2 108	R	1 270	430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 970	F	1 730	1 130
Edward at Liewah	-	1.38	56.76	767	R	800	1 430
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.31	54.80	215	F	310	660
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.47	56.43	197	S	200	240
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.24	-	100	F	110	270
Darling at Bourke	-	4.12	-	450	F	650	1 160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.66	-	18	F	30	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	N/A	2 810
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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	-0.10	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.09	+1.22
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+0.16
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.15	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.40
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.23	+0.70
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.05	+0.33	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.01	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+0.36	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.18
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.40	+0.06	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	+0.15

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.00	0.67	70.02	366
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.67	0.5	61.8	637

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.84

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.82	1
Mundoo	26 openings	0.82	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.78	2

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