

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 12 April 2006



Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, jm
Trim Ref : 06/8230

13 April, 2006

Rainfall

Most of the Murray-Darling Basin remained dry this week with less than 10 mm of rain falling over the Upper River Murray catchment. Falling on a very dry catchment, there was no noticeable response in stream flows. In the north of the Basin, falls were slightly higher, with up to 50 mm over the Border Rivers catchment.

System Outlook

In mid March, RMW advised that due to the hot and dry conditions, there was potential for a water supply shortfall to occur in April. A package of measures was implemented to address the matter, including the raising of weir pools to store additional water in the river for later use, calling on inter valley trade accounts from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee Rivers, and within-month adjustment of the flow to South Australia.

Since that time, light rainfall and an easing of temperatures has reduced diversions and river losses significantly, which has slowed the rate of fall of Lake Victoria. RMW is now confident that there will be no shortfall in supply this season. As a result, the surcharged weirpools of Locks 7, 8 and 9 will be progressively drawn back down towards their Full Supply Levels over the coming weeks (*see Media Release attached*).

River Operations

Release from Hume Dam remains quite high averaging about 20 000 ML/day at Albury/Wodonga. With the dry upper Murray catchments, and therefore low inflows to Hume Reservoir, the volume in storage continues to fall quickly. Under continuing dry conditions the Lake could fall to very low levels, however given the approaching end of the irrigation season and the prospects of rain over the coming week it is likely the rate of fall will soon begin to slow.

Elsewhere across the River Murray system flows are generally remaining steady as water continues to be transferred downstream to Lake Victoria. Release from Torrumbarry Weir may increase over the coming week with forecast reductions in diversion to National Channel.

March Summary

During March, temperatures across the Basin were consistently warmer than average, however rainfall for the month varied significantly. Rainfall in the South Australian part of the Basin was wetter than average, whilst significant areas (including sections of the eastern ranges) received below average rainfall (*see attached rainfall plot for March*). As a result, inflows to the River Murray System (including Menindee Lakes) were only 72 GL in March, a level that would have been exceeded in 9 years out of 10. The total MDBC active storage volume fell by about 650 GL to 3 440 GL (46% of active storage capacity), as high releases were made from Hume Reservoir and Lake Victoria to meet consumptive demands and river losses. At the end of March, the volume in storage was about 650 GL greater than at the same time last year, and about 1 100 GL below the long-term average for that time of year.

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MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday, 13 April 2006

River Murray Weir Pool levels returning to normal



TRIM Ref: 06/8351

Since early March the upper weir pool levels of Rufus River (Lock 7), Wangumma (Lock 8) and Kulnine (Lock 9) have been temporarily raised above Full Supply Level (FSL) as part of a package of precautionary measures to assist in meeting flow requirements along the River Murray. Locks 7 and 9 have been raised by up to 20 cm above FSL, and Lock 8 by up to 50 cm above FSL.

“The water stored in the surcharged weir pools provided added assurance against a potential shortfall in supply which has now effectively passed” River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said.

“Over coming weeks the upper pool level of Locks 7, 8 and 9 will be gradually returned toward Full Supply Level. Landowners, river diverters, boat operators and other river users are advised to take these changes in river levels into account when planning their river activities,” Mr Dreverman said.

For further information contact:

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Allison Hicks

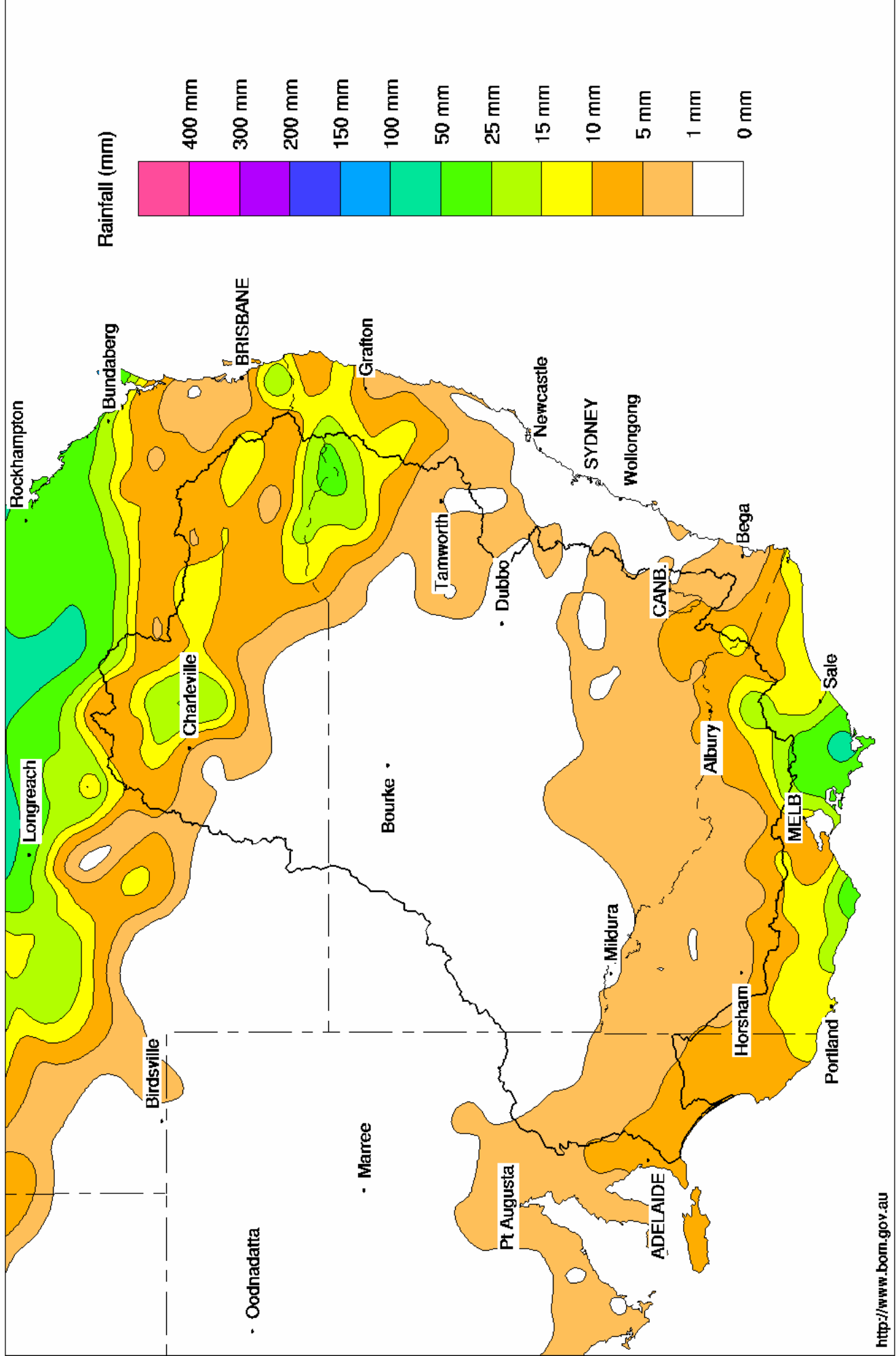
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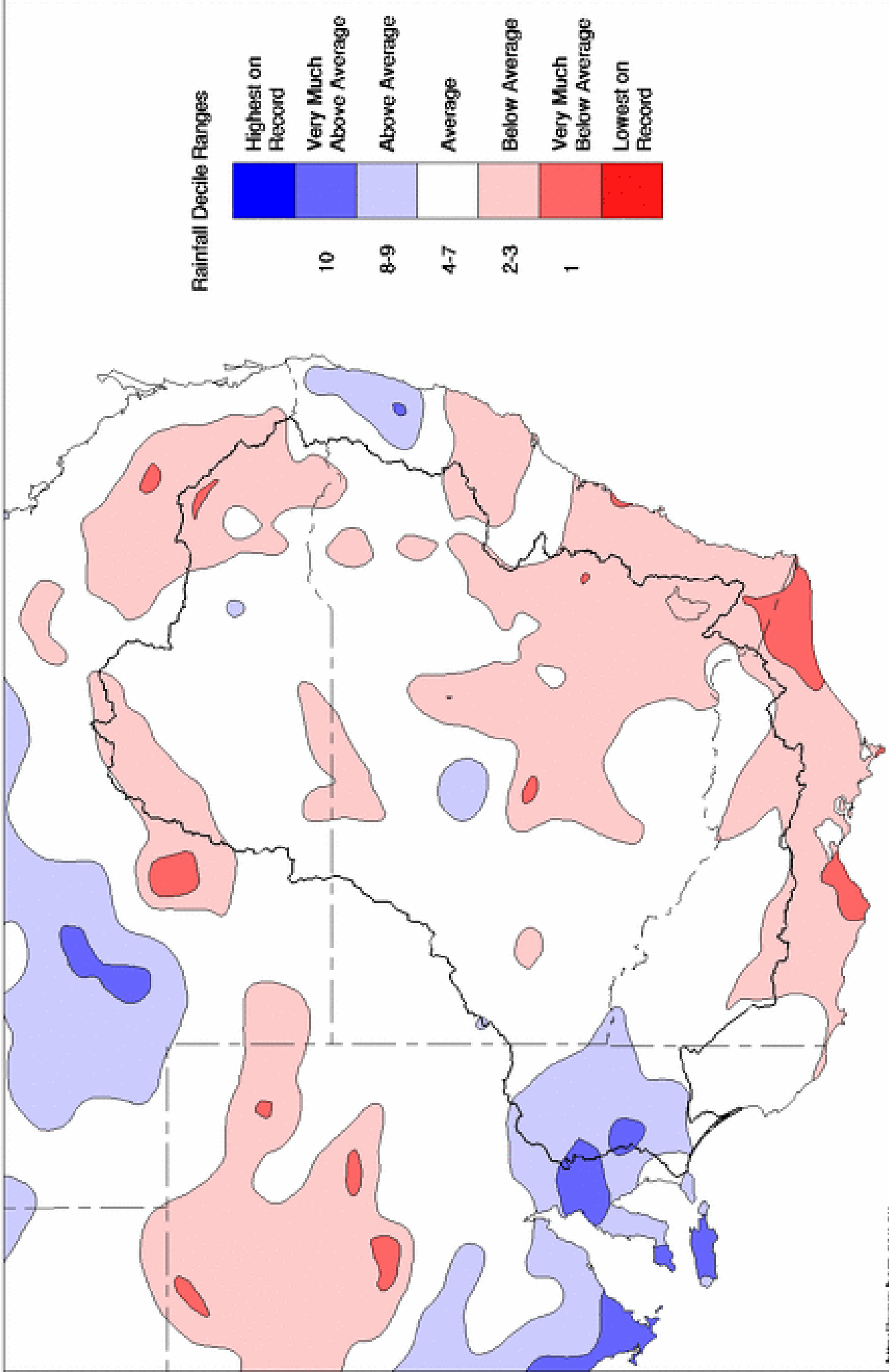
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 12th April 2006

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles March 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	462.14	2 518	64%	80	2 438	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.20	662	22%	30	632	-114
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.97	251	37%	100	151	-5
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		286	17%	(- -) #	0	-1
Total		9 352		3 718	40%	--	3 222	-123

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **38%**

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	344	34%	3	341	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	716	44%	24	692	+3
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	766	23%	100	666	-46

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 11-Apr-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2005
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 486	-44	Snowy-Murray	+9	858
Snowy-Murray Component	778	-8	Tooma-Tumut	+0	256
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	8.5	601
			Murray 1 Release	+10	1 172

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2005
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	35.0	1 142.0
Wakool System loss	2.5	29.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.5	27.2
Licensed Pumps	13.4	343.4
Lower Darling	0.5	58.2
TOTAL	51.8	1 600.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2005
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	12.7	378
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	24.5	656
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.3	136
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	50
Licensed pumps - LMW	4.6	220
TOTAL	45.8	1 441

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	(4 500 ML/day)
Flow this week	31.2	
Flow so far this month	55	
Flow last month	188	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2005
Swan Hill	90	100	100
Euston	90	90	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	140
Merbein	100	100	130
Burtundy (Darling)	720	710	580
Lock 9	120	120	140
Lake Victoria	220	210	190
Berri	230	240	220
Waikerie	-	340	330
Morgan	340	340	320
Mannum	360	370	360
Murray Bridge	-	370	370
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 170	1 180	1 250
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	940	960	970
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 360	2 330	2 150
Goolwa Barrages	2 270	2 730	1 850

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	-	-	-	1 290	R	1 090	1 530
Jingellic	4.0	1.13	207.65	- 10	F	1 540	260
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	530	F	560	520
Heywoods	5.5	3.33	156.96	18 280	S	18 540	19 540
Doctors Point	5.5	3.43	151.90	19 700	S	19 860	20 870
Albury	4.3	2.45	149.89	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.56	129.58	20 400	S	20 430	22 510
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.76	116.80	10 000	S	10 000	10 000
Tocumwal	6.4	2.29	106.13	10 630	S	10 650	10 700
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.66	80.21	4 580	R	4 440	4 100
Swan Hill	4.5	0.90	63.82	3 690	R	3 520	3 630
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.46	51.58	5 710	R	5 620	5 960
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.17	43.01	5 390	F	5 420	6 430
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.86	4 270	F	4 560	5 760
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.99	27.75	4 080	S	4 510	5 730
Rufus Junction	-	3.02	19.95	3 530	F	3 720	4 090
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	3 740	F	3 860	3 910
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.67	153.90	200	F	300	210
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.71	145.39	297	F	350	450
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.31	92.73	610	F	690	900
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 380	F	2 480	2 460
Edward at Liewah	-	2.92	58.30	2 470	F	2 470	2 400
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.41	54.90	363	F	420	350
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.63	56.59	280	S	290	500
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.31	-	230	S	230	300
Darling at Bourke	-	4.10	-	371	S	410	700
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	75	R	60	50

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	780	- 160
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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	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.20	+0.73
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.12
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.00	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.50
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.35	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.16	+0.48	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.49	+0.23	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.06

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	0.82	70.17	546
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.13	0.13	61.43	252

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	0.68	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.71	All closed

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

