

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 December 2006



Our Ref : M2006/00012/prs, dwg  
Trim Ref : 06/27151

22 December, 2006

Dry conditions persisted across most of the Basin this week and inflows to the River Murray System remain at very low levels. A band of rain will cross the southern half of the Basin this weekend with the Bureau of Meteorology predicting rainfall totals in the order of 5 to 20 mm for most regions.

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir has been maintained at about 10 600 ML/day and storage volume is now 1 308 GL (33% capacity). Releases from the low-level outlet commenced on 20 December 2006 to supplement the high-level outlet in meeting the required flow in the Mitta Mitta River (*see attached media release*). There will be a transition phase over the next three weeks as the release from the low-level outlet is gradually increased to meet all of the flow requirements downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir.

Release from Hume Reservoir has been reduced by 1 000 ML/day to 12 500 ML/day. This has slowed the rate of fall in Hume storage, which is currently 161 GL (5% capacity). Release downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has also been gradually reduced from 9 600 ML/day to 8 500 ML/day.

The level of Torrumbarry Weir pool has been increased by 7 cm to 85.99 m AHD (6 cm below the Full Supply Level). It is planned to maintain the weir pool near this level over the Christmas – New Year period.

The flow downstream of Stevens Weir (Edward River) has been reduced from 2 500 ML/day to 2 100 ML/day, and if there is no significant rainfall this weekend, a further reduction to about 1 800 ML/day is planned for next week.

The flow downstream of Euston Weir has reduced from 7 000 ML/day to 6 200 ML/day and is expected to gradually reduce to about 5 000 ML/day by early January if there is no significant rain.

The flow downstream of Lock 1 in South Australia is currently about 3 000 ML/day and the level of the Lower Lakes has fallen by a further 3 cm to 0.51 m AHD. The salinity level upstream of the Goolwa Barrage has remained steady over the past month at about 2 000 EC.

For more detailed information on River Murray operations and outlooks over the coming months please find attached the first edition of the River Murray System Operational Update.

**The Commission, River Murray Water and staff at the storages, weirs and barrages of the River Murray System wish you a safe and merry Christmas season.**

*Note: There will be no Weekly Report issued for the week ending 27<sup>th</sup> December 2006. The next report will cover the two week period ending 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007.*

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager

*River Murray Water*  
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601  
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005  
Internet : [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)

# MEDIA RELEASE

---

Wednesday, 20 December 2006

## High flows to continue along Mitta Mitta River



Due to continuing dry conditions and low storage levels in Hume Reservoir, flow along the Mitta Mitta River downstream of Dartmouth Reservoir will be maintained at the current rate until further notice.

River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, Mr David Dreverman, said today that unless there was significant rain, the current river levels at Colemans (2.87m gauge height) and Tallandoon (3.39m gauge height), would be maintained in order to meet downstream demands ”.

“Dartmouth Reservoir is currently at 1 310 GL (34% capacity). As storage levels in Dartmouth Reservoir decline, the release capacity of the high-level outlet will reduce and release via the low-level outlet will need to be gradually increased”, he said.

Mr Dreverman said that “The gradual transition in release from the high-level outlet to the low-level outlet will occur over a 3 week period commencing on about 24 December 2006”.

“Depth samples and trial releases from the low level outlet have indicated that the water quality from the low-level outlet will be similar to that currently being released from the high-level outlet, however it may be marginally colder”, he said.

“Also, as the storage level declines, fine sediment at the bottom of the reservoir will be exposed to wave action, which may increase the turbidity of water released from the low-level outlet”, he added.

“Water quality will continue to be monitored closely, and notification will be made of any significant reductions in water quality arising from the release of water from the low-level outlet into the Mitta Mitta River”, he said.

“River users are reminded of the possibility of strong currents in the Mitta Mitta River over the coming months and are advised to take this information into account and make any necessary adjustments to their on-river activities,” Mr Dreverman said.

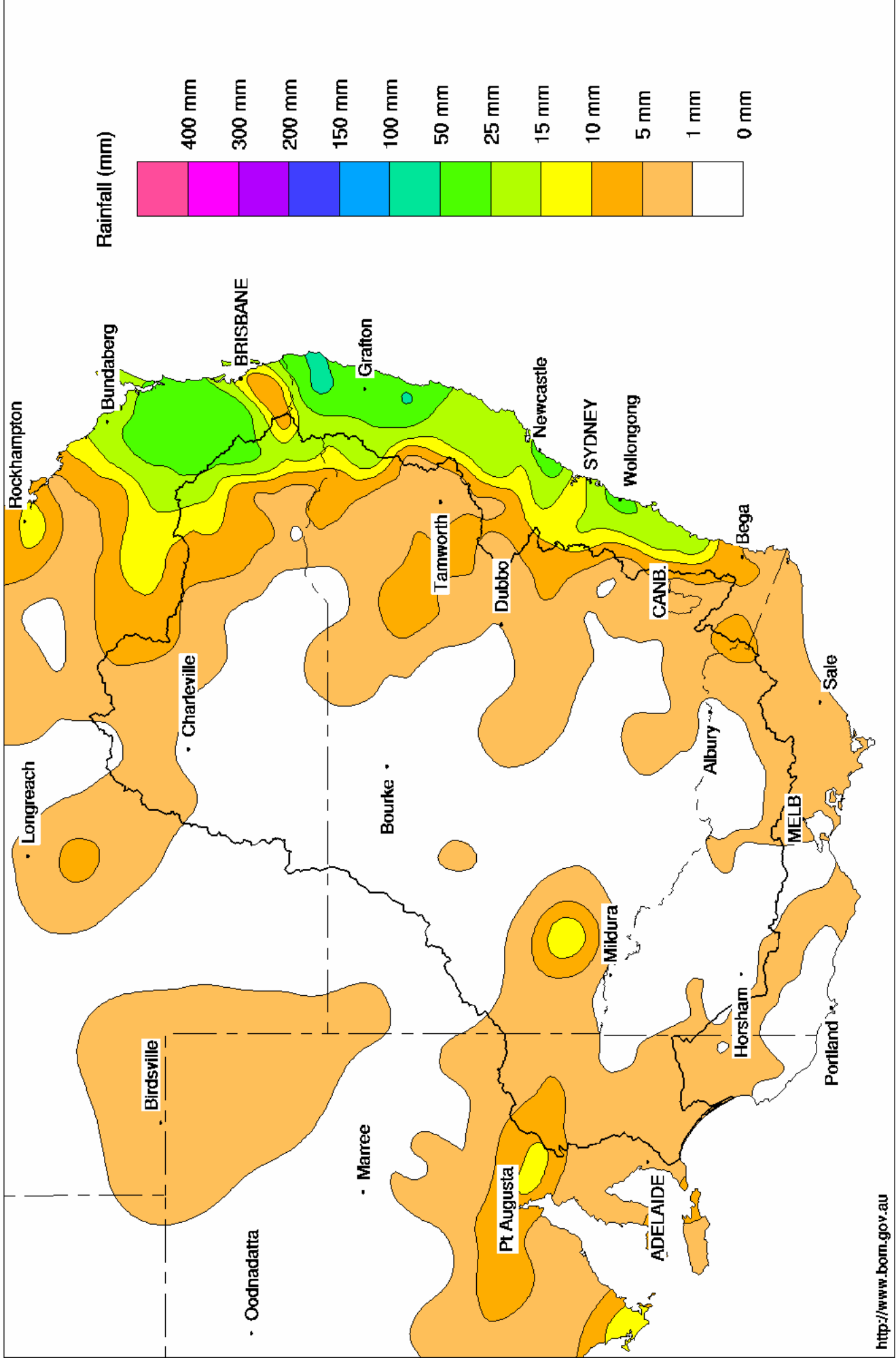
### Media contact:

Sam Leone  
Acting Media/Publications Officer  
Phone: 02 6279 0157 mobile: 0407 006332  
E-mail: [sam.lean@mdbc.gov.au](mailto:sam.lean@mdbc.gov.au)  
(*Sam Leone is not to be quoted as a spokesperson*)

TRIM : 06/26894

# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th December 2006

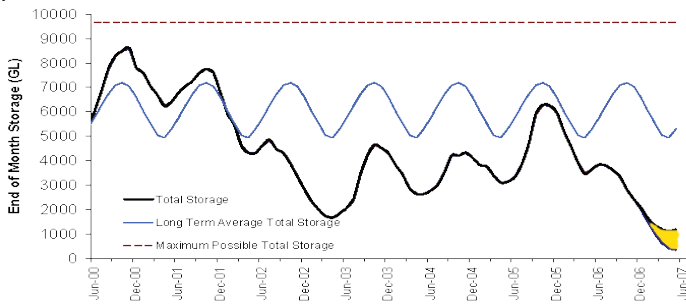
Product of the National Climate Centre



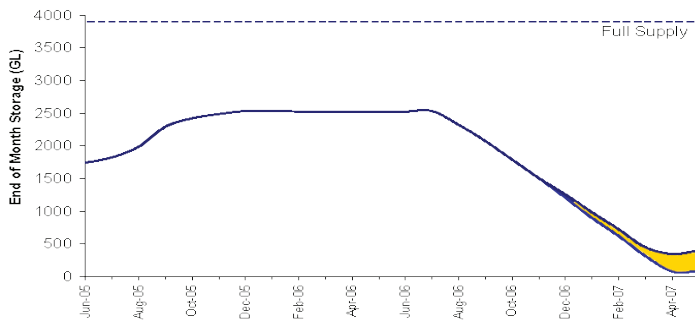


The yellow part of the graph shows a range of outlooks from 'worst case' inflows up to about average inflows. Wetter conditions might mean higher storage levels.

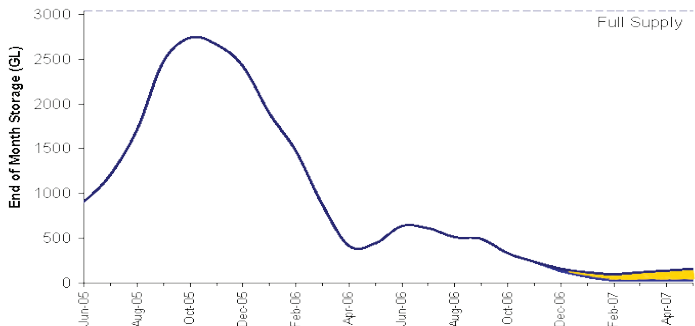
## Total Storage - June 2000 to May 2007



## Dartmouth Dam - June 2005 to May 2007



## Hume Dam - June 2005 to May 2007

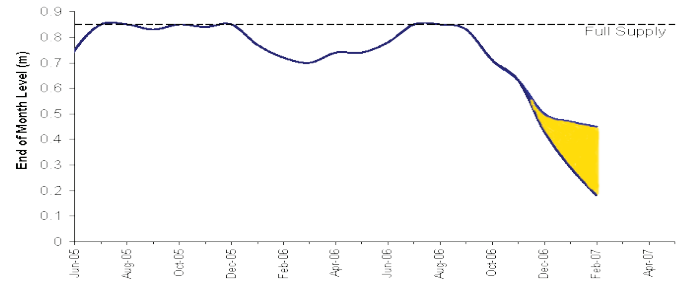


## Lake Victoria - June 2005 to May 2007



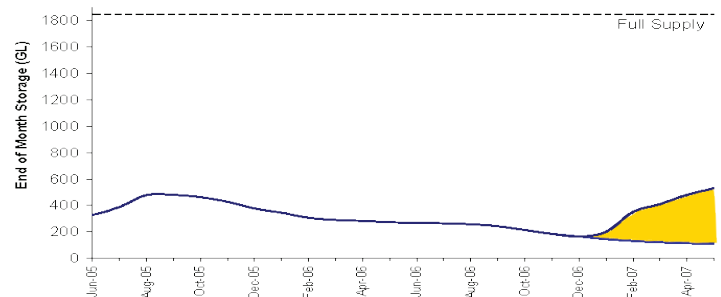
## Lower Lakes - June 2005 to Feb 2007

Outlooks for the lower lakes will be highly sensitive to local weather conditions and water saving measures in South Australia so a shorter range outlook is provided.



Menindee Lakes is a special case for MDBC as control of these waters reverts to New South Wales when storage falls below 480 GL and returns to MDBC control when storage next exceeds 640 GL. Menindee Lakes has been under NSW control since March 2002.

## Menindee Lakes - June 2005 to May 2007



"Dead storage" is the volume of water held in storage below a dam's minimum operating level. It cannot be released under gravity through the dam's outlets. In some cases it may be accessed by pumping or syphoning. River Murray System storage dead storage volumes are:

- Dartmouth Reservoir 80 GL
- Hume Reservoir 30 GL
- Lake Victoria 100 GL

Further Operational Updates will provide up-to-date information on reservoir operations, releases and emerging problems. They will also feature any improvements to conditions and outlooks.

## For further information

Please see the MDBC website at: [www.mdbc.gov.au](http://www.mdbc.gov.au)

The following information reports and updates can be found at these web addresses on the MDBC website:

MDBC Drought updates:

[http://www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/drought\\_updates](http://www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/drought_updates)

RMW Weekly reports:

[http://www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/river\\_information\\_centre](http://www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/river_information_centre)

or contact Sam Leone, Communications Unit for further information:

0407 006 332

**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	433.40	1 308	33%	80	1 228	-70
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	167.59	161	5%	30	131	-25
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.30	480	71%	100	380	-12
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		173	10%	(- -) #	0	-3
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>2 122</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 738</b>	<b>-110</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **20%**

# 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		298	29%	3	295	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		356	22%	24	332	-38
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		419	12%	100	319	-25

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Dec-2006

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	633	+0	Snowy-Murray	+0	683
Snowy-Murray Component	390	-0	Tooma-Tumut	+1	35
Target Storage	1 510		Nett Diversion	-0.7	648
			Murray 1 Release	+1	777

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.9	264.1
Wakool System loss	1.6	36.0
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	11.6
Licensed Pumps	4.5	112.8
Lower Darling	0.7	14.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>439.2</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	12.2	216
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	19.7	398
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	6.2	75
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	17.3	118
Licensed pumps - LMW	11.3	73
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>66.6</b>	<b>879</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	217	
Flow this week	40.6	(5 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	117	
Flow last month	151	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	60	60	70
Euston	70	70	90
Red Cliffs	120	90	120
Merbein	80	90	100
Burtundy (Darling)	930	920	710
Lock 9	100	100	130
Lake Victoria	140	160	150
Berri	210	220	230
Waikerie	-	350	360
Morgan	360	360	390
Mannum	490	480	450
Murray Bridge	480	460	420
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 290	1 290	1 180
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 220	1 170	970
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 350	2 320	2 210
Goolwa Barrages	2 070	2 050	1 740



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	340	F	390	400
Jingellic	4.0	1.02	207.54	510	S	510	540
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	3.39	220.28	10 610	S	10 590	10 410
Heywoods	5.5	2.72	156.35	11 990	S	13 290	13 730
Doctors Point	5.5	2.80	151.27	12 400	S	13 610	13 510
Albury	4.3	1.78	149.22	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.71	128.73	12 900	F	14 030	14 040
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.54	116.58	8 800	S	9 130	9 600
Tocumwal	6.4	2.03	105.87	8 440	F	8 880	9 220
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.64	80.19	4 520	F	4 630	4 870
Swan Hill	4.5	0.96	63.88	4 120	S	4 180	4 800
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.62	51.74	6 390	F	6 740	7 530
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.31	43.15	6 200	F	6 750	7 430
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	5 610	F	5 480	5 580
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.89	27.65	4 620	S	4 790	5 220
Rufus Junction	-	3.22	20.15	5 110	S	5 190	5 280
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.52	-	3 190	R	2 820	3 340
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.50	153.73	70	R	60	50
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.49	145.17	66	R	70	80
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	400	R	370	350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.11	81.88	2 160	S	2 380	2 520
Edward at Liewah	-	2.85	58.23	2 370	S	2 440	2 590
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.36	54.85	287	F	320	420
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.33	57.29	801	F	820	830
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.44	-	561	F	600	140
Darling at Bourke	-	2.90	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.70	-	52	S	50	90

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	50	280
---	----	-----

**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	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	+0.13	+0.92
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.06	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.10	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.54
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.25	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.01	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.12
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.01	+0.24	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.23

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.87	1.26	70.61	1310
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.59	0.89	62.19	1080



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.52

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.58	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.54	All closed	Closed	Open

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