

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 4 April 2007

Our Ref : M2006/01015 / prs, dwg

5 April, 2007

Trim Ref : 07/5299



## ***Rainfall and inflows***

There were scattered showers along the River Murray System this week with the highest falls of up to 50mm occurring in north-east Victoria (*see attached map*). This rain was insufficient to significantly alter stream flows and as such inflows to the River Murray System remain at very low levels.

## ***River Murray Operations***

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir continues to be gradually reduced and it is expected to reach the minimum rate of 200 ML/day by mid April. Release from Hume Reservoir has varied between 6 500 and 7 500 ML/day and the storage volume has reduced by 17 GL to 145 GL (4.8% capacity).

River flows downstream of Yarrawonga Weir are currently low due to the relatively low irrigation demand and the low flow being released to South Australia. Over the past week, the flow downstream of Euston Weir has further reduced from 2 400 to 2 200 ML/day and the flow downstream of Wentworth Weir has reduced from 1 800 to 1 300 ML/day.

The reduced river flows will assist in minimising river losses and help conserve water in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs for next season. However, the low flows increase the chances of needing to temporarily draw on weir pool levels to meet downstream requirements if there is a short-term increase in "river losses" or irrigation diversions. If there are higher than planned irrigation diversions and river losses throughout Sunraysia over the coming weeks (eg. as a result of a period of warm dry weather) then partial and temporary lowering of Euston and Lock 8 Weir pools may be required (*see attached media release*).

The flow to South Australia has been further reduced from 2 000 to 1 700 ML/day. Although this has further reduced the downstream river level at Lock 4 by 9 cm, the upstream weir pool levels in South Australia remain at or near the full supply level (except for Lock 6, which is now 7 cm below FSL). Any further changes to the flow to South Australia over the coming weeks will take into account weir pool levels and will be made in consultation with South Australian agencies.

## ***March Summary***

Rainfall for March 2006 was average to above average across the southern half of the Basin (*see attached map*) which has resulted in some smaller streams in the mountains beginning to flow once more as catchments become wetter. However, total inflow to the River Murray System for March was very low at 48 GL. Using modelled historical inflows and assuming current levels of development over the last 115 years, the previous minimum inflow for March was 54 GL in 1915. The March inflow was slightly higher than February's inflow (35 GL). Sustained heavy rain across a broad area is required to bring a significant increase to inflow rates.

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# MEDIA RELEASE

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Thursday, 5 April 2007

## Minor lowering of some weir pools in Sunraysia

The water level of Euston (Lock 15) and Wangumma (Lock 8) Weir pools may be partially lowered to assist in meeting flow requirements throughout the Sunraysia area during April, River Murray Water (RMW) announced today.

RMW General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said that this operation aims to minimise releases from Hume Reservoir to conserve water resources for 2007-08. This is particularly important given the extremely low storage levels currently being experienced as a result of the severe drought, and is part of the drought contingency plan.

“Instead of releasing additional water from Hume Reservoir, the water stored in the weir pools will be utilised to meet short-term increases in water diversions and river losses. The weir pools will then be gradually refilled as irrigation diversions decline in late autumn or following significant rainfall”, he said.

Over the past week the flow downstream of Euston Weir has been gradually reduced to 2 200 ML/day and the flow at Wentworth Weir reduced to 1 300 ML/day. If irrigation diversions and river losses are higher than planned over the coming weeks then minor lowering of Euston (up to 15 cm below FSL) and Lock 8 (up to 40 cm below FSL) weir pools may be required to meet downstream flow requirements.

The extent of the drawdowns may be less than this if there is a change to cooler weather conditions reducing irrigator demands and river losses.

At this stage it is expected that the Mildura (Lock 11), Wentworth (Lock 10) and Kulnine (Lock 9) Weir pools will be maintained close to their Full Supply Levels.

Mr Dreverman said that: “river pumpers, boat operators and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities”.

### **Media contact:**

*Sam Leone*

*Media Officer*

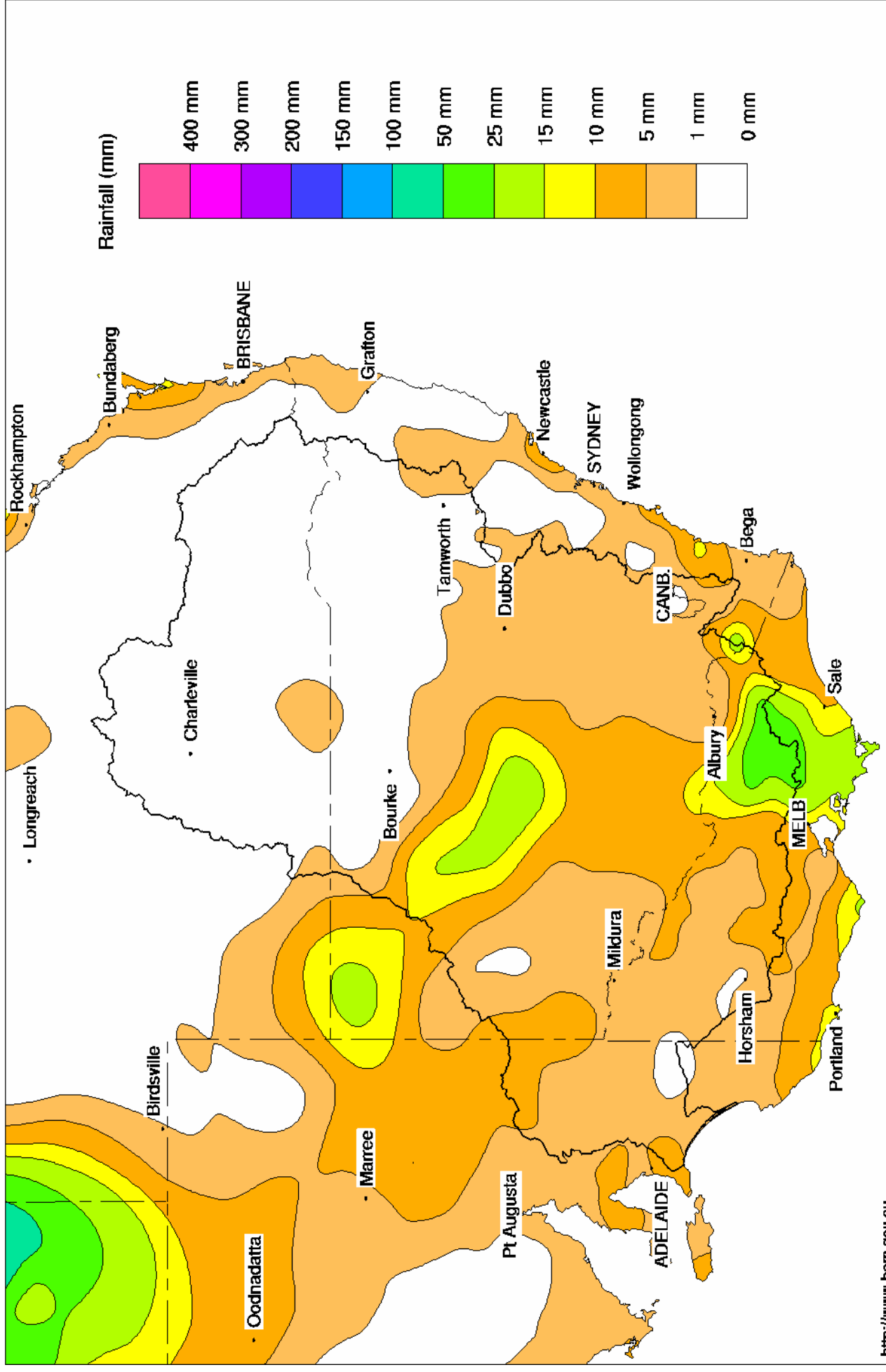
Phone: 02 6279 0141 , E-mail: [sam.leone@mdbc.gov.au](mailto:sam.leone@mdbc.gov.au)

*(Sam Leone is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)*

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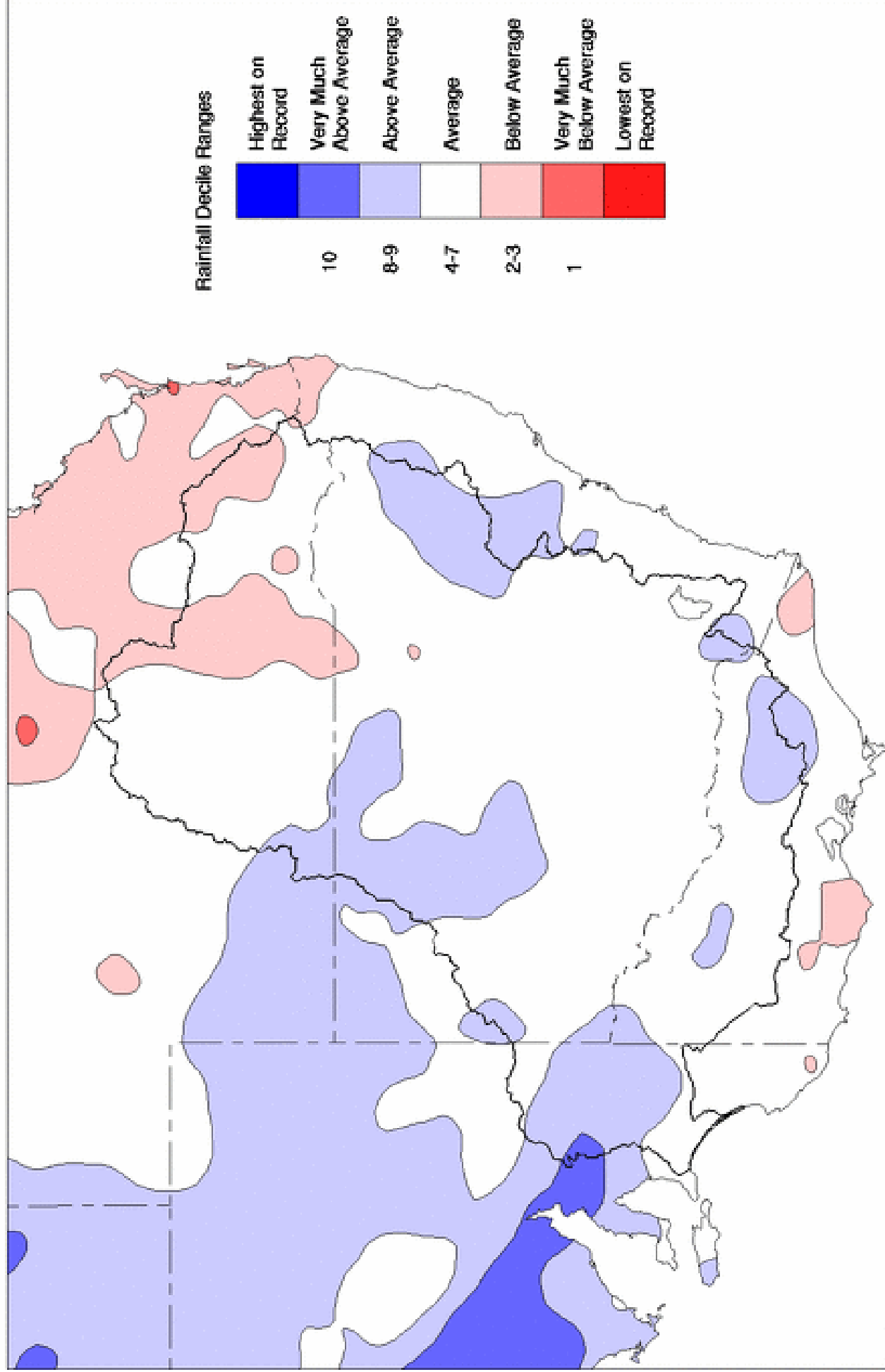
# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th April 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



# Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles March 2007

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	401.06	482	12%	80	402	-18
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	167.19	145	5%	30	115	-17
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.86	234	35%	100	134	-11
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		113	7%	(- -) #	0	-6
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>974</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>-52</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **8%**

# 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	257	25%	3	254	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	209	13%	24	185	-5
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	254	7%	100	154	-1

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Apr-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	323	-26	Snowy-Murray	+6	860
Snowy-Murray Component	274	+37	Tooma-Tumut	+3	64
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	3.0	796
			Murray 1 Release	+8	974

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.8	313.4
Wakool System loss	1.2	63.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.4	21.9
Licensed Pumps	2.5	162.4
Lower Darling	0.1	18.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>579.5</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	6.1	337
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	11.2	570
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.5	129
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.4	154
Licensed pumps - LMW	5.2	199
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>1 390</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	135	(1 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	13.3	
Flow so far this month	7	
Flow last month	88	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	70	70	70
Euston	150	130	90
Red Cliffs	100	110	110
Merbein	130	130	100
Burtundy (Darling)	1 120	1 120	850
Lock 9	130	130	120
Lake Victoria	190	180	160
Berri	310	280	230
Waikerie	300	300	330
Morgan	340	340	360
Mannum	390	390	440
Murray Bridge	390	400	430
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 570	1 550	1 280
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 510	1 470	1 130
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 790	2 740	2 350
Goolwa Barrages	6 130	6 030	2 920

**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	-	-	-	3 120	F	1 700	2 410
Jingellic	4.0	1.55	208.07	3 550	R	1 360	3 760
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.10	218.99	2 820	F	3 340	3 770
Heywoods	5.5	2.06	155.69	6 050	S	6 570	5 480
Doctors Point	5.5	2.25	150.72	6 320	S	6 890	6 110
Albury	4.3	1.27	148.71	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.69	127.71	6 160	F	6 760	5 470
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.93	115.97	4 620	F	4 750	4 540
Tocumwal	6.4	1.40	105.24	4 510	F	4 550	4 310
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.14	79.69	2 690	F	2 700	2 420
Swan Hill	4.5	0.68	63.60	2 300	R	2 200	2 260
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.59	50.71	2 610	R	2 530	2 730
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.55	42.39	2 240	S	2 280	2 530
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 840	F	1 950	2 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.84	27.60	1 400	F	1 630	1 980
Rufus Junction	-	2.50	19.43	1 430	R	1 590	1 870
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.15	-	960	R	980	1 760
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.90	154.13	456	R	340	640
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.52	145.20	74	F	80	80
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.13	92.55	353	S	380	450
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.54	80.31	290	F	310	330
Edward at Liewah	-	0.73	56.11	331	F	350	320
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.33	54.82	245	S	240	260
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.45	56.41	185	S	190	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.22	-	70	F	140	300
Darling at Bourke	-	3.86	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.64	-	6	F	10	20

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	950	2 560
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**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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+0.17
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.08	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	-0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.00
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.00	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+0.13
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.20	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.13	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.05
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.15	+0.06	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.03	-0.60

<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	-3.71	0.62	69.97	315
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.07	0.17	61.47	287



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.17

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.21	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.19	All closed	Closed	Closed

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