

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 5 September 2007

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Trim Ref : 07/11623*

7 September, 2007



Rainfall and inflows

The dry weather has continued throughout the Basin with most areas receiving less than 5 mm of rain during the past week. The highest falls were 10-15 mm across isolated areas in the north of the Basin (see Map 1).

During the month of August, rainfall was well below average throughout the south of the Basin (see Map 2), and Murray System inflows were only 360 GL. This compares to a long term average for August of 1570 GL. Monthly inflows have now been below average for the last 23 months.

River operations

A combination of low storage levels and low inflows will require the River Murray system to be operated outside its normal operating regime, and drought contingency measures are already in place to conserve water (see attached Media Release).

Water in storage in Hume Reservoir (26 % capacity) and Dartmouth Reservoir (17 % capacity) continues to slowly rise but is well below the long term average for this time of year. Release from Hume Dam has been kept as low as possible over the winter months, but if the dry weather continues, the release may have to be increased in about one week's time to meet critical water requirements downstream.

Other water saving measures have included the drawdown of Lake Mulwala, which is currently 124.2 m AHD (70cm below FSL), Torrumbarry Weir (5 cm below FSL) and Euston Weir (25 cm below FSL). If the dry weather continues, the drawdown of Lake Mulwala will continue to as low as 123.6 m AHD (130 cm below FSL) to supplement flows downstream. Possible drawdowns of Weirs 8 and 9 are also being considered and further details will be available in the near future.

To allow access to the small volumes currently available for irrigation and other use, water is now being diverted along Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel at Yarrawonga Weir, National Channel at Torrumbarry Weir and Wakool Canal from Stevens Weir on the Edward River.

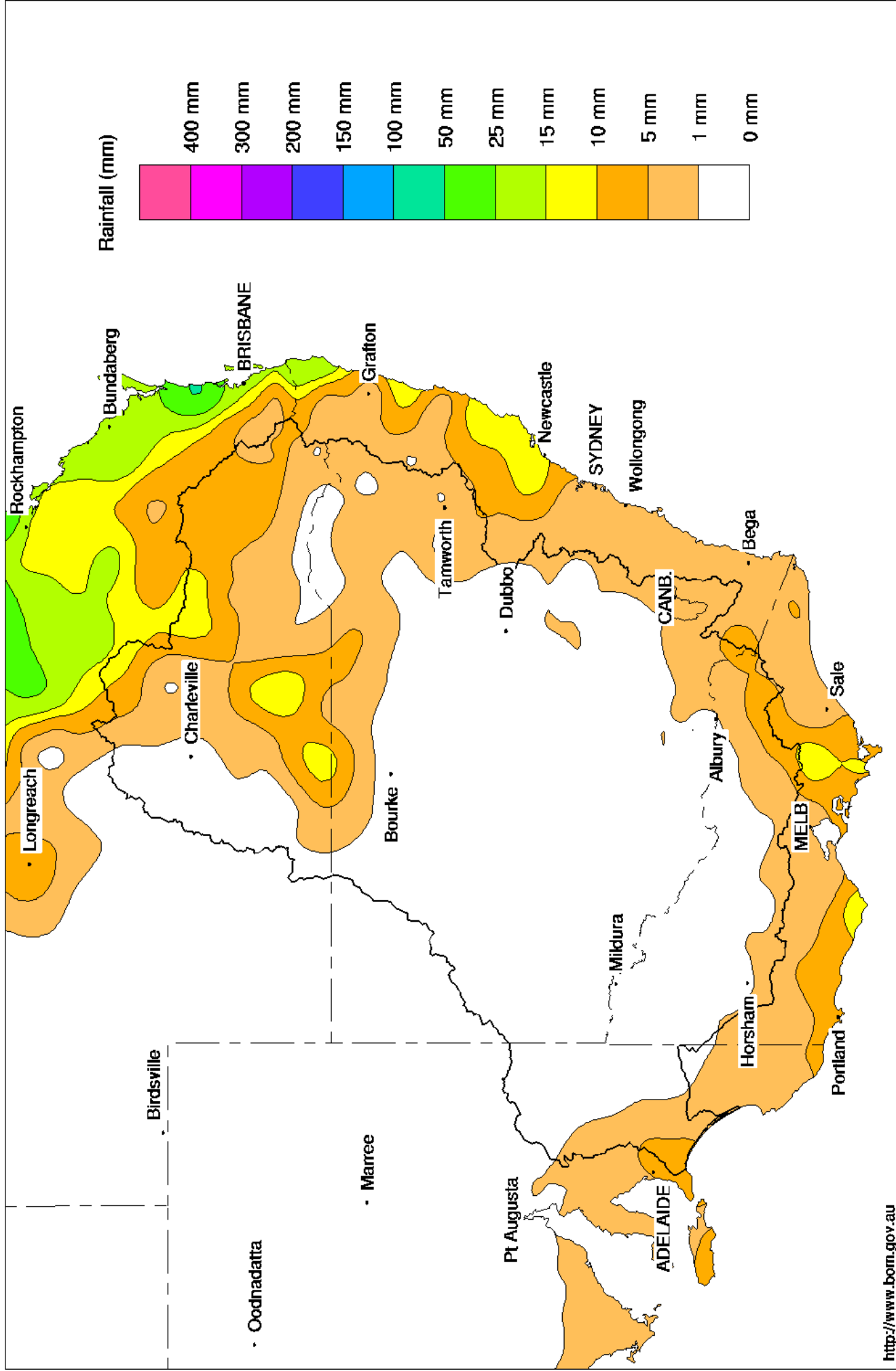
The flow along the mid reaches of the River Murray is falling and the river level at Swan Hill is expected to fall towards 0.6 m during the next week. It is possible that the flow through the Sunraysia district could fall to very low levels if the dry weather continues.

Storage in Lake Victoria continues to slowly rise and is currently 550 GL (81 % capacity). In South Australia the river flow and the weirpool levels are being carefully managed to minimise salinity impacts. For the last two months the level of the Lower Lakes has been steady at 0.2 to 0.25 m AHD but without further rain, the level will gradually fall as the warmer weather increases evaporation losses.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

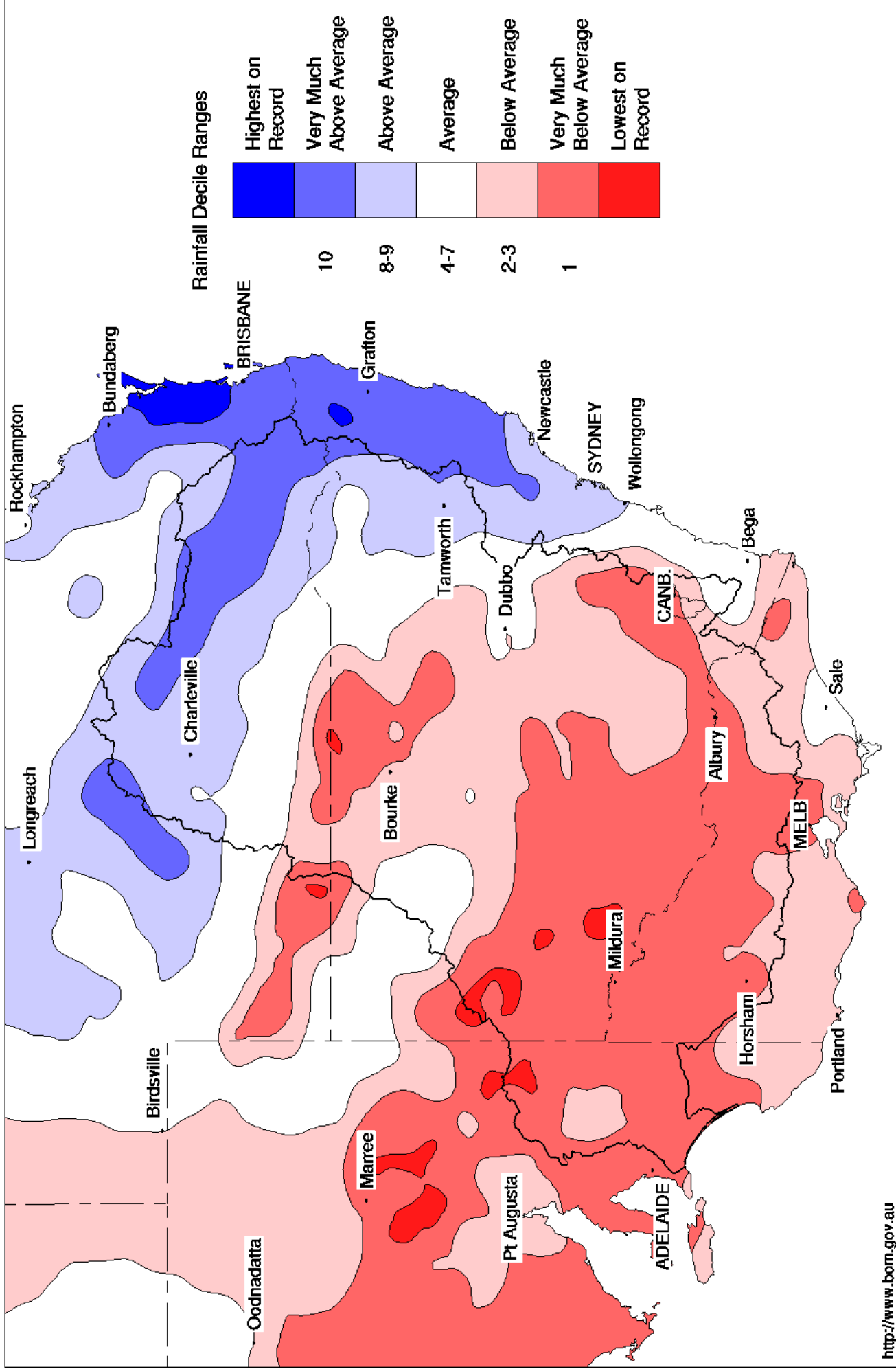
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 5th September 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles August 2007

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre





MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 6 September, 2007

Challenges ahead for Murray Operations

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission warned today that Murray operations over the coming spring and summer are likely to pose significant challenges for the communities and environments sustained by its waters.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said "We are facing a spring and summer on the Murray like no other since Hume Dam was completed in 1936.

"The unprecedented combination of both low storage levels and low inflows will require us to operate outside our normal operating regime."

Drought contingency measures are already in place across the Murray system to conserve water as the worst drought on record continues to impact water availability.

These measures include keeping releases from Hume Dam as low as possible for as long as possible. Several weirpools between Lake Mulwala and the South Australian border are already drawn down below normal levels and could be further drawn down in coming weeks.

"We expect that weirpool levels in South Australia will remain close to current levels to contain salinity increases, however the lower lakes are likely to fall to record lows under continuing dry conditions," Dr Craik said.

"Flow in the mid reaches of the River Murray is currently falling and it is possible that passing flows through Sunraysia could soon fall to very low levels without significant rainfall.

"The Commission is working closely with South Australia to optimise patterns of flow across the border in order to minimise salinity impacts."

Dr Craik said the current warm dry conditions have resulted in initial demand across the system. In the immediate short-term it is planned to meet this demand with tributary inflows and by further lowering of weir pools, rather than releasing water from upstream storages.

"For example, without early rain, Lake Mulwala will be lowered from its current level of 124.2m AHD to as low as 123.6m AHD (1.3m below Full Supply Level) to delay any increase in release from Hume Dam. This approach would 'buy time' for further rainfall and increased tributary inflows to arrive to refill the weirpool.

"Similarly, Torrumbarry Weir could be lowered by 40cm (to 85.65m AHD), and similar operations are possible at Euston Weir, depending on rainfall and inflows into the system.

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these outlooks into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

More detailed information, weekly reports and forecasts of river operations will continue to be available at the MDBC website at http://www.mdbc.gov.au/rmw/river_information_centre. MDBC will issue Media Releases for individual weirpools or river reaches as necessary over coming weeks.

Information on water availability and allocations can be obtained from the relevant state agencies in NSW, Victoria and South Australia.

Media contact: Sam Leone - Phone: 0407 006 332

Week ending Wednesday 05 Sep 2007

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	409.20	643	16%	80	563	+10
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.50	783	26%	30	753	+23
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.89	546	81%	100	446	+19
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		66	4%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		9 352		2 037	22%	--	1 761	+49

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **21%**

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	429	42%	3	426	-4
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	454	28%	24	430	-19
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	742	22%	100	642	+4

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 04-Sep-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	316	+28	Snowy-Murray	+0	238
Snowy-Murray Component	210	+28	Tooma-Tumut	+2	77
Target Storage	1 240		Nett Diversion	-2.1	161
			Murray 1 Release	+14	342

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	6.1	5.1
Wakool System loss	0.0	1.7
Western Murray Irrig.	0.2	.6
Licensed Pumps	1.1	5.7
Lower Darling	0.2	.6
TOTAL	7.6	13.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	4.5	8
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	3.7	13
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	3 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	5
TOTAL	9.9	30 *

* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135 *	(1 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	7.9	
Flow so far this month	6	
Flow last month	39	

* Reduced to approx. 35 GL during August drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	120	130	100
Euston	110	110	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	110	110	110
Burtundy (Darling)	1 090	1 090	1 070
Lock 9	120	120	130
Lake Victoria	160	160	170
Berri	500	490	480
Waikerie	660	670	640
Morgan	730	720	680
Mannum	410	410	430
Murray Bridge	570	560	530
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 250	2 250	2 080
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 330	2 070	2 100
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 560	2 570	2 520
Goolwa Barrages	12 550	13 510	14 820



River Levels and Flows

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	2 820	F	2 460	880
Jingellic	4.0	1.64	208.16	4 230	F	3 450	2 790
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.35	218.24	520	S	510	560
Heywoods	5.5	1.07	154.70	460	S	460	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.53	150.00	1 390	R	1 400	1 220
Albury	4.3	0.66	148.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.51	126.53	1 350	S	1 330	1 370
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.50	115.54	2 530	F	2 680	3 800
Tocumwal	6.4	0.96	104.80	2 620	F	2 890	4 410
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.00	79.55	2 180	S	2 470	3 320
Swan Hill	4.5	0.70	63.62	2 670	F	2 830	4 330
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.82	50.94	3 560	F	4 000	5 820
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.86	42.70	3 950	F	4 680	6 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 020	F	4 890	6 230
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.87	27.63	3 830	S	4 560	5 800
Rufus Junction	-	2.43	19.36	700	R	680	650
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.09	-	350	S	330	510
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.42	154.65	1 220	R	1 190	1 050
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.30	145.98	1 659	R	1 800	2 390
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	324	S	330	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.44	80.21	200	F	430	900
Edward at Liewah	-	1.48	56.86	844	S	830	1 050
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.15	54.64	64	S	70	90
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.50	56.46	214	F	220	280
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.66	-	1 321	R	700	10
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	105	S	150	280
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.57	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	6 200	6 430
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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	-0.65	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.11	+0.10
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.05	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	-0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.25	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.01
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.08
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.23	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.11
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.02	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	-0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.66

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.22	0.51	69.86	219
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.26	0.16	61.46	278



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	(m AHD)
	0.20

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.30	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.22	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.25	All closed	Closed	Closed

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