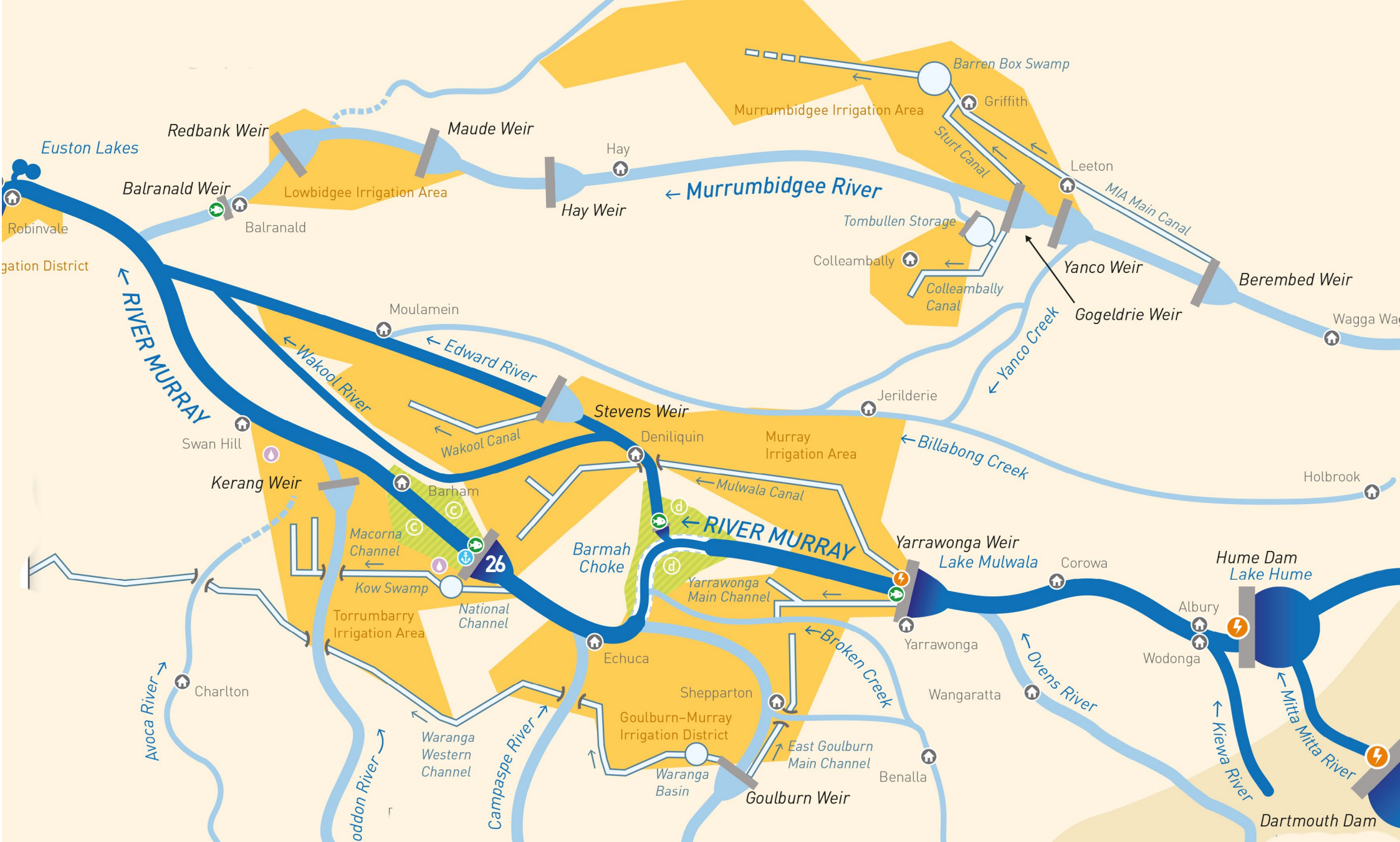


Hume to Yarrawonga dams



The above map section shows a major area of River Operations focus: Hume to Yarrawonga dams. In this area, it takes about four days from water to move from Hume down to the irrigation districts (shown in yellow). In the summer–autumn season, the majority of water orders are made. As far as possible, these are ‘packaged up’ and released from Hume in batches.

Operators must keep a close eye on rainfall, as if rain falls in the farming areas during that four-day travel time stretch, farmers may cancel their orders (as ordered water costs a lot of money). But once water is released, it cannot be moved back up!

Scenario 1:

RAIN is forecast for the irrigation areas downstream of Hume reservoir. You have a lot of water orders. What do you do?

What then if the forecast rain does not eventuate?

Scenario 2:

Hume dam is down to 15% full and it’s the start of the irrigation season. The towns of Swan Hill and Shepparton are already on water restrictions. No rain is forecast. What do you do?

Scenario 3:

Dartmouth dam are pretty full. It’s winter, so no orders are expected. Very heavy rain is forecast; and it is expected to be widespread across the Basin for more than a week. What do you do?

Scenario 4:

Dartmouth and Hume are full to the brim. It’s been raining heavily for weeks and still more is expected. What do you do?