



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

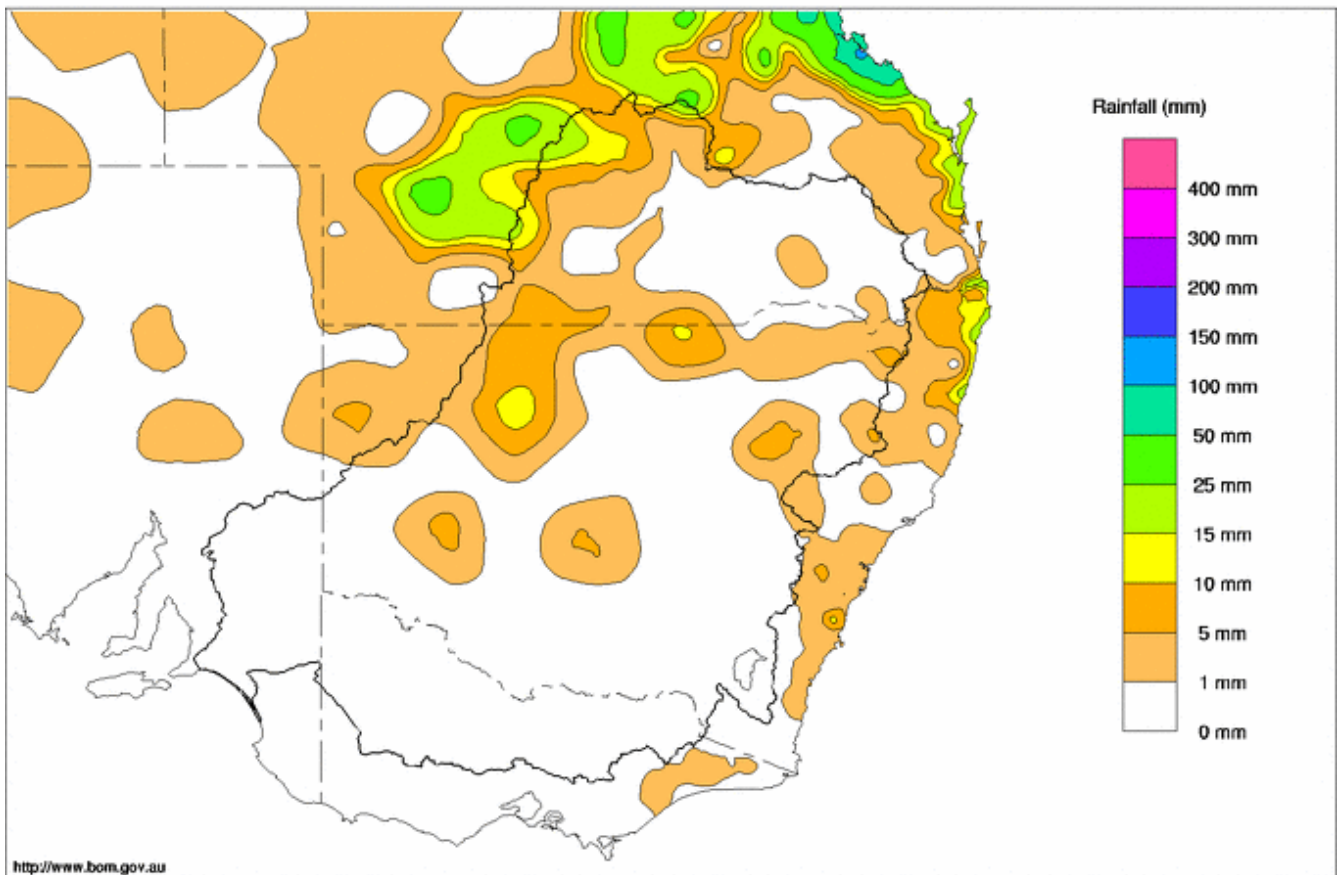
FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY 2014

Trim Ref: D14/5934

## Rainfall and Inflows

Hot and dry conditions continued across the Murray-Darling Basin this week (Map 1). There were a few isolated showers in Queensland and New South Wales; however Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory registered no rainfall at all. Highest recorded totals included 13 mm at Augathella, Queensland in the Warrego catchment; whilst in New South Wales 16 mm was recorded at Coonabarabran AWS and 9 mm at Lightning Ridge.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 12th February 2014  
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 12 February 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

With persistent hot weather and no rainfall, streamflows in the Upper Murray tributaries remained very low throughout the week. On the upper Murray, the flow at Biggara receded slightly from 400 to 370 ML/day. On the Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge has now fallen to a very low flow of 115 ML/day; and on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta remained steady at a base flow of 220 ML/day.



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 190 GL this week and is currently 5,410 GL or 63% capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, storage decreased by 25 GL to 3,535 GL (92% capacity). The release, measured at the Colemans gauge, remained steady at around 3,500 ML/day. Starting from Thursday 13 February, the release will be gradually reduced to a targeted flow of about 2,000 ML/day at Colemans by 19 February.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 99 GL to 1,594 GL (53% capacity). Snowy Hydro have been releasing an average of around 2,000 ML/day via Khancoban pondage over the past fortnight, which has assisted in slowing the rate of fall of Hume Reservoir's storage volume. The release from Hume Reservoir averaged around 17,500 ML/day throughout the week and is currently around 18,000 ML/day.

At Yarrowonga Weir, diversions at the irrigation offtakes remained reasonably steady, totalling around 52 GL compared with 55 GL last week. If rain over the irrigation districts falls as forecast in coming days then the volume of diversions may reduce significantly. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is currently 124.72 m AHD. The downstream release remained steady throughout the past week at 10,000 ML/day, but is expected to be lowered to 9,700 ML/day in the coming week.

On the Edward River system, flow through the Edward and Gulpa Creek offtakes remained steady at 1,580 ML/day and 400 ML/day respectively. Deliveries from the Edward River Escape are currently around 1,600 ML/day, while diversions at the Wakool Main Canal continue at around 1,450 ML/day. Starting last Friday, 7 February, an additional 200 ML/day of environmental water is being delivered to the Niemur River via Colligen Creek to maintain water quality. This watering action is currently planned to proceed for approximately three weeks. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir continues to target around 1,200 ML/day.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow has risen from 2,750 ML/day to around 2,900 ML/day. Over the coming week this flow is expected to reduce to around 2,200 ML/day. On the Campaspe River, the flow at Rochester Syphon has increased from 20 ML/day up to around 250 ML/day. The increased flows in both the Goulburn and Campaspe Rivers are a result of 'Inter-Valley Transfer' (IVT) water being delivered into the River Murray system. At Torrumbarry Weir, the diversion at National Channel decreased this week from 3,400 ML/day to 3,000 ML/day, whilst the flow downstream of the weir is currently around 6,400 ML/day.

Further downstream on the Murray, pumps at Pental Island began on Tuesday 11 February diverting 100 ML/day into the Little Murray River, which is an anabranch of the River Murray located in the Mallee district of Victoria. This water is passing down Little Murray River to help dilute up to 250 ML/day of higher salinity water that will be pumped out of Lake Boga commencing on Monday 17 February, before re-entering the main stem of the River Murray upstream of Swan Hill. Salinity levels in the River Murray at Swan Hill are not anticipated to be significantly affected and forecasts can be viewed at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/flow-salinity-report>.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has receded from around 1,200 ML/day to 400 ML/day. This flow is expected to continue receding over the coming week. Downstream on the Murray at Euston, the flow is currently 5,400 ML/day and expected to remain reasonably steady over the coming week.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume decreased by 26 GL over the past week to 499 GL (29% capacity). Releases from the lakes, measured at Weir 32, remained steady throughout the week at 1,000 ML/day. Over the next few days the release will be reduced to a minimum flow of 350 ML/day. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is able to access water stored within Menindee Lakes for use in the River Murray System in accordance with *The Murray Darling Basin Agreement*. Under *the Agreement*, whenever storage in the lakes falls below 480 GL, New South Wales will have sole access to the storage until the volume next exceeds 640 GL. The storage volume of the lakes is anticipated to fall below 480 GL over the coming week, at which time Murray-Darling Basin Authority will no longer be able to draw on Menindee Lakes for delivery to the River Murray.



Due to travel times in the Lower Darling River, reductions in the release from the lakes at Weir 32 will take approximately one week before reaching Burtundy. Therefore the flow at Burtundy is anticipated to remain at its current rate of around 1,000 ML/day for another week before gradually reducing down to a minimum flow of approximately 300 ML/day.

On the River Murray, downstream of the Darling confluence, the flow at Wentworth Weir remained steady this week at around 3,800 ML/day.

At Lake Victoria, the storage level has reduced to 25.07 m AHD (456 GL, 67% capacity). At Lock 8, the pool level will be raised over the coming week to around 0.3 m above full supply level. For more details see the attached flow advice.

The flow into South Australia averaged around 8,100 ML/day this week, and is expected to fall over the coming week to around 6,000 ML/day. The flow into South Australia is being delivered in a modified pattern in February in order to deliver a greater volume of water in the first half of the month. This is due to essential remedial works on the Lake Victoria outlet regulator which are expected to constrain daily flow rates to South Australia towards the end of February.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level reduced 3 cm over the week to 0.60 m AHD. The majority of the Barrages are closed at the moment except for one gate at Tauwitschere which remains open as a flow attractant to fish. The fishways at the barrages also remain open.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 12 Feb 2014**

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	480.97	3 535	92%	71	3 464	-25
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	183.65	1 594	53%	23	1 571	-99
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.07	456	67%	100	356	-40
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		499	29%	(480 #)	19	-26
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>6 084</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>5 410</b>	<b>-190</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							63% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	454	44%	3	451	-19
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		0%	24	- 24	-0
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 616	78%	100	2 516	-64

\* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

\*\* All Data is rounded to nearest GL \*\*

# NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 11 Feb 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2013
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 505	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+9	643
Snowy-Murray Component	704	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+0	234
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	9	409
			Murray 1 Release	+12	928

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

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2013	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2013
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	41.4	865	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.8	237
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.0	24	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.5	363
Western Murray Irrigation	1.4	22	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.9	95
Licensed Pumps	7.9	168	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	2.1	145
Lower Darling	4.8	180	Licensed pumps - LMW	11.2	224
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58.5</b>	<b>1259</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51.5</b>	<b>1064</b>

\* Figures derived from estimates and monthly data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

\*\* All data above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data\*\*

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

\* Flow to SA will be greater than normal entitlement for this month due to the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	194.0 *
Flow this week	56.7
Flow so far this month	105.0
Flow last month	240.0

(8 100 ML/day)

**Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)**

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2013
Swan Hill	90	80	80
Euston	90	90	100
Red Cliffs	130	130	110
Merbein	170	170	120
Burtundy (Darling)	490	460	510
Lock 9	290	300	180
Lake Victoria	240	230	260
Berri	320	330	260
Waikerie	360	360	310
Morgan	370	370	300
Mannum	310	310	330
Murray Bridge	310	310	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	660	650	670
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	590	590	540
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 770	2 790	2 620
Goolwa Barrages	1 010	990	1 340



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 12 Feb 2014**

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	-	-	-	4 640	F	1 570	2 110
Jingellic	4.0	1.74	208.26	4 560	R	1 180	2 730
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	2.31	219.20	3 470	F	3 470	2 820
Heywoods	5.5	3.34	156.97	17 060	S	17 610	19 230
Doctors Point	5.5	3.23	151.70	17 450	S	17 790	19 490
Albury	4.3	2.25	149.69	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.43	129.45	17 030	F	17 640	18 220
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.65	116.69	10 030	S	10 030	10 320
Tocumwal	6.4	2.28	106.12	9 610	S	9 640	9 830
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.21	80.76	6 380	R	6 350	5 410
Swan Hill	4.5	1.25	64.17	5 900	R	5 400	5 460
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.74	51.86	6 500	R	6 250	6 560
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.22	43.06	5 450	R	5 290	5 200
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.81	27.57	3 780	R	3 780	2 720
Rufus Junction	-	3.61	20.54	7 210	F	7 490	8 370
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.60	-	4 430	F	5 390	4 490
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.03	154.26	550	R	300	290
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.79	145.47	220	S	230	260
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.52	93.94	2 900	R	2 820	2 270
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 200	F	1 220	1 290
Edward at Liewah	-	1.89	57.27	1 220	R	1 200	1 120
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.50	54.99	610	S	610	590
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.76	56.72	400	F	810	650
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	80	R	50	160
Darling at Bourke	-	3.96	-	20	S	20	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.04	-	1 090	S	1 150	1 370

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	530	820
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**Weirs and Locks** Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.25
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.25
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.03	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.02	+0.73
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.17	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.00	+0.23
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	-0.43	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.00	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.44	+0.09	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-0.15

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.60
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**Barrages**

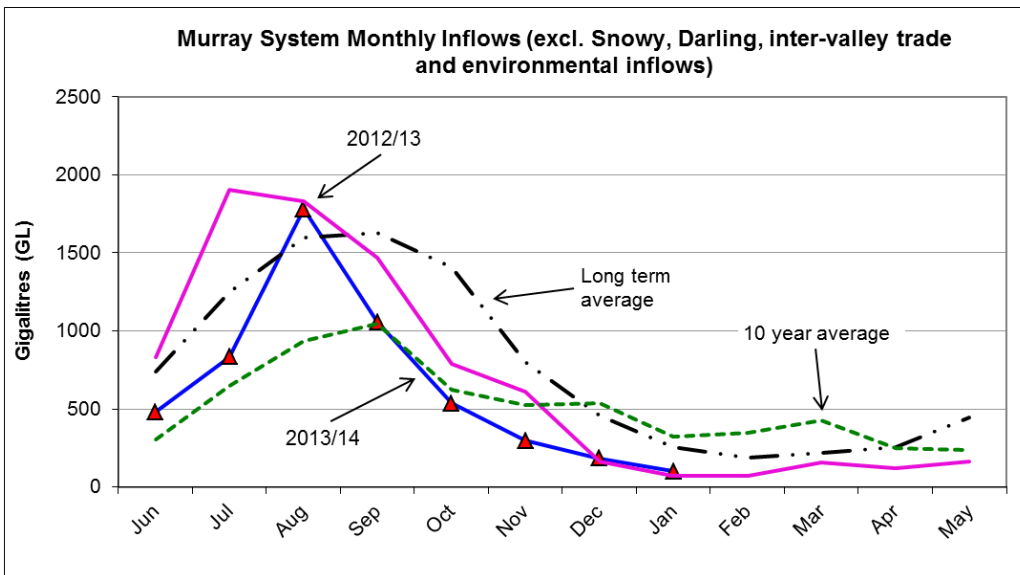
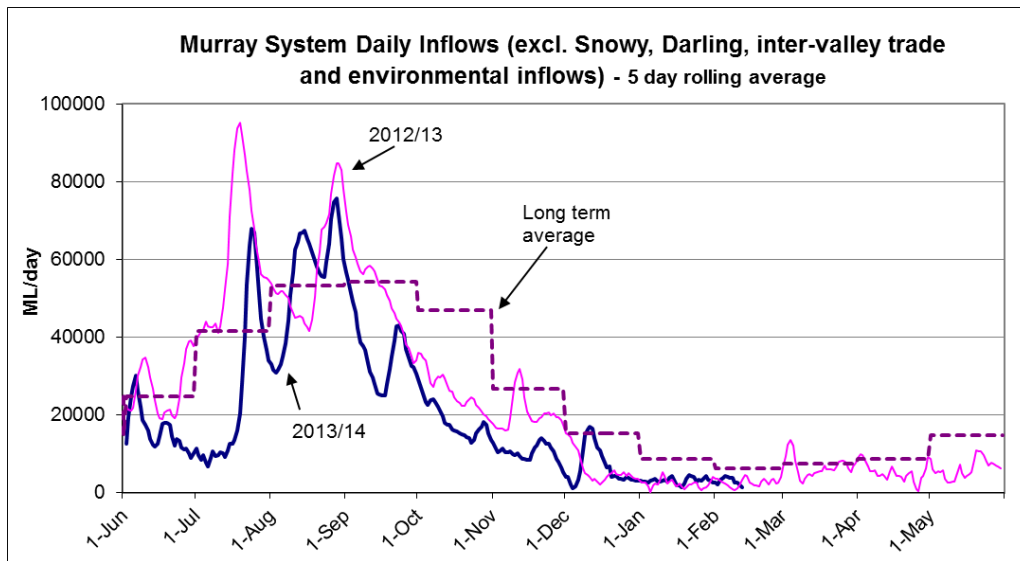
**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.64	1	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 12 Feb 2014



**State Allocations (as at 12 Feb 2014)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**Victorian - Murray Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	95%
General security	59%

**Victorian - Goulburn Valley**

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

**NSW - Lower Darling**

High security	100%
General security	100%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

High security	100%
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- NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>
- VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
- SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

# Flow advice



14 February 2014

## Changes to Lock 8 weir pool levels this week

River Murray water users and landholders are advised to take into account changing water levels at Lock 8 weir pool over the coming week, and make adjustments to their pumps as necessary.

Starting today, the Lock 8 weir pool will be gradually raised from the current level of 0.5m below full supply level to about 0.3m above full supply level.

From the end of next week, the pool will then be lowered back to the February target level of 0.5m below full supply level by around 23 February 2014.

The pool is being temporarily filled to help manage the delivery of water to South Australia while water is unavailable from Lake Victoria. Between 21 and 23 February, Lake Victoria's outlet will be closed while we build a coffer dam at the site, which will allow maintenance work to be done on the outlet.

The changes to the Lock 8 weir pool this week are a short term variation to the original program for the NSW Lock 8 weir trial that began in August.

The table below outlines the program for Lock 8 levels once they return to 0.5m below full supply level in late February. These are indicative water levels only, and actual river operations may result in slight variations to these figures.

If there are any significant changes to the plan, MDBA will issue a revised flow advice, which will also be made available on the MDBA website at [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au).

**NSW Lock 8 weir trial**  
**Adjustment relative to Full Supply Level (m)**

Month	Lock 8
February	-0.5
March	-0.5
April	-0.25
May	+0
June	+0

ENDS

River users wanting more information on river heights can contact MDBA on **02 6279 0100** or receive updates at [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/current-information-forecasts/weekly-report) or [www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm](http://www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm)

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