



# River Murray Weekly Report

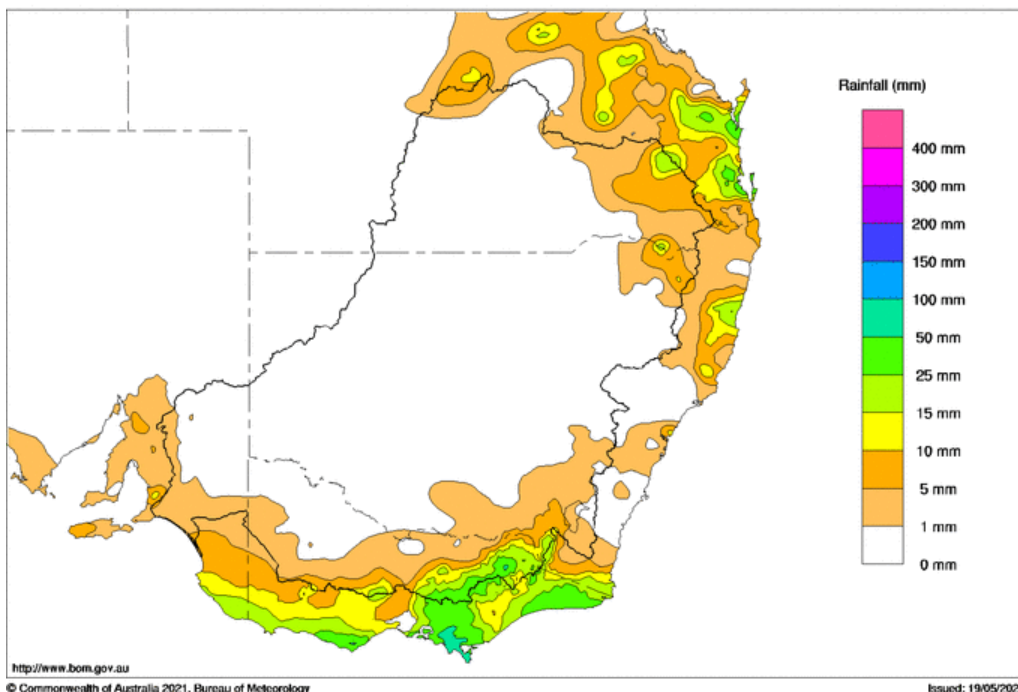
For the week ending Wednesday, 19 May 2020

Trim Ref: D21/13498

## Rainfall and inflows

While much of the Basin remained dry this week, some rainfall was recorded in the south and northeast (Map 1). In Victoria, the highest totals included 57 mm at Falls Creek and 52 mm at Mount Buller. In NSW, Cabramurra in the Snowy Mountains recorded 22 mm. In Queensland, 32 mm was recorded at Cooranga North and 25 mm at Marnhull. In South Australia, Mount Lofty recorded 14 mm and Meningie at the Lower Lakes received 4 mm.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 19th May 2021  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



Map 1: Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 19 May 2021. Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

Minor streamflow responses were observed in the upper Murray tributaries following this week's rainfall. Specific information about flows at key locations can be found at the MDBA's [River Murray data](#) webpage. Up-to-date river data for sites in the upper Murray can also be found on BoM's [website](#) and in the Murray River Basin Daily River Report at the WaterNSW [website](#).

Following heavy rain in late March, Water NSW continues to estimate that 800-1,000 GL of inflow may reach Menindee Lakes as a result of flow in the Darling River. For updates on flow forecasting in the northern Basin see the Water NSW website.

Water is now being released from Menindee Lakes to help meet operational requirements in the River Murray. Flow downstream of Weir 32 is expected to remain around 1,000 ML/day over the coming days before increasing next week, the volume and rate of flow will be dependent on operational requirements. Water will be released in a pattern that maximises environmental benefits.

The Torrumbarry Weir pool will be lowered this week and then vary between FSL and 30cm below full supply throughout May and June. This will improve conditions for vegetation around the weir pool and enable critical maintenance to be conducted on Torrumbarry Weir.



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Up-to-date river data for sites in the upper Murray can also be found on BoM's [website](#) and in the Murray River Basin Daily River Report at the Water NSW [website](#).

## River operations

- Water is being released from Menindee Lakes to help meet system demands
- Torrumbarry Weir pool will be varied by up to 30 cm below full supply level over the coming months
- Diversions at major irrigation offtakes have now ceased
- Stevens Weir pool to be lowered over winter

## River Levels

River users can monitor River Murray levels and flow forecasts at key locations on the MDBA's [River Murray data](#) webpage to assist in planning any river activities.

## Water quality impacts

The Murray and Lower Darling Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has now cancelled all red alerts in the River Murray System. Amber alerts for **blue-green algae** remain in place at a number of sites on the River Murray and Edward-Wakool River systems. The locations of these sites are available on the [WaterNSW](#) website. It is important that water users regularly keep up to date with algal alerts, notices, and health warnings. This information is available through [Goulburn-Murray Water](#) and [WaterNSW](#).

## River operations

Total **active storage** increased by 190 GL over the last week to 4,203 GL (49% capacity).

At **Dartmouth Reservoir**, the [storage](#) is at the same volume as last week, at 2,455 GL (64% capacity) after dropping slightly due to increased releases for hydro power generation. Power generation has now stopped, and the release has been reduced to target 250 ML/day.

Over the past week the **Hume Reservoir** [storage](#) increased by 35 GL to 1,314 GL (44% capacity). Because diversions at major irrigation offtakes have ceased, the Hume release was reduced over the week to around 2,100 ML/day. The release is expected to remain around 1,800 ML/day over the coming week.

The **Lake Mulwala** level is currently near 124.72 m AHD, within the normal operating range (124.6 to 124.9 m AHD). Diversions to Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel stopped for the 2020-21 water year on 15 May. The release from **Yarrawonga Weir** remained around 4,000 ML/day throughout the week, and is expected to remain between 3,500 ML/day and 4,000 ML/day over the coming weeks as part of an environmental watering action that will benefit fish and native vegetation.

The regulator gates at **Edward River** and **Gulpa Offtakes** remain out of the water, meaning flows into these systems are varying with River Murray levels. Flow through the Edward offtake is around 700 ML/day and is expected to remain around this level throughout the coming week. Flow through **Gulpa Creek Offtake** has averaged 200 ML/day this week. Over the coming week the flow into Gulpa Creek is expected to remain around 190 ML/day.

Downstream on the Edward River, the diversion to Wakool Main Canal averaged 430 ML/day. On 15 May, WaterNSW began to lower the Stevens Weir pool and lifted the regulator gates clear of the water to undertake essential maintenance works. Whilst the pool is lowered, there will be no flow into the Wakool, Yallakool and Colligen systems, unless a high flow event on the Murray increases the water level in the Edward River above the commence to flow levels of these systems. Murray Irrigation Limited began releasing water via the Edward Escape to drain sections of their irrigation network to undertake maintenance works. In response to these actions, the flow downstream of Stevens Weir is expected to increase briefly from around 1,600 ML/day to near 2,000 ML/day over the coming week.

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**Photo 1: The Murray River at Barmah (Photo courtesy of Matthew Todhunter (MDBA))**

On the **Goulburn River**, the flow measured at [McCoys Bridge](#) decreased to around 900 ML/day. The flow rate is above the normal minimum as IVT is delivered to help meet system demands including the 350 GL end of season storage target in Lake Victoria. Later in the week the flow is expected to increase to around 1,300 ML/day.

In addition to the Goulburn River, the delivery of water from the Goulburn IVT account to the Murray is continuing from the Campaspe River with a combined Goulburn IVT delivery of up to 35 GL planned for May. For more information see the [Goulburn-Murray Water website](#). Information regarding opportunities for allocation trade between the Goulburn and Murray Valleys is available at the Victorian water register [website](#).

[Diversions](#) to **National Channel** have reduced to around 40 ML/day and are expected to cease in the coming days. The release from **Torrumbarry Weir** reduced to around 4,000 ML/day as inflows from the Murray and Goulburn Rivers receded. Flows are expected to slightly increase over the coming week.

The Torrumbarry Weir pool remains at the FSL of 86.05 m AHD. Lowering of the Torrumbarry Weir pool will commence this coming weekend, with the pool to be lowered by up to 30 cm below the FSL. The pool will continue to be varied between 30 cm below FSL and FSL over the coming months as part of the weir pool variability program. Varying pool levels helps restore a more natural wetting and drying cycle to riverbanks and adjacent wetlands within the influence of the weir pool. The lowering of the pool will also assist Goulburn-Murray Water with maintenance works at the weir in late May and in June. River users and landholders in the weir pool should remain aware of the changing water level in case adjustments need to be made to pumps, moorings and recreational activities.



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Photo 2: Rices Weir on Broken Creek (Photo courtesy of Jacki Thompson (MDBA))

Inflow from the **Murrumbidgee River**, measured at [Balranald](#), reduced to 3,400 ML/day. Flows are forecast to continue receding over the coming days. Up to 30 GL of Murrumbidgee IVT has been ordered for May to help meet system demands. The [Murrumbidgee IVT balance](#) is currently around 81 GL and open for trade.

At **Euston Weir**, the [weir pool level](#) is targeting around 20 to 30 cm below the full supply level (FSL) as part of normal weir pool variability. Varying pool levels helps restore a more natural wetting and drying cycle to riverbanks and adjacent wetlands within the influence of the weir pool. Also, during periods of higher flow, lowering the pool level can increase flow velocity within the weir pool to help move accumulated sediment downstream. The [downstream release](#) has gradually reduced over the week to near 12,000 ML/day and is expected to further recede over the coming days.

Pumping continues to deliver water into the [Hattah lakes system](#) to fill to a number of lakes and provide benefits to the aquatic environment, wetland plants and animals. This action is being undertaken on behalf of environmental water holders and will continue until early June 2021.

Several of the upstream tributaries of the **Barwon-Darling** experienced flooding following heavy rain in late March, including moderate to major flooding in the Barwon and Warrego Rivers. Flow in the Darling River at Wilcannia has peaked at 27,700 ML/day. For updates on flow forecasts in the northern Basin see the [Water NSW](#) website.

At Menindee Lakes, WaterNSW estimate that 800-1,000 GL of inflow may reach the Lakes as a result of the current flow event in the Darling River (this estimate may be revised further in coming weeks depending on flow recession rates upstream). Total storage increased by 126 GL to 862 GL (50% capacity) this week and is now above the 640 GL trigger volume with the stored volume in excess of 480GL contributing to the River Murray shared water resource.

The release from Weir 32 has increased to target around 1,000 ML/day (normal minimum flow is 200 ML/day) and will continue at this rate over the coming days. Next week a small pulse of water will be released to meet operational requirements. Water will be released in a pattern that maximises environmental benefits.

The MDBA is continuing to revise forecasts and operational plans to determine the volume and timing of water released to support the Murray system. This process will be on-going and will take account of the operating rules of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, as well as the more specific opportunities and risks driven by current system conditions, water security, delivery efficiency, environmental and community considerations. Further updates will be provided in future weekly reports as updated plans and release decisions are made. Earlier in May, the MDBA hosted a webinar on the Menindee Lakes. The webinar recording can be accessed [here](#).

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At **Wentworth Weir**, the weir pool level continues to be managed around FSL. The downstream flow increased to around 11,000 ML/day this week and is expected to gradually reduce over the coming week to around 8,000 ML/day.

At **Lock 9** the weir pool continues to vary around the FSL. The **Lock 8** weir pool is currently around 35 cm below FSL. **Lock 7** is raised to 55 cm above FSL and will continue to vary near this level to facilitate increased flows into Lindsay River and enable pumping into Lake Wallawalla during May and June for environmental outcomes.

The [storage](#) at **Lake Victoria** increased by 31 GL to 248 GL (36% capacity). During May, the storage will continue to rise as water is captured to increase storage volumes towards a target of 350 GL.

The [flow](#) to **South Australia** averaged around 5,000 ML/day this week. Over the coming fortnight the flow is expected to decrease to around 3,000 ML/day. The flow includes South Australia's normal monthly entitlement flow, small volumes of consumptive trade and water for the environment.

The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level is 0.61 m AHD. Barrage releases will continue to be made, when conditions allow, to push fresh water into the Coorong to support a productive environment for fish and birds. For information on barrage releases and South Australia's Entitlement flow, see the South Australian Department for Environment and Water Weekly [River Murray Flow Report](#).

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

Andrew Reynolds  
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Australian Government



# River Murray Weekly Report

## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 May 2021

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	461.66	2 455	64%	71	2 384	+0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181.51	1 314	44%	23	1 291	+35
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.99	246	36%	100	146	+29
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		862	50%	(480 #)	382	+125
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>4 877</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>4 203</b>	<b>+190</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							49% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	822	80%	3	819	+9
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 384	85%	24	1 360	+66
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	1 849	55%	100	1 749	-15

\* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

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

# NSW has sole access to water when the storage falls below 480 GL. MDBA regains access to water when the storage next reaches 640 GL.

^ % of total active MDBA storage

### Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18 May 2021

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2021
Lake Eucumbene - Total	827	-27	Snowy-Murray	+28	55
Snowy-Murray Component	456	+19	Tooma-Tumut	+7	9
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	21	46
			Murray 1 Release	+35	68

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

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2020	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2020
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	0.6	629	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2	211
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.8	108	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.4	352
Western Murray Irrigation	2.7	27	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.9	107
Licensed Pumps	n/a	257	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	39
Lower Darling	0.1	3	Licensed pumps - LMW	2.4	427
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>1024</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>1136</b>

\* Figures are derived from actual and estimates where data is unavailable. 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 environmental flows.

Entitlement this month	93.0 *	
Flow this week	35.4	(5 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	72.8	
Flow last month	161.5	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2020
Swan Hill	150	130	90
Euston	-	-	-
Red Cliffs	90	90	120
Merbein	80	90	130
Burtundy (Darling)	460	460	400
Lock 9	120	130	130
Lake Victoria	110	120	120
Berri	190	190	160
Waikerie	250	260	210
Morgan	320	280	220
Mannum	260	260	230
Murray Bridge	310	310	260
Milang (Lake Alex.)	730	730	750
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	660	630	1 020
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 870	1 850	1 660
Goolwa Barrages	3 500	3 520	1 440



## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 19 May 2021

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	-	-	-	6 070	F	5 590	3 630
Jingellic	4.0	2.12	208.64	8 230	S	7 250	5 380
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.43	218.32	630	F	1 110	2 030
Heywoods	5.5	1.98	155.61	2 010	F	2 700	6 010
Doctors Point	5.5	1.92	150.39	3 360	R	3 590	6 670
Albury	4.3	1.05	148.49	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	1.00	127.02	3 280	F	4 460	7 080
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.72	115.76	3 950	S	3 980	5 160
Tocumwal	6.4	1.22	105.06	3 920	S	4 040	5 700
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.57	80.12	4 040	F	4 510	6 330
Swan Hill	4.5	1.08	64.00	5 090	F	5 450	8 060
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.76	51.88	7 060	F	7 930	9 560
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	2.09	43.93	12 110	F	12 760	10 660
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	11 480	F	10 550	8 100
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.13	27.89	11 040	R	10 440	7 680
Rufus Junction	-	3.39	20.32	6 090	F	4 700	3 020
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.59	-	5 190	R	3 490	2 530
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.26	154.49	830	R	570	520
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.06	145.74	740	R	670	540
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.46	92.88	930	F	1 070	1 870
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.76	81.53	1 640	F	770	650
Edward at Liewah	-	1.41	56.79	780	F	870	970
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.39	54.88	420	F	450	450
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.51	59.47	3 350	F	4 660	3 180
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.68	-	1 520	R	1 340	1 340
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.41	-	2 470	F	3 830	22 340
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.82	-	370	R	250	170

Natural Inflow to Hume	3 870	5 070
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(i.e. Pre Dartmouth &amp; Snowy Mountains scheme)

## 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	+0.54	+1.08
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.28	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.08	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.06	+0.38	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.05	+0.71
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.49	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.03	-0.32	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.09
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.34	+0.58	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.07	-0.16

## Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.61
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## Barrages

## Fishways at Barrages

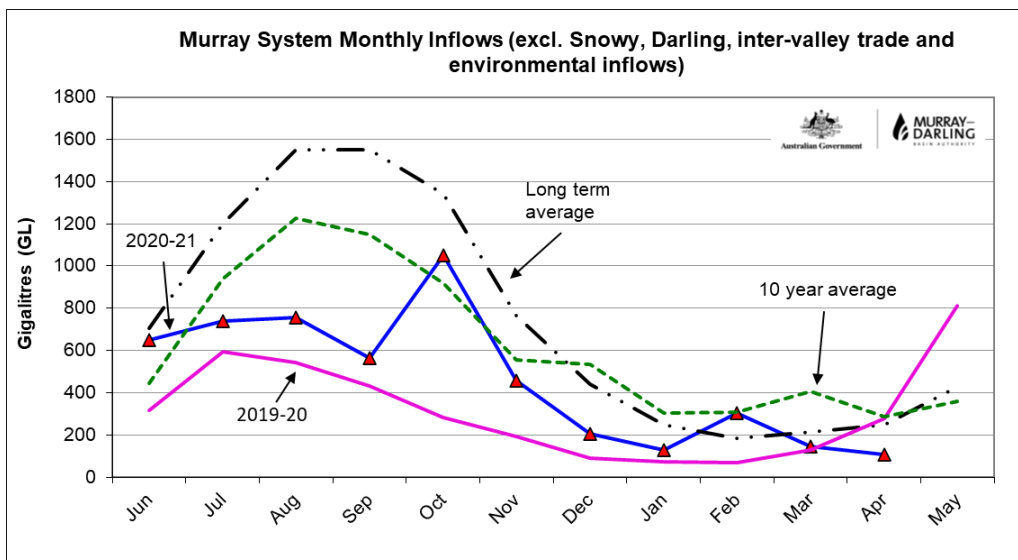
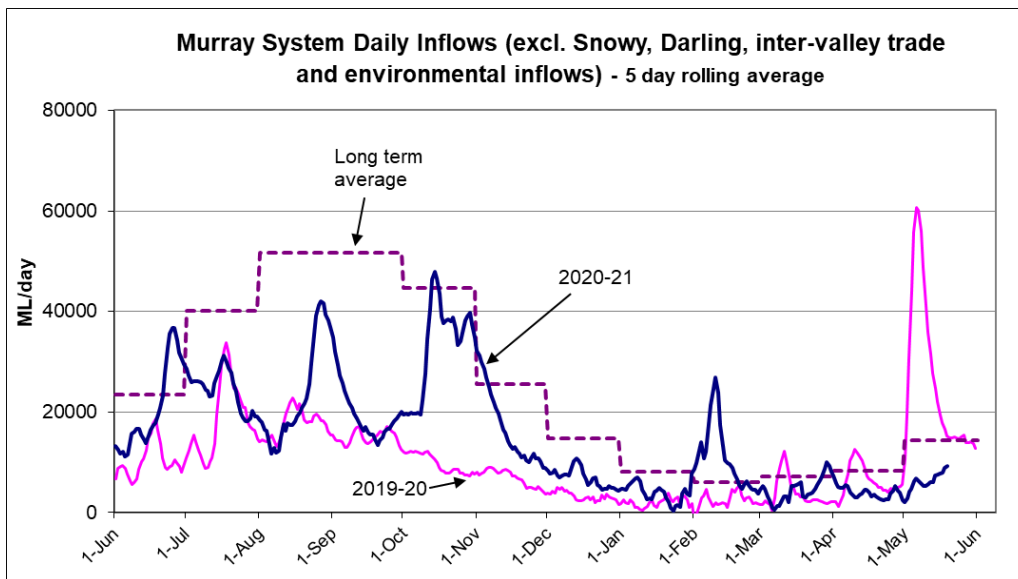
	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot 1	Vertical Slot 2	Dual Vertical Slots
Goolwa	128 openings	0.64	1	-	Open	Open	-
Mundoo	26 openings	0.62	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Hunters Creek	-	-	-	-	Open	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	Open	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.66	1	Open	Open	Open	-

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



# River Murray Weekly Report

Week ending Wednesday 19 May 2021



## NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	50%

## Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

## NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

## 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 : <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/summary>

VIC : <http://nvrn.net.au/seasonal-determinations/current>

SA : <https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation/current-allocations>