



# River Murray Weekly Report

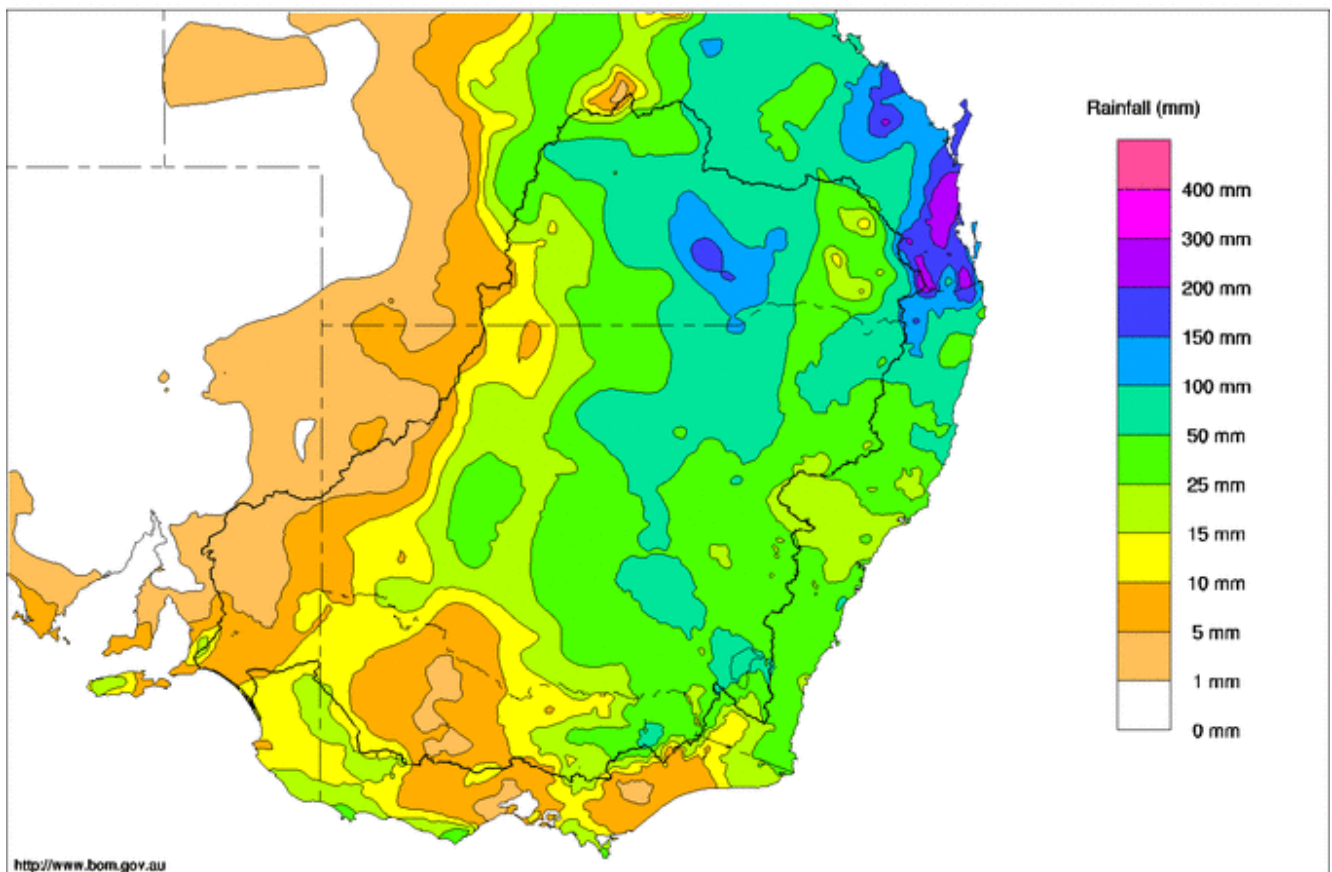
For the week ending Wednesday, 18 May 2022

Trim Ref: D22/12386

## Rainfall and inflows

Rainfall was recorded across most parts of the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with some of the highest totals recorded in Queensland (Map 1). In Queensland, 207 mm was recorded at Old Cashmere and 179 mm at St George. In NSW, Mungindi in the northwest recorded 109 mm and Collarenebri recorded 100 mm. In Victoria, the highest totals included 71 mm at Mount Hotham and 42 mm at Lightning Creek. In South Australia, Berri recorded 8 mm and Milang at the Lower Lakes received 4 mm.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 18th May 2022  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



Map 1: Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 18 May 2021. Source: Bureau of Meteorology.

Minor streamflow responses were observed in the upper Murray tributaries following this week’s rainfall. Downstream of Hume Dam, inflows to the Murray from the Kiewa River, recorded at Bandiana, are near 1,000 ML/day whilst the Ovens River at Peechelba are near 1,600 ML/day. Streamflow’s are expected remain steady over the coming week with the BoM [8-day rainfall outlook](#) forecasting rainfall totals of 10 millimetres across the upper Murray catchments.

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 Basin can also be found on:

- BoM’s [website](#)



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- WaterNSW's WaterInsights [website](#)
- Victoria's DELWP water monitoring [website](#)
- South Australia's Water Data [website](#)
- Queensland's [Water Monitoring Information Portal](#)

## River operations

- The Lake Mulwala drawdown is continuing
- Flows from the Murrumbidgee River are increasing
- Releases from Menindee Lakes remain high as inflows from the northern Basin continue

## Hume Dam operations update

Irrigation demands across the River Murray system have wrapped up for the season. Hume storage is expected to gradually increase over the coming weeks with further rainfall and releases from Snowy Hydro.

Late last week small airspace management releases began at Hume dam to mitigate flood risk. The decision to release water now, with the dam 88 percent full, is in line with the rules set by Basin governments for dam management. The MDBA cannot make releases to create additional airspace unless there's a very high chance the dam will fill before demand exceeds inflow. Further information can be found [here](#).

With storage at Hume relatively high, [soil moisture levels](#) in the upper catchment close to average, and the BoM [forecasting](#) wetter than average conditions in the upper Murray catchment in May to July, the MDBA is continuing to assess the need to actively reduce the Hume storage volume and manage airspace should conditions turn wet and deliver significant inflows. Further updates will be provided to river communities including via future weekly reports.

## Unregulated flows

Flows continue to remain unregulated along the lower Barka/Darling system. These inflows, along with inflows from the Murrumbidgee system, airspace management releases from Hume Dam plus rain and subsequent lower demands and conveyance losses, have resulted in flows above operational requirements. As such, unregulated flows are currently occurring in the River Murray from Hume Reservoir downstream to the South Australian border.

River operators will continue to monitor rainfall forecasts, tributary inflows and system demands and provide updated advice on unregulated flows. Information on access to Murray supplementary water licences in NSW is available from [WaterNSW Water insights](#). General information on River Murray unregulated flows can be accessed on the MDBA [webpage](#).

## Water quality impacts

WaterNSW advise that **amber alerts** remain for several locations along the lower Darling, the River Murray, and the Edward Wakool system. In the lower Murrumbidgee a **red alert** remains current for Yanga Lake at Regatta Beach. Information about blue-green algae, including alert locations, is available through [Goulburn-Murray Water](#), [WaterNSW](#) and [Water quality | Murray-Darling Basin Authority \(mdba.gov.au\)](#).

## River operations

MDBA **active storage** increased by 88 GL to 7,948 GL (93% capacity). The gain is largely influenced by Snowy hydro releases along with small inflows since last week's rainfall.

At **Dartmouth Reservoir**, the [storage](#) increased by 5 GL to 3,609 GL (94% capacity). The release, measured at Colemans gauge, is currently targeting 500 ML/day. The release will likely continue near this rate over the coming days. To receive additional information on planned flow changes in the Mitta Mitta River, subscribe to receive the MDBA's flow advice's [here](#).

**Hume Reservoir** [storage](#) increased by 67 GL to 2,715 GL (90% capacity). Small releases for airspace management have commenced at Hume dam, with flows progressing to near 3,000 ML/day. Releases will continue to be



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assessed in response to dam levels and ongoing conditions. Downstream demands are being met from tributary inflows and water stored in Lake Mulwala.

At **Lake Mulwala**, the water level is currently at 123.4 m AHD. Over the coming weeks, Lake Mulwala will be gradually lowered by around 5 m to help manage the invasive waterweed *Egeria densa*. Lowering the water level and exposing the plant to the air and winter frosts provides the best means of controlling the highly invasive water weed and is a practice that occurs every 3 to 5 years. More information is available on the MDBA [website](#). This week diversions at the major irrigation off-takes ceased.

At **Yarrowonga Weir** the release was increased to around 12,000 ML/day to facilitate lowering of the Lake. Flows at Yarrowonga Weir are likely to be reduced over the coming days, weather permitting.



Photo 1 & 2 – Lake Mulwala Drawdown (Photo – Brad Mouat (GMW)).

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Flow through the **Kolety** (pronounced Kol-etch)/**Edward River** and **Gulpa Creek** offtakes have increased to around 1,100 ML/day and 200 ML/day respectively over the past week. Irrigation diversions to Wakool Canal have remained low following rainfall over the irrigation areas, averaging around 200 ML/day. The release downstream of **Stevens Weir** averaged 700 ML/day.

On the lower **Goulburn River**, the flow measured at [McCoy's Bridge](#) is currently around 1,000 ML/day and receding. A higher autumn base flow has been targeted to provide habitat for native fish. Information regarding opportunities for allocation trade between the Goulburn and Murray Valleys is available at the Victorian water register [website](#) and the [Goulburn-Murray Water website](#).

At **Torrumbarry Weir** the release is around 6,300 ML/day and rising. The [diversion](#) to **National Channel** reduced to around 100 ML/day and is expected to be turned off in the coming days.

Inflows from the **Murrumbidgee River**, measured at [Balranald](#), have increased to around 6,700 ML/day and are forecast to increase further over the coming week. Upstream on the Murrumbidgee River, releases from Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams have increased as WaterNSW manages [airspace](#) (due to high storage levels ahead of winter and spring). Current flow at Wagga Wagga is near to 25,000 ML/day, while at Narrandera is near to 18,500 ML/day and rising.

At **Menindee Lakes**, the storage increased by 24 GL and is currently at 1,963 GL (113% capacity). Upstream of Menindee Lakes, rainfall over recent weeks and months in southern Queensland and northern NSW has resulted in higher flows across the Barwon Darling River system. On 17 May 2022, Water NSW has estimated likely inflows between [800-1200 GL](#), however, this total does not include the total flow generated by extensive heavy rainfall across the northern catchment of the Barwon-Darling River in recent days. Releases to the lower Barka/Darling River (measured at Weir 32) are near to 16,000 ML/day and will increase to near 18,000 ML/day this week. The latest advice states ongoing rain events and corresponding flow projections in the northern basin are likely to necessitate a further review of this release rate in coming days. Releases from Lake Cawndilla (part of Menindee Lakes) into the Great Darling Anabranch are currently around 1,900 ML/day. For the [latest advice](#) on forecast inflows and operations at Menindee Lakes is available from the WaterNSW WaterInsight [website](#).



Photo 3 - Junction of the River Murray and Darling River (Photo - courtesy of Julie Dipietro).



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The flow downstream of **Wentworth Weir** is currently 20,600 ML/day and expected to increase over the coming week to near 26,000 ML/day.

The [storage](#) at **Tar-ru/Lake Victoria** reduced by 8 GL this week to 335 GL (49% capacity). Inflows and outflows from Tar-ru/Lake Victoria are being managed to operate the storage volume in accordance with the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy (LVOS) as specified in the [Objectives and Outcomes for River Operations in the River Murray System](#). The LVOS aims to stabilize the lake foreshore and protect cultural heritage sites by encouraging the growth of native vegetation. To help achieve this, operations aim to reduce the length of time the foreshore vegetation is inundated. Over the remainder of the month, the storage will be managed to ensure the water in storage meets the end of May target volume of between 350 GL to 396 GL.

The flow to **South Australia** averaged 23,900 ML/day this week. Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) to South Australia continues to be triggered. The current unregulated flows into South Australia mean that no additional releases from storage are needed to meet ADF at the current point in time. For information on ADF and the ADF triggers please refer to [Objectives and Outcomes for River Operations in the River Murray System](#) (pages 79-80).

The **Lower Lakes** 5-day average water level is 0.65 m AHD. Barrage releases are continuing to pass unregulated flows to the Coorong and out to the Southern Ocean. For further information on barrage releases and South Australia's Entitlement flow, see the South Australian Department for Environment and Water Weekly [Department for Environment and Water | Barrage flow data available at the click of a button](#).

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

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A/g Executive Director, River Management



Australian Government



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## Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 18 May 2022

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	482.16	3 609	94%	71	3 538	+5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	190.52	2 715	90%	23	2 692	+67
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.91	335	49%	100	235	-8
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 963	113%	(480 #)	1 483	+24
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>8 622</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>7 948</b>	<b>+88</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							92% ^	

### Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	973	95%	3	970	+34
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 578	97%	24	1 554	-29
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 582	77%	100	2 482	+6

\* 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 17 May 2022

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2022
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 706	-46	Snowy-Murray	+34	75
Snowy-Murray Component	918	+13	Tooma-Tumut	+0	3
Target Storage	1 290		Net Diversion	34	71
			Murray 1 Release	+35	84

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

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2021	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2021
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.1	812	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.9	183
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.7	31	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	404
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	26	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1	104
Licensed Pumps	n/a	265	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	n/a	36
Lower Darling	n/a	361	Licensed pumps - LMW	n/a	443
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>1495</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1170</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	167.3	(23 900 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	421.4	
Flow last month	642.3	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2021
Swan Hill	80	80	80
Euston	-	-	-
Red Cliffs	120	120	140
Merbein	130	130	150
Burtundy (Darling)	320	310	350
Lock 9	230	230	200
Lake Victoria	170	170	160
Berri	210	220	210
Waikerie	240	240	230
Morgan	250	250	230
Mannum	280	270	240
Murray Bridge	270	260	250
Milang (Lake Alex.)	360	370	460
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	320	310	350
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	1 470	1 430	1 440
Goolwa Barrages	9 500	4 040	990



## River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 18 May 2022

	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	-	-	-	5 170	R	5 890	6 360
Jingellic	4.0	2.02	208.54	6 990	R	8 430	7 040
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.57	218.46	950	F	1 330	1 310
Heywoods	5.5	1.93	155.56	2 770	R	1 380	650
Doctors Point	5.5	2.04	150.51	3 430	R	2 410	1 700
Albury	4.3	1.12	148.56	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	1.01	127.03	3 320	F	2 580	2 580
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.44	116.48	8 700	R	6 410	6 680
Tocumwal	6.4	1.61	105.45	6 160	R	6 740	6 470
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.19	80.74	6 350	F	6 930	4 600
Swan Hill	4.5	1.42	64.34	7 490	R	6 120	5 300
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.17	52.29	8 810	R	7 550	8 340
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	2.09	43.93	12 070	R	10 720	11 360
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	9 990	F	10 160	11 800
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.96	28.72	20 590	S	20 690	20 720
Rufus Junction	-	5.50	22.43	23 240	F	23 520	22 950
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.62	-	23 160	S	23 140	21 570
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.42	154.65	1 070	R	1 030	910
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.32	146.00	1 390	F	1 350	810
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.49	92.91	980	F	1 300	1 390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.33	81.11	1 080	F	730	530
Edward at Liewah	-	1.59	56.97	930	F	1 060	1 290
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.46	54.95	560	F	620	810
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.01	60.97	6 750	R	4 720	2 000
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	7.05	-	13 700	R	8 410	1 900
Darling at Bourke	9.0	8.34	-	25 410	F	25 870	24 760
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	5.56	-	12 400	S	12 200	11 010

Natural Inflow to Hume	6 460	3 070
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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	-1.17	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.36	+3.19
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+1.23
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.09	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.02	+1.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.01	+0.28	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.01	+2.01
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+1.32	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+1.44
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	+0.86	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+1.51
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.00	+1.45	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+0.87

## Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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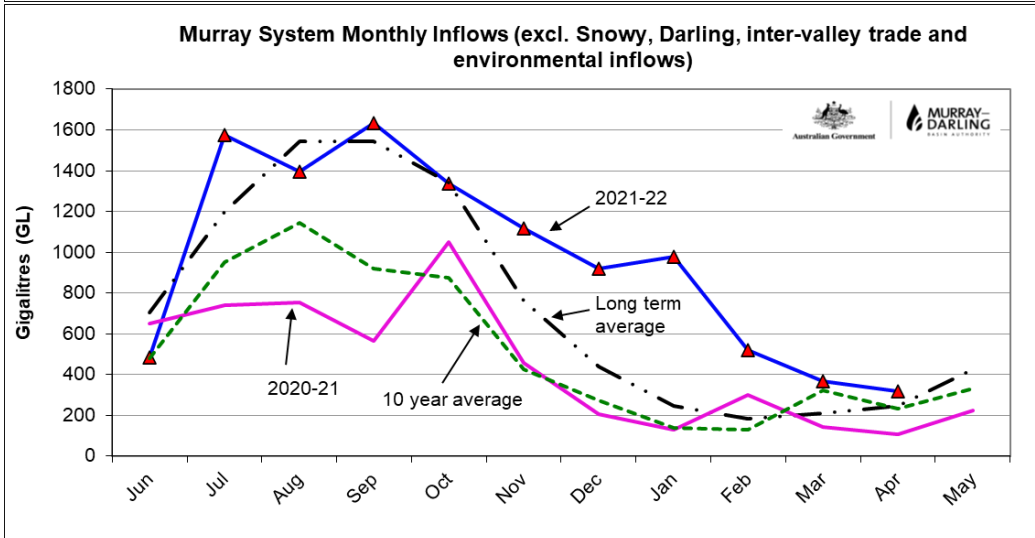
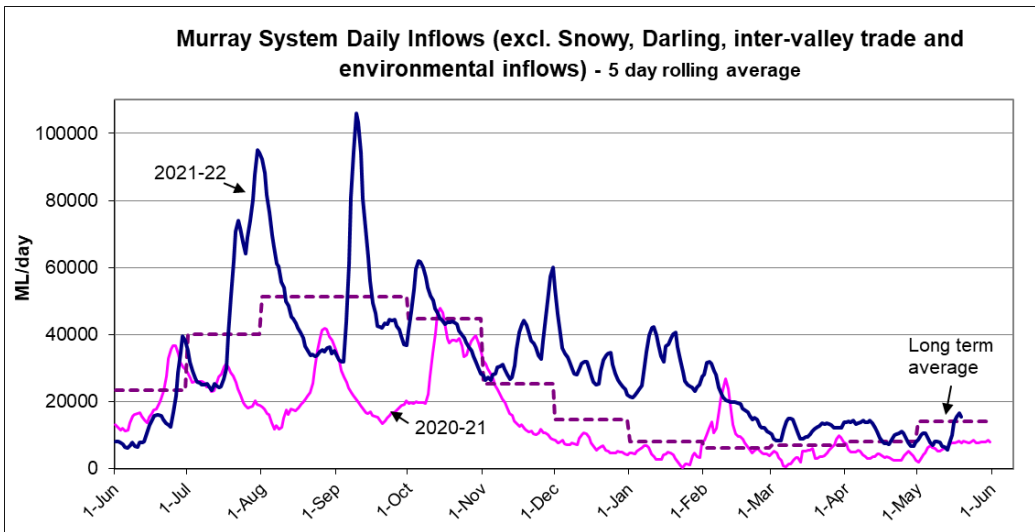
## Barrages

## Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot 1	Vertical Slot 2	Dual Vertical Slots
Goolwa	128 openings	0.63	All closed	-	Open	Open	-
Mundoo	26 openings	0.64	All closed	-	-	-	Open
Hunters Creek	-	-	-	-	Open	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	Open	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	12	-	-	-	Open
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.65	65	Open	Open	Open	-

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





**State Allocations (as at 18 May 2022)**

NSW - Murray Valley		Victorian - Murray Valley	
High security	100%	High reliability	100%
General security	110%	Low reliability	100%
<b>NSW – Murrumbidgee Valley</b>		<b>Victoria – Goulburn Valley</b>	
High security	100%	High reliability	100%
General security	100%	Low reliability	0%
<b>NSW - Lower Darling</b>		<b>South Australia – Murray Valley</b>	
High security	100%	High security	100%
General security	100%		

NSW : <https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/summary>  
 VIC : <http://nvrn.net.au/seasonal-determinations/current>  
 SA : [Department for Environment and Water | Current allocations](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/department-for-environment-and-water/current-allocations)

