

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 May 2002

Our Ref: MDBC:269 :djc:bwh

16 May, 2002



Light rainfall was recorded over the southern regions of the Murray-Darling Basin, with the highest falls of between 10 and 25 mm in some areas about the ranges.

Following many weeks of dry conditions and late season irrigation demand, storage in Hume Reservoir reached its lowest level for the season at 237 GL or 7.8 % of capacity on Tuesday 14 May, and is now slowly rising. That low point is the lowest storage level since late in the 1982/83 drought season when the storage was drawn down to 222 GL or 7.3% of capacity. Storage volume of Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs since 1980 is shown on the attached diagram.

Release from Hume Reservoir was reduced from 5 600 to 2 200 ML/day at Albury over the week in response to the cessation of diversions at major offtakes. Release will be further reduced to the minimum requirement of 1 200 ML/day at Albury, and maintained at this rate to conserve resources in Hume for use in future seasons.

Major diversions from Lake Mulwala to Yarrawonga Main Channel ceased early on 15 May. Consequently, drawdown of Lake Mulwala began on 14 May to provide low water levels to enable remedial works to be undertaken on Yarrawonga Weir (*refer to attached media release*). Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been increased to 7 800 ML/day, and will be further increased to about 10 400 ML/day (near channel capacity in the Barmah-Millewa Forest) early next week. If there is a significant increase in flow in the Kiewa and Ovens Rivers, further increases in release from Yarrawonga Weir may be required during the drawdown of Lake Mulwala.

Torrumbarry Weir release is currently 2 300 ML/day and slowly rising, and is expected to reach about 6 000 ML/day by 22 May due to the arrival of increased flows resulting from the increased release from Yarrawonga Weir for the drawdown of Lake Mulwala. Torrumbarry Weir pool level is currently 24 cm below full supply level, but is expected to return to full supply level by 20 May as increased flows arrive.

The level of the River Murray at Swan Hill is currently just above the minimum target of 0.6 m and flow is 1 900 ML/day and rising. Flow at Swan Hill is expected to gradually rise to about 5 000 by 22 May.

The scheduled drawdown of Mildura Weir pool and replacement of weir trestles is now expected to commence around 22 May, however, a further media release will be issued next week when further details become available.

Storage in Lake Victoria declined by 15 GL to 278 GL (41% of capacity) and is slowly falling. In late May, storage is forecast to start increasing as a result of the capture of additional flows arising from the drawdown of Lake Mulwala, Mildura Weir pool and Stevens Weir pool.

Salinity levels along the mid Murray remain relatively low and range from 160 EC at Swan Hill to 240 EC at Red Cliffs. In South Australia, salinity ranges from 400 EC at Lock 6 to 680 EC at Murray Bridge. On the lower Darling River, salinity at Burtundy has been at about 800 EC since mid April.

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Media Release

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Lake Mulwala Drawdown Commences

Goulburn-Murray Water and River Murray Water announced today that the drawdown of Lake Mulwala commenced earlier today in conjunction with the ending of the irrigation season at Yarrowonga Main Channel.

The water level in Lake Mulwala is being temporarily drawn down to allow completion of remedial works on the upstream side of Yarrowonga Weir.

A major drawdown of the Lake will be undertaken by steadily lowering the water level over the next two weeks or so, until the spillway gates on the main (southern) structure are raised clear of the water.

Refilling of Lake Mulwala will commence sometime in July, however, the timing and rate of refilling will be dependent mainly on upstream flow conditions at the time. The refilling program will be scheduled to ensure that Lake water level requirements for channel filling and early irrigation demand next irrigation season are met. The irrigation season is expected to commence in mid August unless conditions are wet. A media release will be issued in late June or early July to provide notification of the refilling program.

Water released as a result of the drawdown of Lake Mulwala is to be stored, as far as is possible, in Lake Victoria, and will be used to assist in meeting South Australia's entitlements next season.

Restricted Access to the Lake

To protect identified endangered and vulnerable species and populations of aquatic life in the Lake, access to the Lake will be restricted. **Lake Mulwala is closed to fishing from 6 May until 15 August 2002 as announced by NSW and Victorian fisheries authorities). The Lake is also closed to all boating during the period as announced by Waterways NSW.**

Interference with habitat, including removal of trees, stumps and fallen logs and aquatic weeds is prohibited.

Fisheries, Waterways and Goulburn-Murray Water Officers will be patrolling the area during the drawdown period to ensure compliance with the closure conditions.

In addition, no works may be undertaken on the foreshore or lakebed without the express written permission of Goulburn-Murray Water in Victoria, or a Planning Permit from the Shire of Corowa in NSW.

Any enquiries in relation to the drawdown should be directed to Jason Dagger, Community Relations Officer, Yarrowonga Weir Remedial Works on telephone 1800 111 202 or 0417 590 616.

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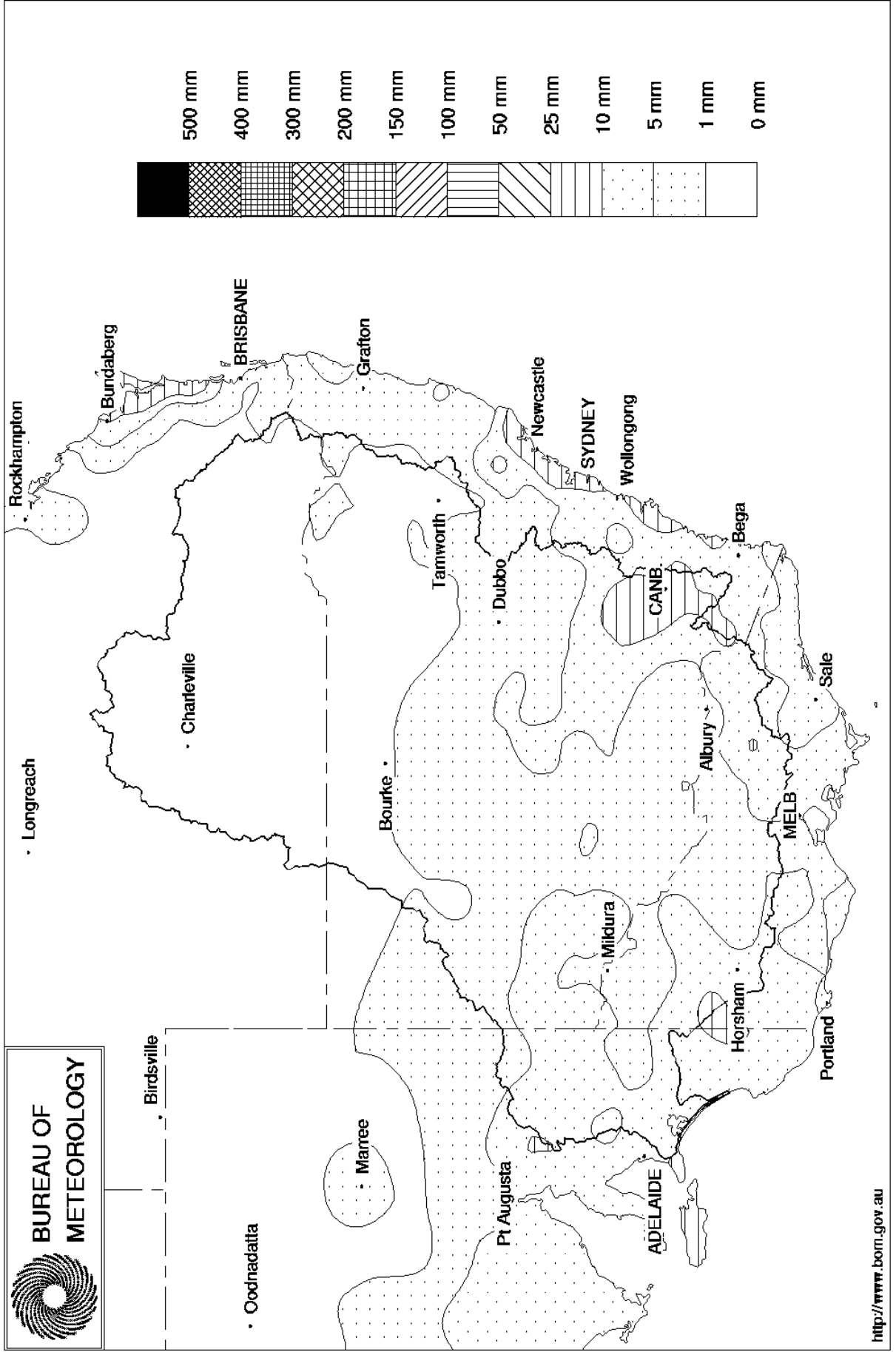
Media Contact: Jason Dagger

Position: Community Relations Officer, Yarrowonga Weir Remedial Works
Telephone: 1800 111 202 or 0417 590 616

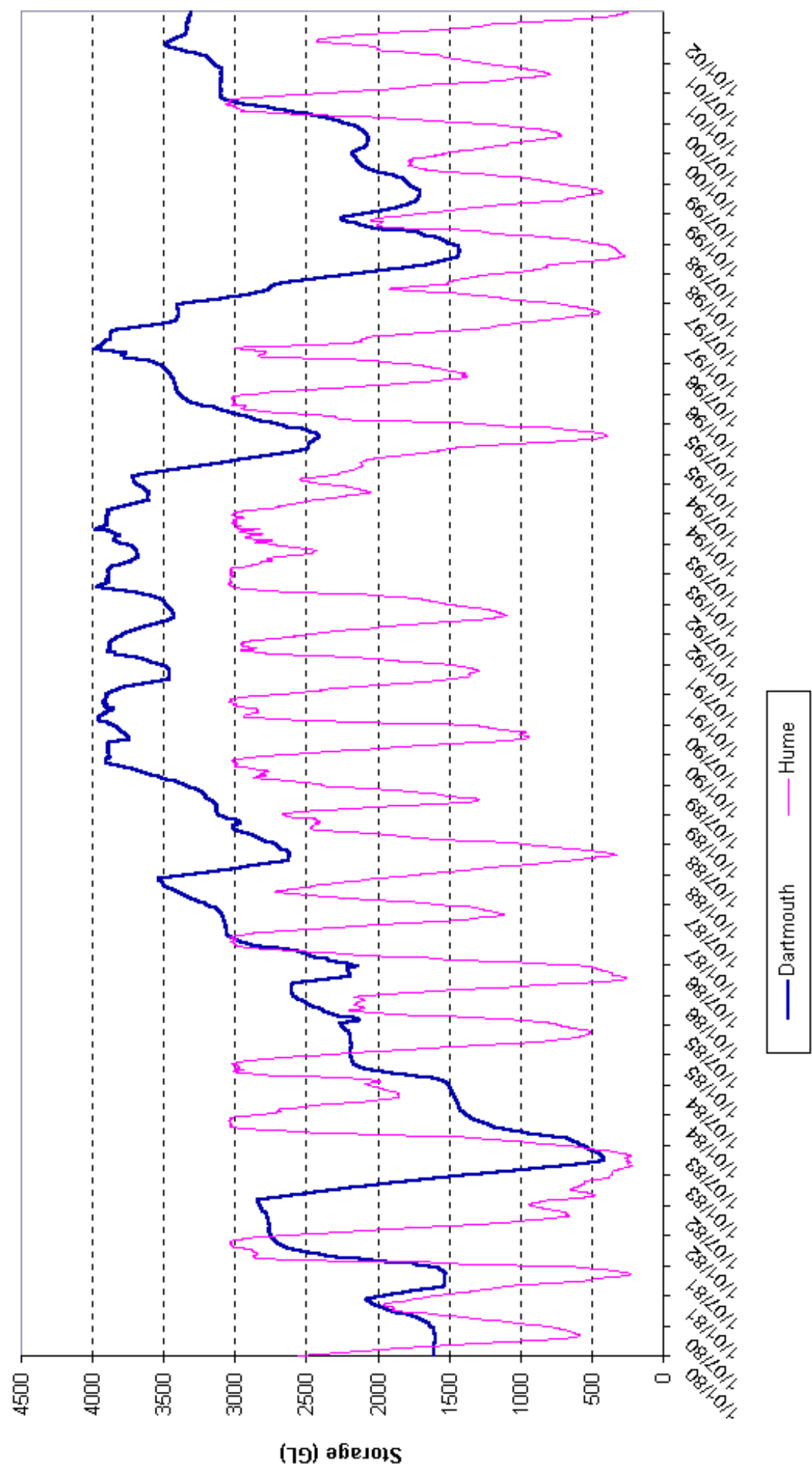
Date released: **14 May 2002**
Author: Bruce Campbell, River Murray Water
Authorised by: David Jeffery, GMW; Bryan Harper, RMW

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th May 2002

Product of the National Climate Centre



Storage in Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs : 1 January 1980 to 14 May 2002



Week ending Wednesday 15 May 2002

Water in Storage

MDBC 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 Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	476.42	3 307	85%	80	3 227	-2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	169.30	237	8%	30	207	-15
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.16	278	41%	100	178	-15
Menindee Lakes		1 682 *		418	25%	640 #	0	-4
Total		9 306		4 240	46%	850	3 613	-36

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1999 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **43%**

NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	239	23%	3	236	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	198	12%	24	174	-14
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	671	20%	100	571	-2

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-May-2002

Storage (GL)	Current storage	Weekly change	Diversion	This week	From 1 May 2002
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 851	-26	Snowy-Murray	+6	13
Snowy-Murray Component	1 324	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	1
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	5.3	12
			Murray 1 Release	+6	15

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2001
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	- .9	1 534.3
Wakool System loss	1.5	44.3
Western Murray Irrig.	0.3	29.2
Licensed Pumps	6.4	424.7
Lower Darling	0.2	123.3
TOTAL	7.5	2 155.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2001
Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	10.4	545
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	10.1	841
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.5	154
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	71
Licensed pumps - SRW	1.8	180
TOTAL	26.0	1 791

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93	(3 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	21.4	
Flow so far this month	45	
Flow last month	133	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2001
Swan Hill	160	157	180
Euston	130	161	209
Red Cliffs	240	230	277
Merbein	200	190	269
Burtundy	840	841	530
Lock 9	230	236	387
Lake Victoria	420	429	406
Berri	530	529	479
Waikerie	660	650	568
Morgan	680	670	586
Mannum	630	625	556
Murray Bridge	680	679	604
Meningie	1 460	1 470	1 238
Goolwa Barrages	1 430	1 403	1 446



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	-	-	-	1 040	R	870	650
Jingellic	4.0	1.24	207.76	1 540	R	1 480	1 180
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	830	S	830	850
Heywoods	5.5	1.58	155.21	1 780	F	4 370	5 860
Doctors Point	5.5	1.73	150.20	2 170	F	4 700	5 980
Albury	4.3	0.83	148.27	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.31	127.33	4 530	F	5 820	7 020
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.13	116.17	5 560	R	3 770	3 240
Tocumwal	6.4	1.18	105.02	3 280	F	3 700	3 570
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.02	79.57	2 280	F	1 950	1 780
Swan Hill	4.5	0.61	63.53	1 940	R	1 870	1 990
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.53	50.65	2 580	F	2 580	3 020
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.63	42.47	2 560	S	2 610	3 310
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.87	2 040	F	2 090	3 280
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.81	27.57	1 690	R	1 670	3 200
Rufus Junction	-	2.73	17.61	2 350	S	2 520	2 410
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	1 880	R	1 590	1 420
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.68	153.91	210	S	230	240
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.76	145.44	318	R	330	360
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	450	F	450	360
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 280	F	570	320
Edward at Liewah	-	1.11	56.49	590	F	610	650
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.37	54.86	276	R	290	380
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	280	R	280	310
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	170	S	180	200
Darling at Bourke	-	4.02	-	220	S	240	400
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	230	S	210	260

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 600	1 280
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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	-0.48	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.17	+0.42
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.25	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.03	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.06	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.05	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.28
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.07	+0.17	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.06	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.10
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	-0.33

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.19	0.76	70.11	469
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.24	0.2	61.5	314

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.70	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.74	All closed

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

