REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 24 March 2004

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/prs **26 March, 2004**
Trim Ref : 04/3343DO

Rainfall

Warm and dry conditions have prevailed for most of this week, apart from some rain across the northern part of the Basin with up to 50mm recorded in isolated areas (refer attached rainfall map).

Darling River system

Recent scattered follow up rains in the northern parts of the Basin have helped sustained flows in the Darling River above Menindee Lakes. Consequently, inflows to Menindee Lakes will continue for some time, however, the volume involved is not expected to be large. Further sustained heavy rain is required in order to generate inflows sufficient to fill the lakes. The lakes are expected to remain under NSW operational control for some time and will only return to Commission control once lake storage exceeds 640 GL.

River Murray System

Release rates from Hume Dam have remained high, but below channel capacity, and consequently storage in Hume has fallen to 20% of capacity. The releases reflect irrigation demands which have been close to the season's peak during the week. The release rate from the dam is likely to be lower in the coming weeks, as irrigation demands reduce towards the end of the season, and transfers of water to Lake Victoria are gradually reduced. Flows in the Edward River system are being gradually reduced as indicated in last week's report.

Following the recent small drawdown to provide flows to assist in diluting the inflow of saline water from the Darling River, levels in Euston pool are now being gradually increased and are expected to return to the normal operational level for this pool of 47.6 m AHD (above sea level) early next week.

Salinity

The salinity "spike" from the Darling River has now been largely captured in Lake Victoria. It is mixing well with low salinity lake water and consequently rises in river salinity in the Murray downstream of the lake are now expected to be lower than previously forecasted.

Some of the higher salinity water not contained within Lake Victoria is now located several kilometres upstream of Lock 8. It is moving slowly and the peak salinity level is diminishing through mixing effects as it passes downstream (see attached plot of actual salinity readings in the river). The peak salinity reading at Lock 9 was about 800 EC, whilst the peak at Lock 8 is expected to be near 700 EC in a few days times time.

The higher salinity water in Lake Victoria has recently spread from the southern end of the lake towards its western side, due to the effects of a clockwise circular water motion. Consequently, good mixing is taking place and the higher salinity water is gradually diluting. The latest readings taken at various points across the lake suggest that salinity levels do not exceed about 420 EC.

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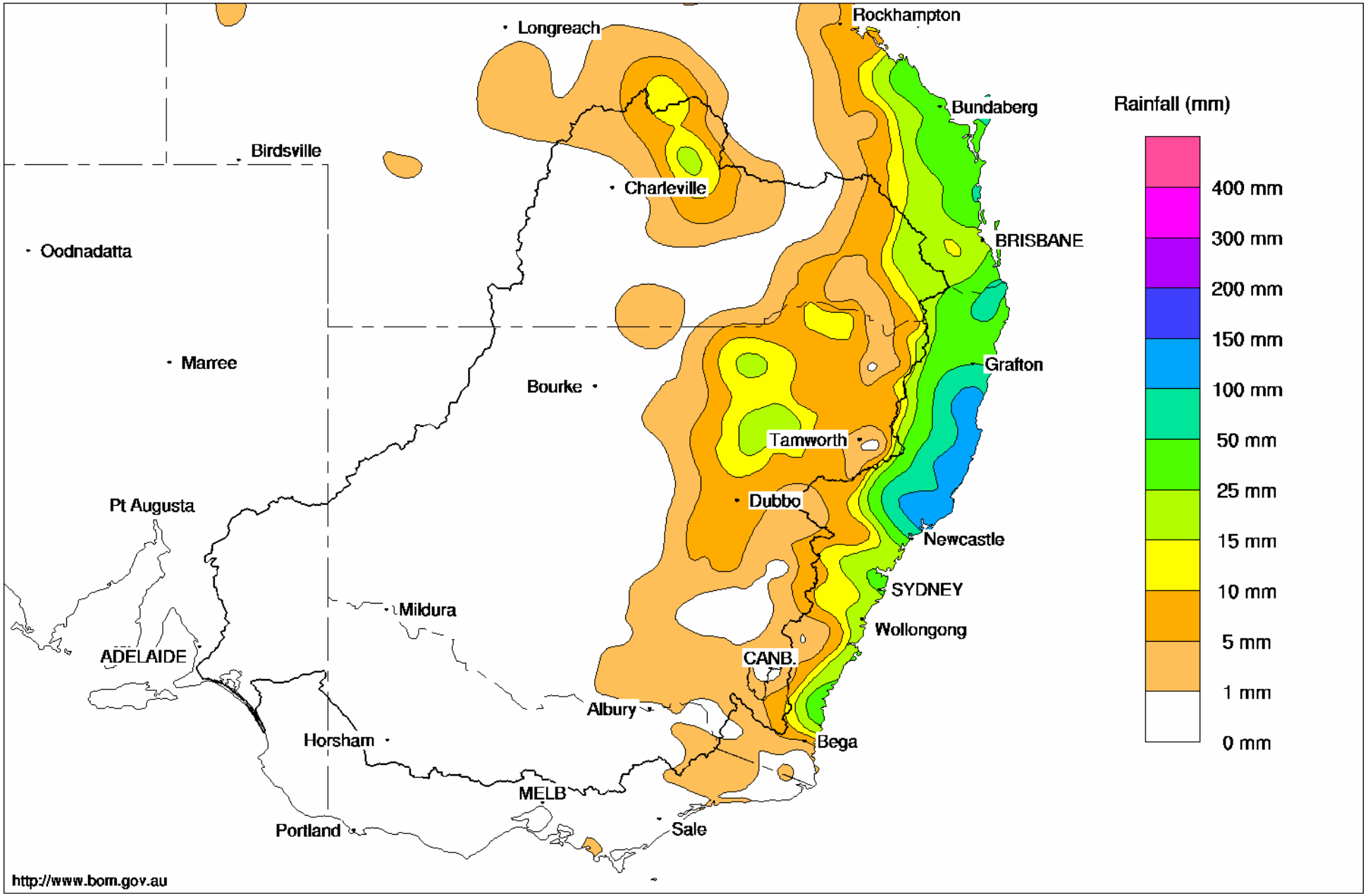
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 24th March 2004

Product of the National Climate Centre



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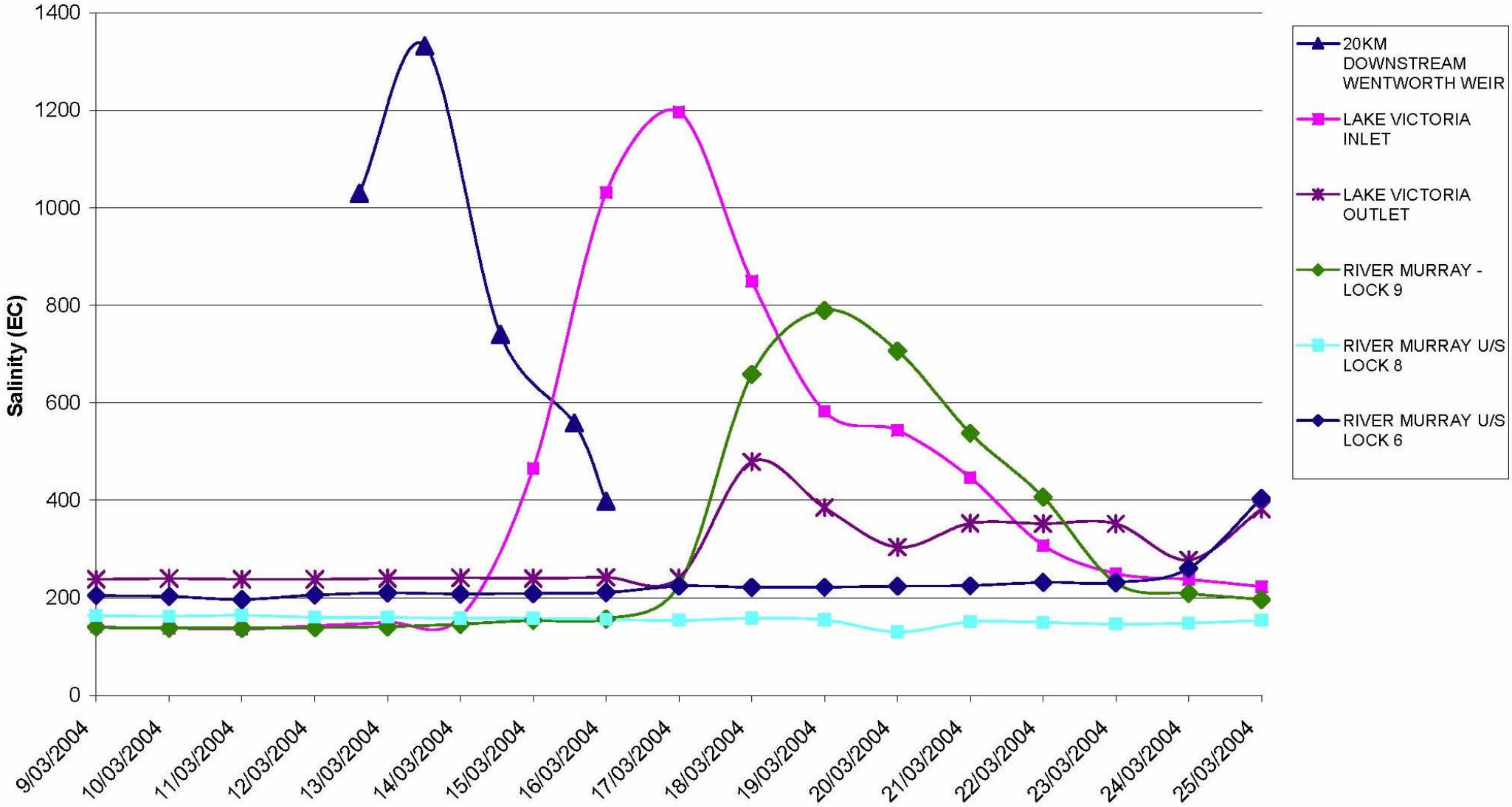
Salinity Movement Downstream Wentworth Weir
25 March 2004



Week ending Wednesday 24 Mar 2004

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage	Active Storage	Change in Storage for the week
	(m AHD)	(GL)	(m AHD)	(GL)	%	(GL)	(GL)	(GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	447.49	1 840	47%	80	1 760	-3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.63	612	20%	30	582	-115
Lake Victoria	27.00	680	23.54	315	46%	100	215	+6
Menindee Lakes		1 603 *		246	15%	640 #	0	-2
Total		**9 227**		**3 013**	**33%**	**850**	**2 557**	**-114**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 1916 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **31%**

\# NSW Menindee Lakes Reserve

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		429	42%	3	426	-5
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		288	18%	24	264	-42
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		830	24%	100	730	-57

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 23-Mar-2004

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2003
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 844	-0	Snowy-Murray	+10	630
Snowy-Murray Component	1 033	-	Tooma-Tumut	+2	264
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	8.2	365
			Murray 1 Release	+9	961

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2003
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	41.7	704.3
Wakool System loss	2.4	32.5
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	25.7
Licensed Pumps	12.1	209.9
Lower Darling	0.2	14.1
TOTAL	**57.1**	**986.4**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2003
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	15.3	302
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	23.7	484
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.6	135
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	3.4	35
Licensed pumps - SRW	4.8	173
TOTAL	**51.0**	**1 128**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	
Flow this week	43.3	(6 200 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	148	
Flow last month	201	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2003
Swan Hill	80	80	100
Euston	100	100	120
Red Cliffs	110	110	130
Merbein	120	120	140
Burtundy (Darling)	300	280	2 330
Lock 9	210	510	180
Lake Victoria	380	370	230
Berri	230	230	270
Waikerie	-	340	380
Morgan	360	360	410
Mannum	440	440	440
Murray Bridge	490	490	480
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 230	1 220	1 130
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	850	850	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 200	2 200	1 620
Goolwa Barrages	1 870	1 900	2 140

River Murray Water
A Business Unit of MDBC

Week ending Wednesday 24 Mar 2004

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 800	F	1 740	1 860
Jingellic	4.0	1.31	207.83	2 010	S	2 130	1 950
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.33	218.22	600	R	580	610
Heywoods	5.5	3.15	156.78	17 120	S	18 480	18 520
Doctors Point	5.5	3.25	151.72	17 100	F	18 610	18 970
Albury	4.3	2.28	149.72	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	3.34	129.36	18 000	F	19 660	19 720
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.62	116.66	9 010	R	9 190	10 100
Tocumwal	6.4	2.12	105.96	9 490	S	9 980	10 620
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.54	80.09	4 130	F	4 360	4 500
Swan Hill	4.5	0.86	63.78	3 490	R	3 480	3 970
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.21	51.33	4 850	F	5 220	6 000
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.02	42.86	4 460	F	4 850	6 220
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	30.86	3 930	F	4 380	5 670
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	4 170	S	4 690	7 620
Rufus Junction	-	3.27	20.20	5 390	F	5 650	5 790
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 770	S	4 190	3 770
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.61	153.84	130	R	140	230
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.72	145.40	292	R	380	560
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.21	92.63	450	S	450	390
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	1 190	F	1 270	1 960
Edward at Liewah	-	2.24	57.62	1 620	F	1 800	1 960
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.36	54.85	240	R	240	280
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	204	F	230	250
Barwon at Mungindi	-	5.11	-	5 830	F	9 730	1 100
Darling at Bourke	-	4.90	-	7 444	R	3 570	1 450
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.91	-	712	F	1 070	3 080

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	810	- 480

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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.15	+0.97
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.09	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.15
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.06	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.05	+0.22
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+30.02	+0.04	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.06	+0.19
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+0.19	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.09	-0.17

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.11	0.68	70.03	377
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.46	0.19	61.49	305

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.56	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.50	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.57	All closed

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

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