

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 6 April 2005

Our Ref : M2005/00066/prs, jm
Trim Ref : 05/2504

7 April, 2005



Rainfall and Inflows

Mainly dry conditions persisted across the Murray-Darling Basin this week, with the most rain (up to 25 mm) falling in a small pocket to the north of the Basin (*see attached map*). Tributary inflows to the Upper Murray have remained relatively steady at low levels. Inflows to the River Murray from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers are currently being supplemented by small releases from the storages on these rivers (Lakes Buffalo and William Hovell and the Mount Beauty power station).

River Murray System

Irrigation demands have been relatively steady over the past week, having eased slightly after the period of high demand prior to Easter. The release from Hume Dam has also remained fairly steady this week, averaging about 13 000 ML/day.

RMW is currently aiming to conserve as much water in the upper storages as possible for future years, particularly as the storage level in Lake Victoria is relatively high. Accordingly, releases are being kept to the lowest levels required to meet forecast demands and river losses, and the flows downstream of Torrumbarry Weir (on the River Murray) and Stevens Weir (on the Edward River) will be kept low over the coming weeks unless there is significant rainfall.

RMW is able to request the release of water from the Goulburn River to add to flows in the River Murray, due to the trade of water from the Goulburn River System to the River Murray System. RMW had requested that additional water be released during March to assist in meeting demands and high river losses in the Murray. This request has now been cancelled and inflow from the Goulburn River has gradually reduced from about 1 350 ML/day last week, to about 700 ML/day today (Wednesday 6 April). The inflow is expected to gradually reduce further to the minimum flow of 350 ML/day over the coming weeks.

Summary for March 2005

In complete contrast to the very wet conditions experienced during February 2005, March was very dry and warm. Most of the Basin received below average rainfall during March, and in some pockets (particularly in the north-west of the Basin) the falls were very much below average (*see attached map*). The ranges to the east of the Basin received the most rain, with up to 50 mm recorded. Unregulated inflows to Hume Reservoir (which exclude releases from the Snowy System and Dartmouth Dam) were very much below average, at a level exceeded in more than 97 years out of 100. Inflows to the River Murray System for the season to date (since June 2004) also remain below average, at a level exceeded in more than 7 years out of 10.

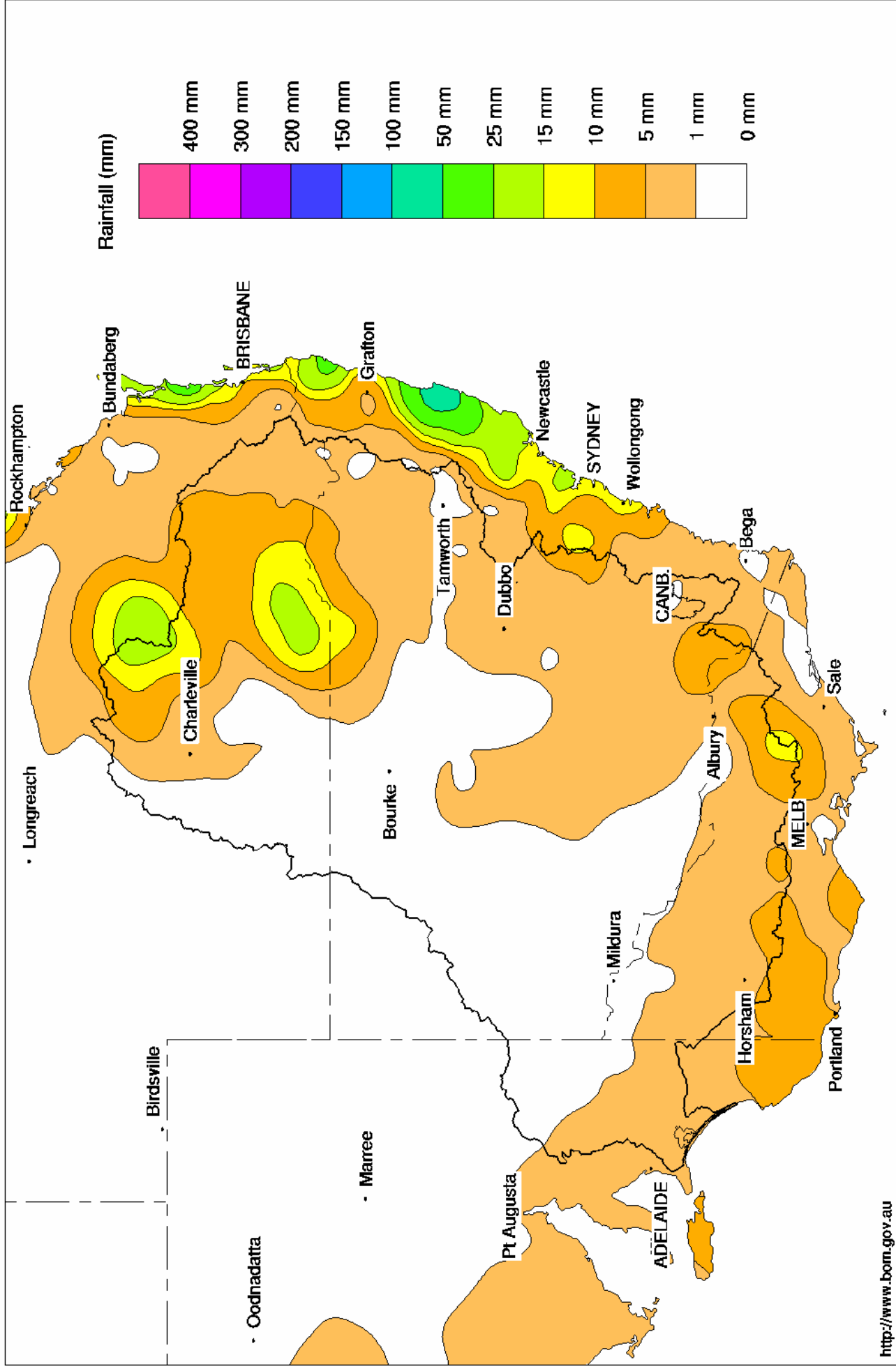
The total volume of water in MDBC storages fell by almost 360 GL to 2 795 GL (active storage) during March 2005, as water was released from all storages to supply diversions and cover river losses. The volume in active storage is about 370 GL more than at the same time last year, but almost 1 700 GL less than average storage levels for this time of year. A substantial improvement in inflows is required over the coming winter/spring to restore the storage volumes to average levels.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

River Murray Water
Sverdrup House ♦ 15 Moore Street Canberra ACT ♦ GPO Box 409 Canberra ACT 2601
Switchboard (02) 6279 0100 ♦ Weekly Report Enquiries (02) 6279 0126 ♦ Facsimile (02) 6230 6005
Internet : www.mdbc.gov.au

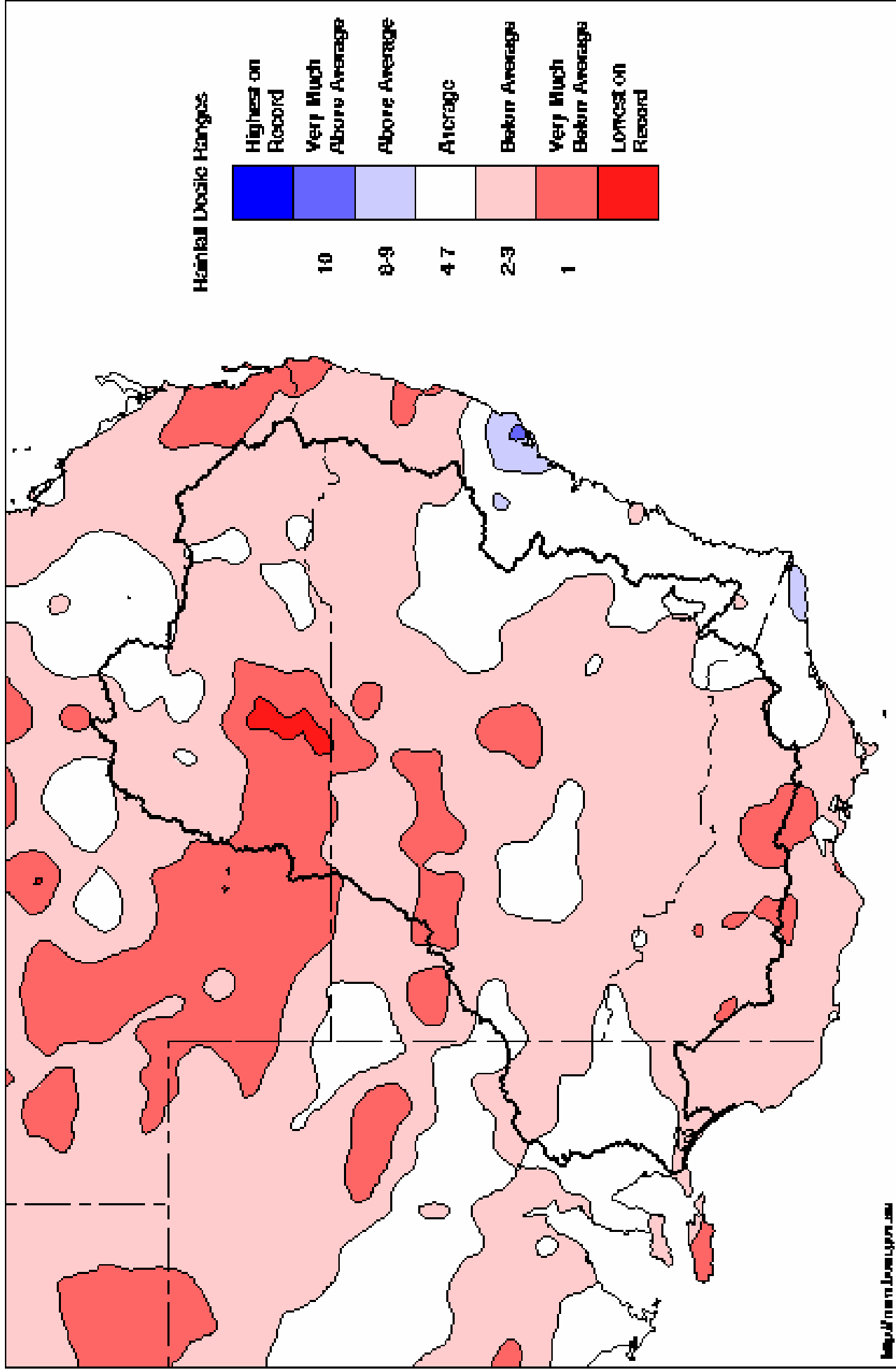
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 6th April 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles March 2005

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	444.61	1 722	44%	80	1 642	-1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	176.01	736	24%	30	706	-51
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.35	486	72%	100	386	-23
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		376	22%	(- -) #	0	-11
Total		9 352		3 320	35%	--	2 733	-86

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **32%**

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

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		246	24%	3	243	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		177	11%	24	153	-16
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		1 052	31%	100	952	-52

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-Apr-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 299	-51	Snowy-Murray	+38	630
Snowy-Murray Component	1 050	-37	Tooma-Tumut	+1	282
Target Storage	1 340		Nett Diversion	36.3	348
			Murray 1 Release	+42	994

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	35.7	739.4
Wakool System loss	0.7	18.1
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	29.0
Licensed Pumps	11.7	254.7
Lower Darling	0.3	26.4
TOTAL	49.2	1 067.6

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	14.1	330
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	20.3	551
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.1	144
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.3	36
Licensed pumps - SRW	3.9	230
TOTAL	42.6	1 290

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	135	
Flow this week	33.7	(4 800 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	28	
Flow last month	188	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	90	90	110
Euston	130	130	120
Red Cliffs	190	190	130
Merbein	150	150	130
Burtundy (Darling)	510	460	530
Lock 9	140	150	140
Lake Victoria	200	200	180
Berri	230	230	230
Waikerie	-	-	360
Morgan	350	360	380
Mannum	400	390	470
Murray Bridge	370	370	500
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 480	1 440	1 330
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 090	1 170	1 090
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 320	2 290	2 130
Goolwa Barrages	2 050	2 140	1 970



River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	7 340	F	6 510	4 330
Jingellic	4.0	2.08	208.60	8 200	R	6 610	5 470
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.40	218.29	670	F	680	710
Heywoods	5.5	2.87	156.50	12 830	S	12 950	15 300
Doctors Point	5.5	2.95	151.42	13 500	S	13 270	15 560
Albury	4.3	1.99	149.43	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.85	128.87	14 000	R	13 840	17 360
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.40	116.44	7 490	S	7 480	8 340
Tocumwal	6.4	1.87	105.71	7 360	S	7 490	8 490
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.37	79.92	3 480	F	4 070	4 390
Swan Hill	4.5	0.88	63.80	3 730	F	3 830	3 650
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.01	51.13	4 030	R	3 940	3 440
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.78	42.62	3 330	F	3 360	3 020
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.81	2 430	F	2 330	2 320
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.81	27.57	2 200	R	2 030	2 030
Rufus Junction	-	3.11	20.04	4 430	R	4 380	5 690
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	2 540	F	3 140	3 750
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.23	154.46	940	F	640	430
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.91	145.59	595	R	640	710
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.36	92.78	699	F	1 080	1 350
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	330	F	550	790
Edward at Liewah	-	1.20	56.58	628	R	400	140
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.42	54.91	325	S	330	370
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.52	56.48	224	R	220	200
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	20	S	30	30
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	111	S	70	20
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.84	-	433	R	380	280

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	630	1 610
---	-----	-------

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	-0.11	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.02	+0.79
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.15	+0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.36
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.17	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.12
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.04	-0.08	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.06
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.03	+0.02	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	-0.15

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.02	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-1.52	0.11	61.41	236

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

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

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.60	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.68	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.59	All closed



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