

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 9 February 2005

Our Ref : RMW305/01/01/jm

Trim Ref : 05/471

11 February, 2005



Rainfall and Runoff

An unusual weather pattern brought widespread heavy rains and a cold snap to much of northern Victoria early this week, with some areas receiving almost 200 mm of rain over three days. The rainfall resulted in significant increases in inflow from the Kiewa, Ovens, and Goulburn Rivers, which peaked at about 6 000 ML/day, 27 000 ML/day and 15 000 ML/day respectively. Peak inflows from the Kiewa and Ovens rivers were the highest ever recorded in the month of February. The peak inflow from the Ovens was more than double the previous highest February record. There were also minor increases in the inflow to Dartmouth and Hume Reservoirs.

River Murray Operation

On Thursday and Friday last week, release from Yarrawonga Weir was progressively increased from 10 000 ML/day to 24 000 ML/d, as localised rainfall and runoff and decreasing demands led to a rapid increase in the level of the weir pool. The release was held at 24 000 ML/day for about three days to pass the combined inflows from the Murray, Kiewa and Ovens, and has since been gradually reduced to 16 600 ML/day (as at Thursday 10 February). As the inflow recedes, the release from Yarrawonga Weir will be gradually reduced over the next couple of days to about 10 000 ML/day. Regulators along the river banks downstream of Yarrawonga have been opened to allow water to pass through the Barmah-Millewa Forest. These regulators will be progressively closed from next week as the flow recedes.

The flow at Torrumbarry Weir is currently peaking at about 19 000 ML/day, due to the combined influence of flows from the Murray and Goulburn Rivers. An updated prediction of flows downstream of Torrumbarry will be provided in the next Weekly Report, however, given the time of year, river losses are likely to be very high and the magnitude of this flow event is expected to diminish significantly as it passes downstream. Initial estimates indicate that the entire event will be captured in Lake Victoria, temporarily increasing the storage level from 500 GL to about 540 GL (or 80% full) by early March.

January Summary

Rainfall during January 2005 varied significantly across the Basin. Whilst some areas received up to 100 mm, others received little or no rain. Falls in the north-west of the Basin were well below average, while falls in the south were about average (*see map attached*). Total River Murray System inflows for January (excluding the Darling River) were below average, at a level exceeded about 8 years in 10.

The total volume of water in MDBC storages fell by over 500 GL during January 2005 to a total of 3400 GL (or 36% full), which is about 370 GL less than at the same time last year. In contrast, the volume in Menindee Lakes (which is currently under NSW control and not available to MDBC) increased with the arrival of inflows from the Barwon, Gwydir and Namoi River catchments. The storage volume in Menindee Lakes peaked on 31 January at 439 GL (or 23% full), the highest level since April 2002. Despite the increase in storage volume, the lakes will remain in NSW control unless further rainfall provides significant inflows.

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*

MEDIA RELEASE



Friday, 11 February 2005

Temporary Drawdown of Weir Pools at Euston Weir, Mildura Weir and Wentworth Weir to Assist Works at Lock 9

River Murray Water (RMW) announced today that a program of temporary drawdown of weir pools above Euston, Mildura and Wentworth Weirs is to be implemented in late February to facilitate completion of major works at Weir and Lock 9 at Kulnine downstream of Wentworth.

RMW General Manager, Mr David Dreverman said that the program is aimed at mitigating the flow peak in the River Murray before it reaches Lock 9 to enable major works underway at Lock 9 to proceed with minimal disruption.

“As a result of the heavy rainfall in early February, there have been significant rises in streamflow, particularly in the Ovens and Goulburn Rivers, which have led to significant rises in flow in the River Murray,” Mr Dreverman said.

“Preliminary indications are that the peak flow further downstream in the River Murray may approach a level which would have a serious effect on works in progress for the reconstruction and re-arrangement of the navigation pass at Lock 9.”

“The work is part of a long-term program to modify the navigation pass and install new fishways at weirs along the River Murray from Lock 1 near the Murray Mouth to Euston Weir near Robinvale.” Mr Dreverman said.

As the flow peak in the River Murray approaches Euston Weir, the weir pool level will be drawn down to provide airspace to assist with mitigation of the flow peak downstream. A similar process is planned for Mildura and Wentworth Weir as follows:

Weir	Current Weir Pool Level	Estimated Maximum Drawdown	Approx. Start Date of Drawdown	Approximate Date Weir Pool Level is Forecast to Reach Maximum Drawdown
Euston	23 cm (below FSL)	30 cm (below FSL)	9 February	14 February
Mildura	3 cm (below FSL)	10 cm (below FSL)	11 February	15 February
Wentworth	4 cm (below FSL)	10 cm (below FSL)	10 February	17 February

FSL is Full Supply Level

-/2

At each weir, the weir pool level will be returned to near full supply level (FSL) within about 3 days of the passing of the flow peak. At Euston Weir, the pool level will be restored to full supply level, more than two weeks before the commencement of the *Robinvale 80 Ski Race*.

At Mildura and Wentworth Weirs, the water level of the weir pools may also be temporarily raised by up to 0.1 m above full supply level to provide additional mitigation of the flow peak if required.

Whilst this operation is aimed at reducing the flow peak to protect works in progress at Lock 9, it may also assist in maximising the conservation of water in Lake Victoria and assist in building water reserves for New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia for the 2005/06 irrigation season.

“River Murray Water is closely monitoring the passage of flows along the River Murray. If the flow peak upstream of Euston Weir is in the lower band of the preliminary forecast range, it may not be necessary to draw down the weir pools to the maximum extent indicated.” Mr Dreverman said.

River diverters, boat operators and river other users are advised to take this operation into account when planning their activities.

For further information contact:

Lawrie Kirk

Manager Communication

Phone: 02 6279 0107

Mobile: 0417 219 158

E-mail: lawrie.kirk@mdbc.gov.au

(Lawrie Kirk is not to be quoted as a spokesperson)

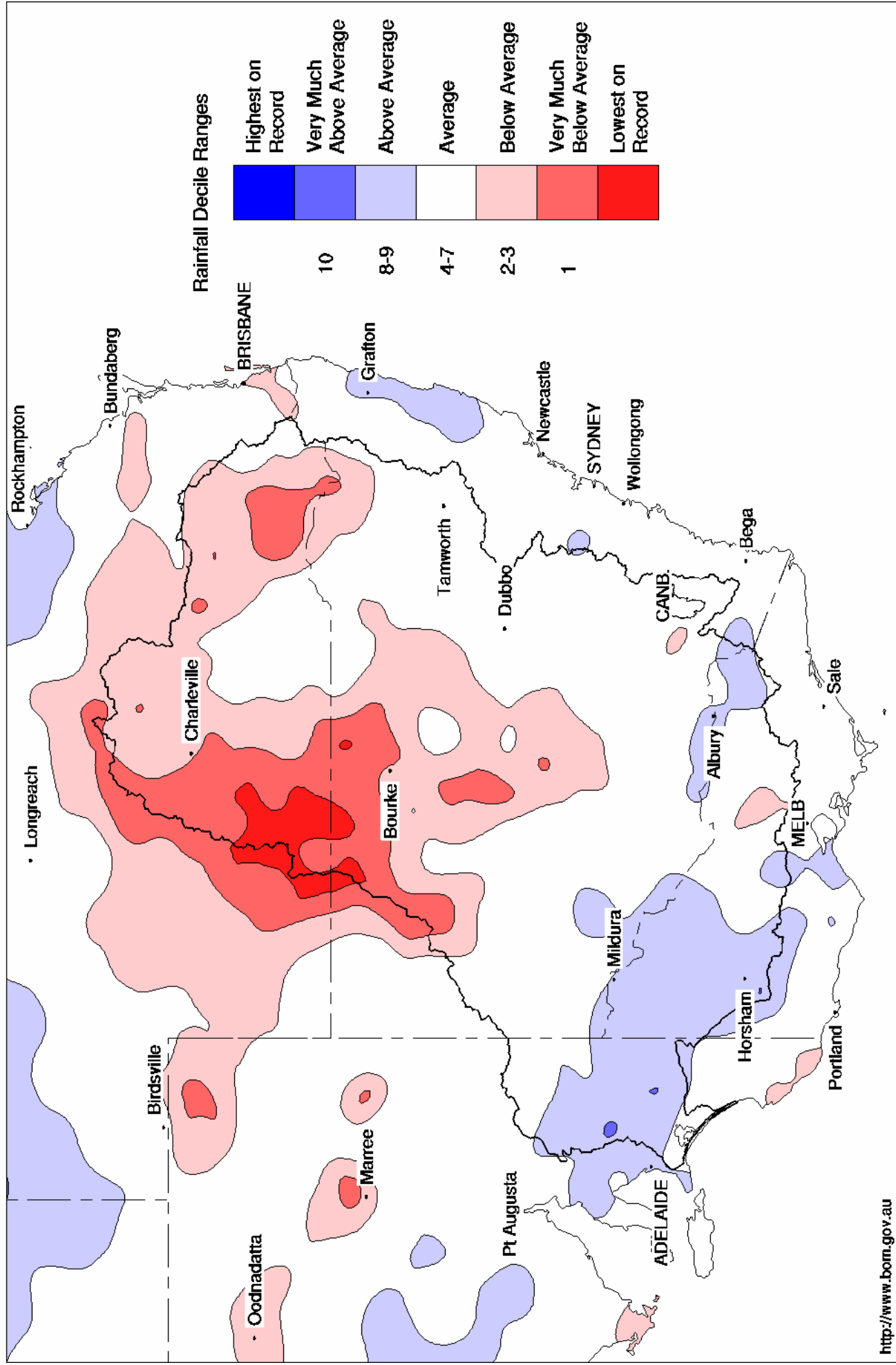
TRIM Ref: 05/n.a.-

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*

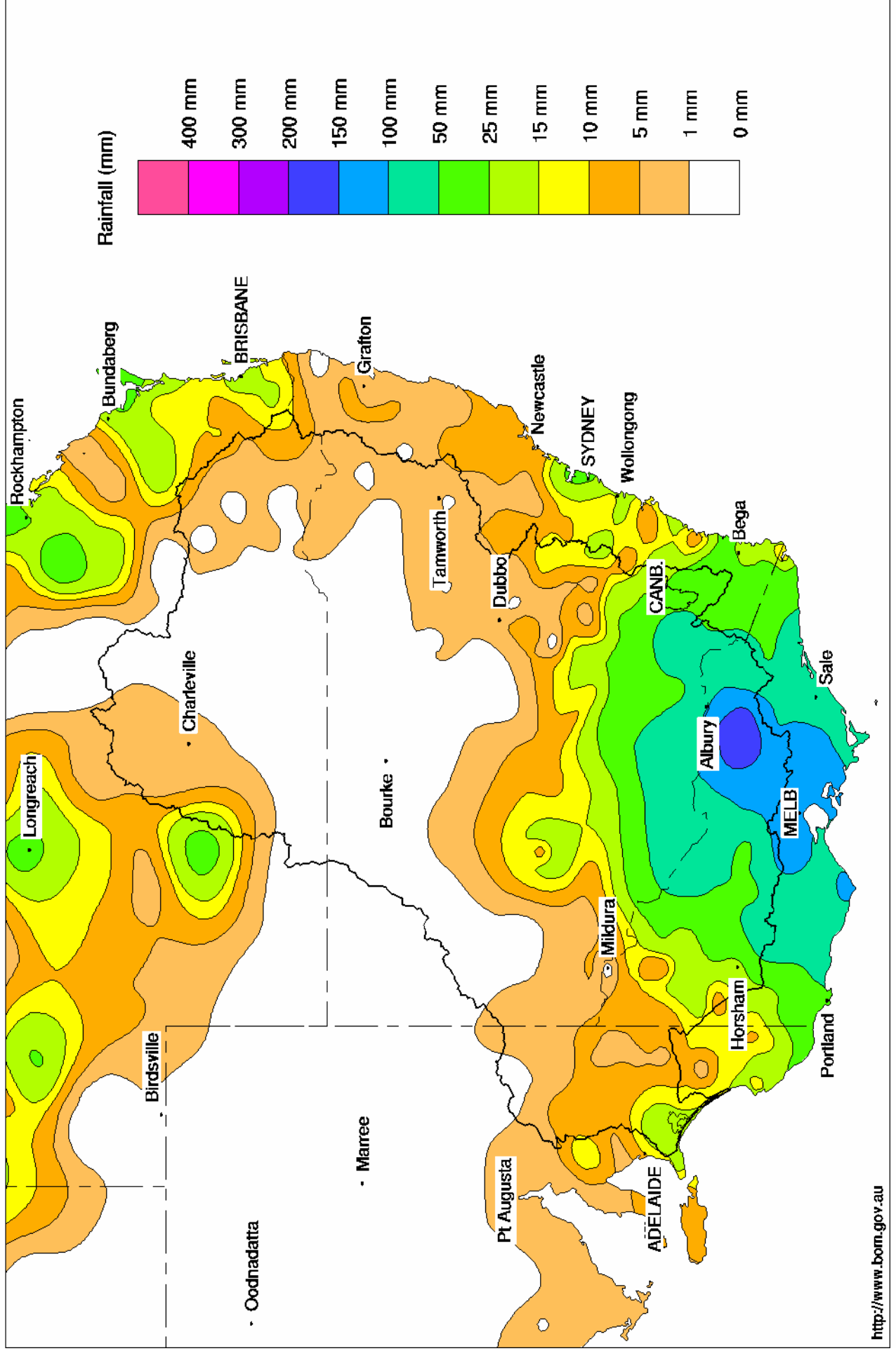
Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles January 2005

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 9th February 2005

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	444.53	1 718	44%	80	1 638	+19
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	180.07	1 166	38%	30	1 136	+22
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.56	509	75%	100	409	-20
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		427	25%	(- -) #	0	-9
Total		9 352		3 821	41%	--	3 183	+12

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **37%**

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	252	25%	3	249	+3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	354	22%	24	330	+41
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 297	38%	100	1 197	+23

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 08-Feb-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 566	-23	Snowy-Murray	+7	414
Snowy-Murray Component	1 194	+6	Tooma-Tumut	+9	250
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	-1.8	164
			Murray 1 Release	+13	758

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	1.3	491.0
Wakool System loss	0.3	10.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.9	21.8
Licensed Pumps	9.5	179.6
Lower Darling	1.1	19.2
TOTAL	13.1	722.5

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.5	225
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	1.9	387
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	4.1	113
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.9	23
Licensed pumps - SRW	7.3	183
TOTAL	14.8	931

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow this week	49.0	
Flow so far this month	63	
Flow last month	225	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	280	130	110
Euston	90	100	120
Red Cliffs	140	140	110
Merbein	140	140	120
Burtundy (Darling)	380	640	510
Lock 9	190	180	140
Lake Victoria	200	190	180
Berri	210	210	240
Waikerie	300	300	370
Morgan	320	340	400
Mannum	400	400	490
Murray Bridge	390	370	540
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 350	1 320	1 300
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 170	1 140	1 030
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 220	2 160	2 100
Goolwa Barrages	2 340	2 670	1 900



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	-	-	-	5 240	F	2 900	5 680
Jingellic	4.0	1.96	208.48	7 070	R	5 570	7 120
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.72	218.61	1 590	F	1 950	1 140
Heywoods	5.5	1.82	155.45	3 530	S	5 860	15 850
Doctors Point	5.5	2.17	150.64	5 300	F	8 480	16 300
Albury	4.3	1.25	148.69	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.87	127.89	7 230	F	12 490	17 430
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.86	117.90	19 000	F	19 860	10 040
Tocumwal	6.4	3.81	107.65	23 820	S	17 830	10 220
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.44	82.99	16 000	R	10 800	5 130
Swan Hill	4.5	2.10	65.02	11 540	R	7 890	4 640
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.56	52.68	10 710	R	8 560	6 290
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.81	43.65	8 880	R	7 550	5 560
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	30.97	6 820	F	5 670	4 370
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.94	27.70	6 240	R	4 960	3 950
Rufus Junction	-	3.46	20.39	6 510	S	6 570	7 020
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 850	S	5 250	4 800
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.74	154.97	1 870	F	2 800	550
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.49	147.17	5 198	F	11 720	390
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	6.57	97.99	15 159	R	7 060	940
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	2 900	F	2 850	1 990
Edward at Liewah	-	2.69	58.07	2 180	R	2 190	2 010
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.51	55.00	486	S	460	360
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.62	56.58	320	R	300	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.20	-	60	S	110	430
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	657	R	590	690
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.78	-	250	S	240	220

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 770	1 850
---	-------	-------

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	+0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+1.16
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.04	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.10	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.20
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.17	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.68
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.30	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.21
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.00	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.15
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.02	+0.16	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.05

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.10	1.67	71.02	2160
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.01	0.78	62.08	951

Barrages

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	Openings	Level	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.70	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.66	All closed

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

