

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 2 March 2005

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4 March, 2005



Rainfall and inflow

Mainly hot and dry conditions prevailed across the Murray-Darling Basin this week, except for northern NSW where moderate rainfall was recorded (*see attached map*). As a result tributary inflow to the River Murray declined in most areas.

River Murray Operation

The release from Dartmouth Dam has remained steady this week at about 600 ML/day. This was slightly lower than the inflow and consequently the storage level rose marginally by 1 GL to 1724 GL (44% capacity). In response to warmer conditions and increased irrigation demand, the release from Hume Dam was increased to an average of 12 500 ML/day. This week storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 41 GL to 1 093 GL (36% capacity).

The flow downstream of Yarrawonga has been further reduced to 8 000 ML/day, while downstream of Torrumbarry Weir the flow is currently 5 000 ML/day and falling. The flow in the Edward-Wakool system is also receding, with the Edward River downstream of Stevens Weir at 300 ML/day and the Wakool River at Stony Crossing at 700 ML/day.

The recent high flow in the Murray River from the February rain event was not entirely captured in Lake Victoria due to the restricted inlet capacity. Therefore, a small volume of above entitlement flow (1.3 GL) passed into South Australia. Lake Victoria storage rose by 35 GL this week and is currently at 579 GL (86% capacity).

Gulpa Creek environmental flow

Over past months the NSW Murray Wetlands Working Group has been providing environmental water to assist waterbird breeding in wetlands along Gulpa Creek in the Barmah-Millewa Forest. The waterbirds breeding at this site include Ibis, Spoonbills, Egrets and Cormorants. This week, monitoring revealed that the waterbird breeding event is nearly over as most of the young are feathered and nearly fledged. Accordingly, the flow along Gulpa Creek will be gradually reduced over the coming week to the usual regulated flow of 350 ML/day.

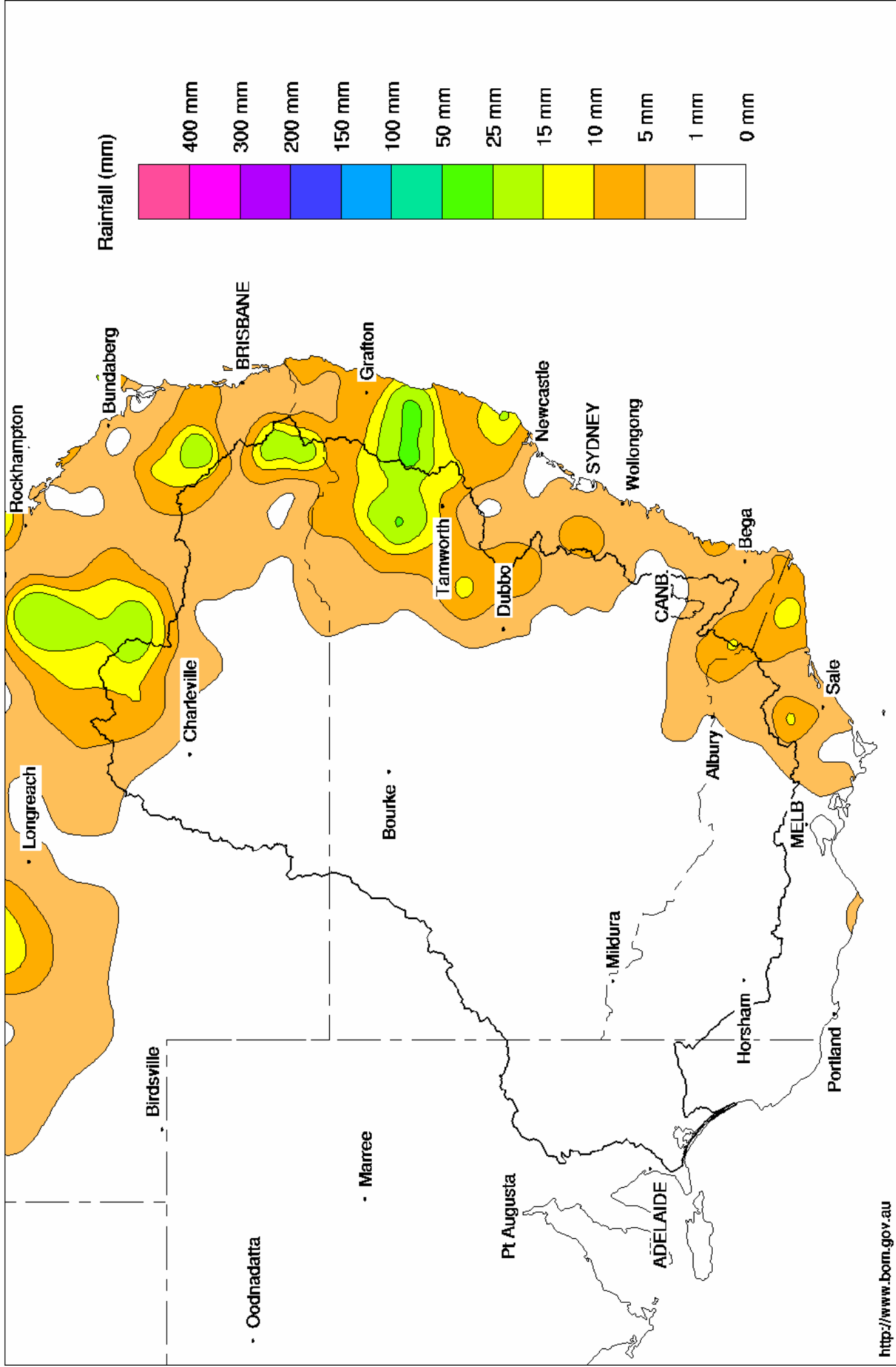
Summary for February 2005

Rainfall for the month of February varied greatly across the Basin. In the north, there was below average rainfall with some areas receiving the lowest on record (*see attached map*). In contrast, the south-eastern part of the Basin experienced very much above average rainfall. The total inflow to the River Murray System (excluding the Darling River) during February was 445 GL, which was very high for this time of year and would only be exceeded 3 years in 100. The relatively high inflow and low diversions during February resulted in only a small decline in MDBC active storage of 33 GL to 3 152 GL (37% capacity). However over the longer term, the total inflow to the River Murray System (excluding the Darling River) since June 2004 remains relatively low at 4 656 GL, which is expected to be exceeded about 7 years in 10, and the inflow over the last four years has been the lowest on record.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

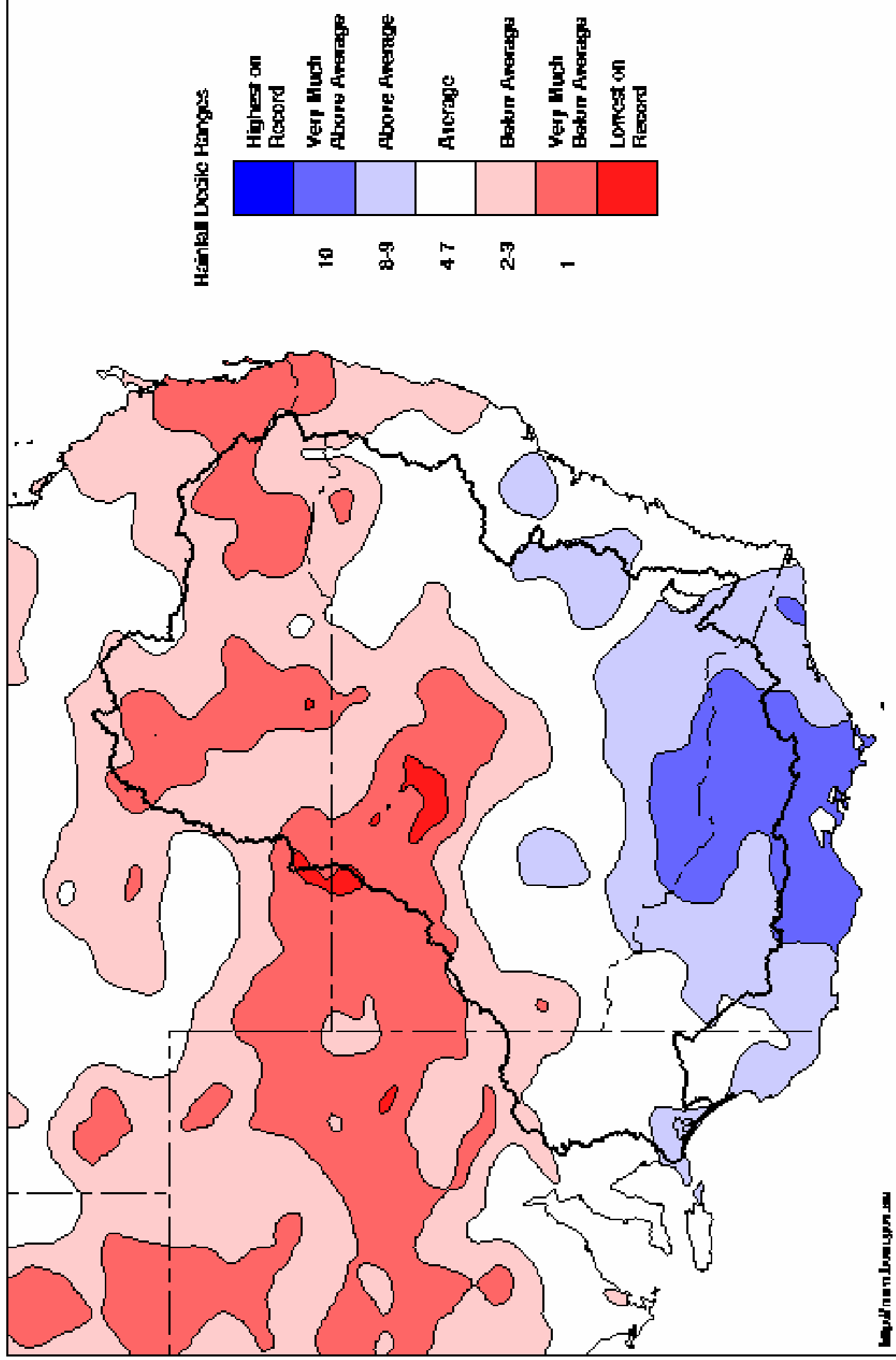
Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 2nd March 2005

Product of the National Climate Centre



Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles February 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	444.67	1 724	44%	80	1 644	+1
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	179.09	1 053	35%	30	1 023	-41
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.18	579	86%	100	479	+34
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		413	24%	(- -) #	0	+2
Total		9 352		3 769	40%	--	3 146	-3

* 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	250	24%	3	247	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	349	21%	24	325	-34
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	1 238	37%	100	1 138	-27

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 01-Mar-2005

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2004
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 461	-55	Snowy-Murray	+34	468
Snowy-Murray Component	1 162	-26	Tooma-Tumut	+3	274
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	31.0	195
			Murray 1 Release	+34	818

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2004
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	29.7	551.9
Wakool System loss	0.7	11.9
Western Murray Irrig.	1.1	25.1
Licensed Pumps	10.4	204.8
Lower Darling	1.0	23.5
TOTAL	42.9	817.1

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2004
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	13.6	258
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	22.2	433
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	5.2	128
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.6	27
Licensed pumps - SRW	7.3	205
TOTAL	49.9	1 051

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186	(6 900 ML/day)
Flow this week	48.5	
Flow so far this month	12	
Flow last month	197	

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2004
Swan Hill	100	110	110
Euston	120	130	120
Red Cliffs	190	200	120
Merbein	160	170	120
Burtundy (Darling)	680	680	530
Lock 9	170	150	140
Lake Victoria	190	180	180
Berri	210	210	240
Waikerie	-	320	370
Morgan	340	330	390
Mannum	400	400	480
Murray Bridge	400	390	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 430	1 640	1 310
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 310	1 300	1 050
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 180	2 220	2 120
Goolwa Barrages	2 200	2 350	1 930



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	-	-	-	4 310	R	5 230	3 550
Jingellic	4.0	1.67	208.19	4 660	F	6 560	3 830
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.55	218.44	1 040	R	1 040	1 290
Heywoods	5.5	2.85	156.48	12 770	F	12 510	10 380
Doctors Point	5.5	2.91	151.38	13 000	S	13 290	11 110
Albury	4.3	1.93	149.37	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.91	128.93	14 500	F	13 110	11 770
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.45	116.49	7 820	F	8 100	9 230
Tocumwal	6.4	1.97	105.81	8 030	S	8 380	9 840
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.87	80.42	5 270	F	6 560	9 240
Swan Hill	4.5	1.22	64.14	5 780	F	6 850	10 690
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.23	52.35	9 070	F	10 790	16 210
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.96	43.80	9 840	F	11 860	17 560
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	31.20	11 770	F	11 770	13 810
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.17	27.93	10 210	F	12 390	13 050
Rufus Junction	-	3.30	20.23	5 560	R	6 430	6 840
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-	-	4 390	S	4 280	4 430
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.97	154.20	580	R	970	880
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.01	145.69	812	F	1 020	1 580
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.70	93.12	1 250	R	800	820
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	310	F	630	2 340
Edward at Liewah	-	2.74	58.12	2 250	F	2 690	2 940
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.60	55.09	695	F	780	920
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.57	56.53	283	F	530	2 180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.19	-	40	R	50	70
Darling at Bourke	-	4.06	-	243	F	380	720
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	202	S	200	140

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 060	3 960
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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	-0.07	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.08	+0.99
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.16
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.40	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.01	+0.67
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.53	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.20
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.01	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.03	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+0.15	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.01	+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	-0.53	0.55	69.9	252
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.32	0.13	61.43	252

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.67

Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status
Goolwa	128 openings	0.65	All closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.68	All closed
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed
Tauwicheere	322 gates	0.60	All closed

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

