

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 1 August 2007

Our Ref : M2006/01015/AS, PRS  
Trim Ref : 07/9831

3 August, 2007



## Rainfall, inflows and July summary

The southern half of the Basin received light falls of rain during the past week, with the highest falls (25-50mm) recorded in the Victorian alpine regions. This rain generated a slight increase in flows along the upper reaches of the Murray, Mitta Mitta and Ovens Rivers.

The northern half of the Basin has continued to receive little or no rain during the past week (*see Map 1*), and the monthly rainfall for July was in the lowest 10 % of records (*see Map 2*). If the dry weather continues in the north, the storage volume in Menindee Lakes (currently 88 GL or 5 % capacity) is expected to continue declining.

Although there was average rainfall in the southern half of the Basin during July, the July inflow of 450 GL is well below the long term median of 850 GL, but higher than last year's July inflow of 133 GL.

## River Operations

Release from Dartmouth Reservoir is being maintained at the minimum rate of 200 ML/day and storage increased by 15 GL during the past week to 15 % capacity. Release from Hume Reservoir remained at 400 ML/day and storage increased by 31 GL to 20 % capacity.

During the past week, the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been relatively steady, ranging between 4 500 and 5 500 ML/day and is expected to remain within this range over the next week. Lake Mulwala water level is gradually being lowered as part of a plan to re-regulate any future high inflows from the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. The level is currently at 124.45 m (AHD) and is expected to reduce a further 5 cm during the coming week.

As part of drought contingency planning to maximise water availability for the three States, plans are being made to partially lower Euston Weir and Torrumbarry Weir (*see media release*) over the next few weeks. The planned operation for Euston Weir was reported last week.

Further downstream, the recent peak flow that has been travelling down the River Murray is now arriving at Lock and Weir No. 9 (Kulnine) where it is being diverted into Lake Victoria. As a consequence, Lake Victoria storage increased by 45 GL during the past week, and now has a total storage of 387 GL (57 % capacity).

As water availability remains very low, the flow to South Australia during August will be similar to July's rate of about 1150 ML/day. This is well below the normal entitlement flow for August of 4 000 ML/day. The weir pools in South Australia remain above their Full Supply Level (FSL), except for Lock 6 which remains 4 cm below FSL. The level of the Lower Lakes has been steady this week at 0.23 m (AHD).

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

Date: 2 August, 2007

## **Torrumbarry Weir pool levels to be varied as a Murray water saving measure**

The level of the Torrumbarry Weir pool will be gradually lowered below the Full Supply Level (FSL) of 86.05 m AHD by up to 40 cm commencing Monday 6 August.

David Dreverman, General Manager of River Murray Water, said that; “the lowering of the weir pool will take place over the coming weeks and is being implemented to save water for urban and irrigation water users along the River Murray System”.

“The lower weir pool level will enable future peak flows along the River Murray or inflows from the Goulburn River to be partially captured, so that the releases from weir can be maintained as far as possible at flow rates that can be later diverted into Lake Victoria further downstream. This will maximise water availability for the three States: New South Wales Victoria and South Australia”.

“During the next few months, the level of Torrumbarry Weir pool can be expected to fluctuate within the range of 85.65 and 86.05 m (AHD) as high flow events are partially captured and then later released”.

“This degree of variation in the weir pool level has been implemented in recent years to assist a long-term goal to reduce bank erosion caused in part by holding the weir pool steady”.

The river level at the Echuca Wharf (82 km upstream of Torrumbarry Weir) will be dependant on both the weir pool level and the river flow rate. The river level at Echuca Wharf may fall to about 85.65m (AHD) if the river flow rate is less than 2 000 ML/day and the weir pool is also 40 cm below FSL. This is 65 cm below the current river level at Echuca Wharf of 86.30 m AHD where the flow rate is 4 500 ML/day.

Mr Dreverman said: “river pumpers, boat operators and other river users upstream of Torrumbarry Weir are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities”

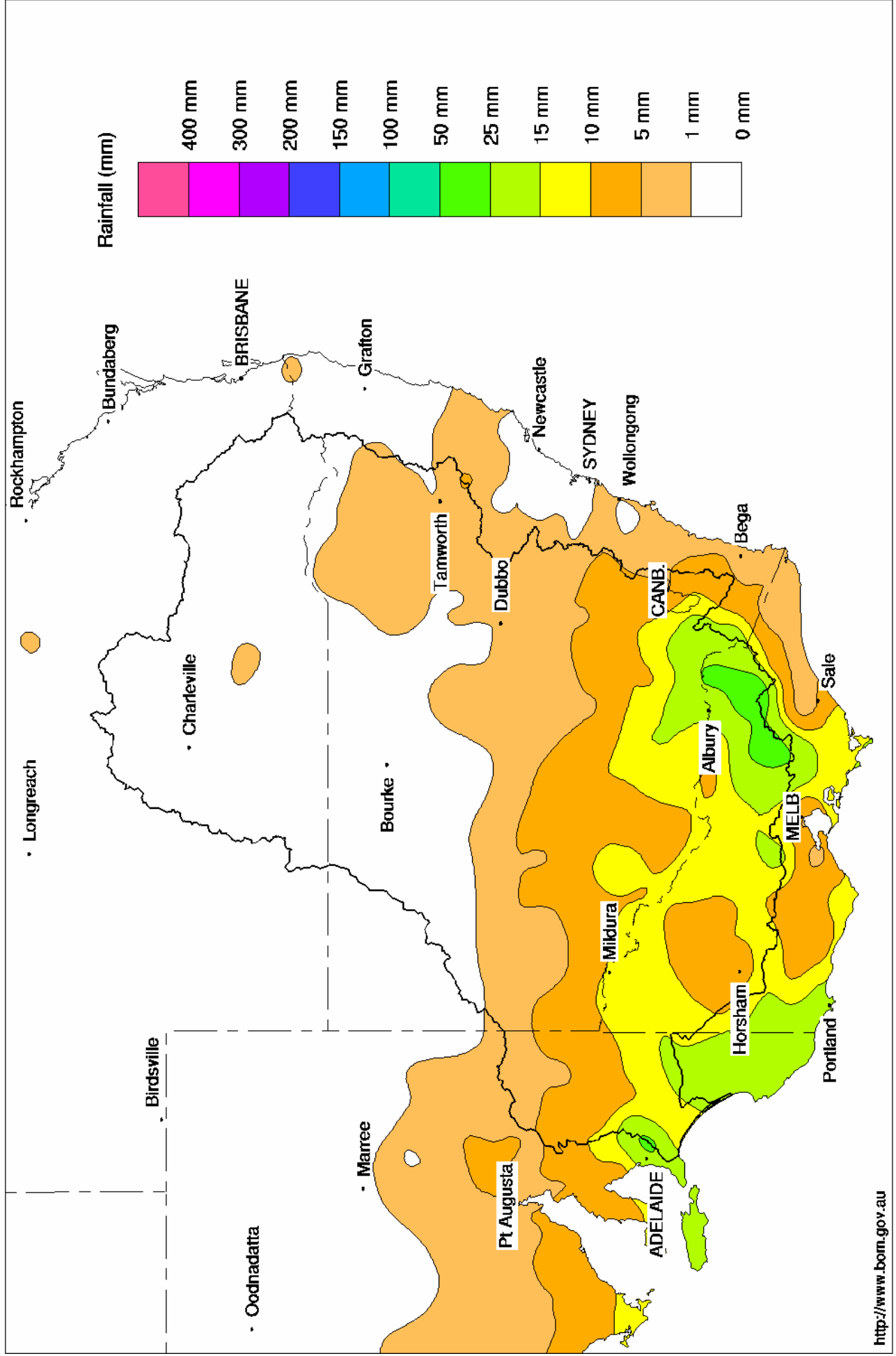
Further advice will be issued if there are significant changes to these plans.

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332**

TRIM ref: 07/10008

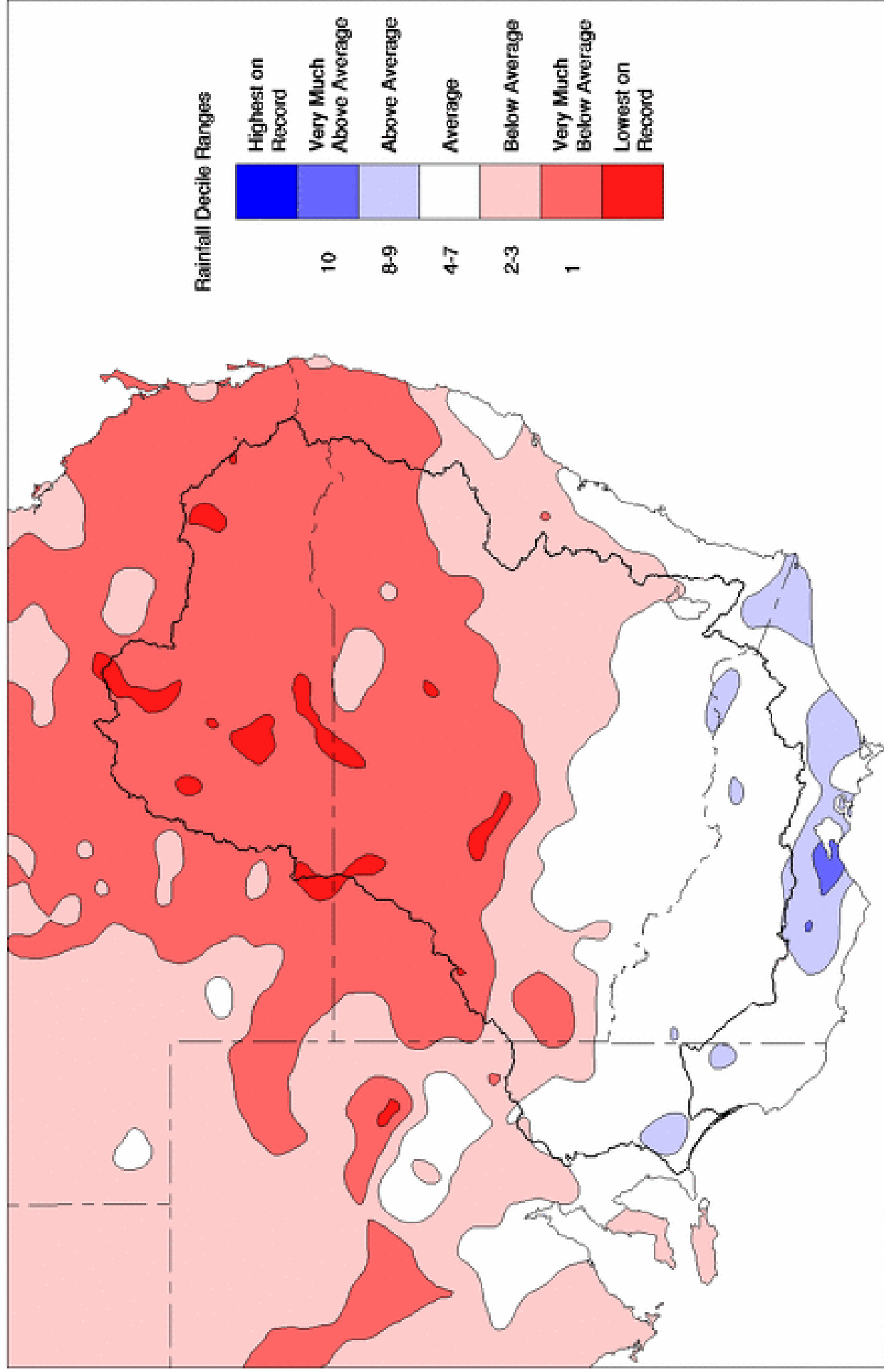
# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 1st August 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



# Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles July 2007

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	406.09	578	15%	80	498	+15
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	174.74	622	20%	30	592	+31
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.42	387	57%	100	287	+45
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		88	5%	(- -) #	0	-2
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 674</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 376</b>	<b>+89</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **16%**

# 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		421	41%	3	418	+7
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		452	28%	24	428	+18
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		597	18%	100	497	+35

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 31-Jul-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	106	+27	Snowy-Murray	+3	230
Snowy-Murray Component	127	+10	Tooma-Tumut	+7	42
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-4.7	189
			Murray 1 Release	+10	290

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	.0	.0
Wakool System loss	0.2	.9
Western Murray Irrig.	0.0	.2
Licensed Pumps	0.5	2.2
Lower Darling	0.0	.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.7</b>	<b>3.3</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.0	
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>5</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	124 *	
Flow this week	8.8	(1 300 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	2	
Flow last month	37	

\* Reduced to approx. 35 GL during August drought contingency operations

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	100	90	100
Euston	80	80	80
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	120	130	120
Burtundy (Darling)	1 070	1 070	1 070
Lock 9	160	170	160
Lake Victoria	200	190	200
Berri	430	470	430
Waikerie	660	640	660
Morgan	630	620	630
Mannum	440	450	440
Murray Bridge	510	510	510
Milang (Lake Alex.)	2 160	2 060	2 160
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 870	1 910	1 870
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 410	2 470	2 410
Goolwa Barrages	15 830	13 520	15 830



**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)				
<b>River Murray</b>							
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 890	F	1 540	3 430
Jingellic	4.0	1.74	208.26	5 000	R	3 700	5 450
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.41	218.30	630	S	640	540
Heywoods	5.5	1.06	154.69	460	S	460	430
Doctors Point	5.5	1.63	150.10	1 830	R	1 510	1 290
Albury	4.3	0.74	148.18	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.61	126.63	1 600	R	1 310	1 600
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.00	116.04	5 000	S	4 700	6 150
Tocumwal	6.4	1.45	105.29	5 070	R	5 060	7 140
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.65	80.20	4 550	F	5 200	7 720
Swan Hill	4.5	1.11	64.03	5 070	F	6 090	8 180
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.92	52.04	7 780	F	8 640	8 860
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.71	43.55	8 940	F	9 390	8 370
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	9 450	F	9 150	6 440
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.28	28.04	8 640	F	8 170	5 860
Rufus Junction	-	2.40	19.33	640	S	680	710
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.26	-	850	F	850	680
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.66	154.89	1 631	R	1 300	1 210
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.93	146.61	3 536	F	3 130	2 760
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.19	92.61	445	R	450	510
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.33	81.10	1 110	F	1 360	1 800
Edward at Liewah	-	2.37	57.75	1 760	S	1 680	1 030
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.26	54.75	160	S	150	100
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.53	56.49	229	R	220	220
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.35	-	327	S	360	530
Darling at Bourke	-	4.17	-	685	R	380	150
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.62	-	0	F	0	0

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	7 150	5 450
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**Weirs and Locks**

**Pool levels above or below design level**

<b>Murray</b>	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.44	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.11	+0.10
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	+0.00
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.02	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.06	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.08	+0.38	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.12
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.10	+0.64	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.18
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.26	+0.26	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.10	+0.08
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.27	+0.12	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.10	-0.49

<b>Murrumbidgee</b>	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.09	1.03	70.38	865
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.49	0.28	61.58	394



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.23

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.19	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	0.30	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.23	All closed	Closed	Closed

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