

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 15 August 2007

*Our Ref : M2006/01015/MS, KS
Trim Ref : 07/10724*

17 August, 2007



Rainfall and inflows

During the past week there were light falls of rain (up to 30 mm) across the southern regions of the Basin. The highest falls were in the mountains with Mt Buller and Perisher Valley receiving 82 mm and 95 mm respectively.

Murray system inflows were slightly higher this week with an inflow of around 90 GL (excluding inflows to Menindee). This brings August's inflow to date to around 190 GL, which is running well above the 97 GL recorded for August 2006. However, it is considerably lower than the long term average for August of 1 560 GL.

The Murray Darling Basin Commission recently released "River Murray System – Drought Update No. 9" (see attached drought update).

River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir continues to steadily rise and is currently at 607 GL (15.5 % capacity). Hume Reservoir has experienced a similar increase, where storage is currently 690 GL (22.7% capacity). Though both storages are rising, their combined volume of 1 297 GL is considerably less than the 3 302 GL that was in storage this time last year.

Lake Mulwala is currently being held close to 124.40 (0.6 m AHD). If conditions remain dry the lake level will be gradually raised back to within its normal operating range towards the end of August. If wet conditions return the lake level may be further drawn down to a minimum 123.6 m AHD to re-regulate subsequent higher flows.

Torrumbarry Weir has been gradually lowered to 85.96 m AHD, a reduction in pool level of 9 cm since early August. The lowering of Torrumbarry Weir will provide "air space" to help capture any additional water from the Goulburn River in the event of rain and increased runoff. Euston Weir has also been lowered and is currently at 47.47 m AHD, down 13 cm from its Full Supply Level (FSL). It is being gradually lowered to reduce evaporation losses from Lake Benanee and Dry Lake.

The partial filling of Stevens Weir has begun. Flow downstream of the weir is expected to remain above 600 ML/day as the weir pool fills (see attached media release).

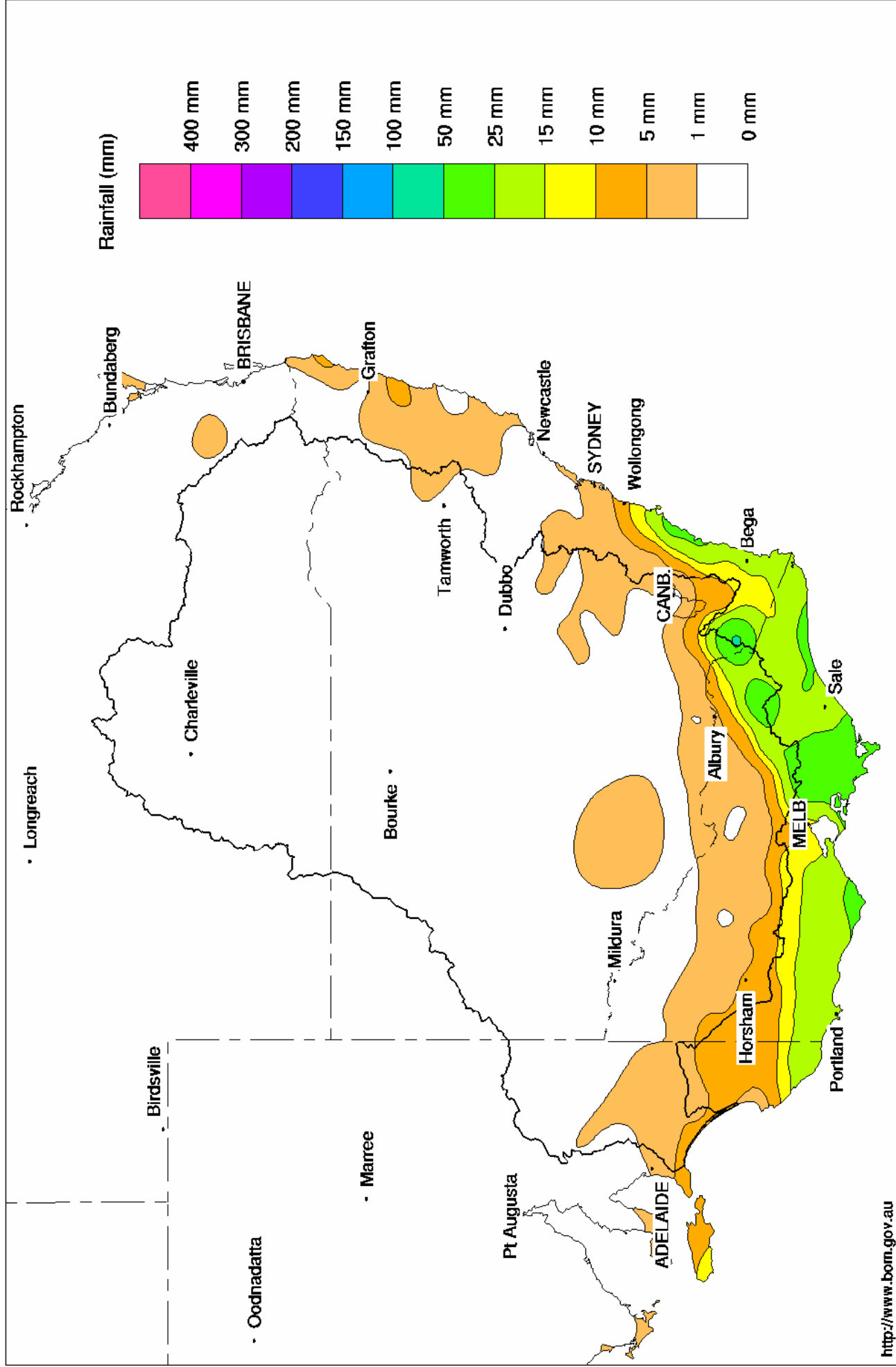
Mildura Weir pool level is 34.43 m AHD, 3 cm above FSL and Wentworth Weir pool level is 30.84, 4 cm above FSL. Both pools were temporarily raised to re-regulate the high flows resulting from the high rainfalls in early July. These pools are now gradually being lowered to their FSL.

Storage in Lake Victoria continues to rise and is currently 468 GL (69.2 % capacity). Flow to South Australia continues to be around 1 120 ML/day.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 15th August 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre





River Murray System - Drought Update No. 9 July 2007

CURRENT SITUATION

July saw average to above average rainfall on the main River Murray storage catchments in northern Victoria and across much of southern New South Wales and eastern South Australia. However, severe rainfall deficiencies persisted in the north of New South Wales and in southern Queensland (see Figure 1)

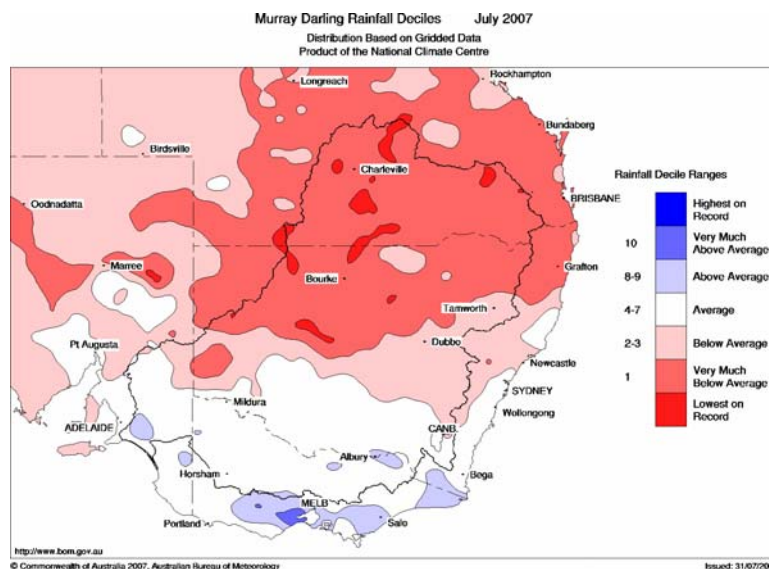


Figure 1. Rainfall Deciles - July

(Australian Bureau of Meteorology)

System inflows increased in response to the rain early in the month and total system inflow in July was 450 GL. Whilst this is significantly better than observed in July 2006 (130 GL) it is still well below the long-term average of 1190 GL. Lake Victoria has risen to 65% of capacity, and is expected to continue rising throughout August. Of the other major storages, Lake Hume is at 665 GL (22% of capacity) and Dartmouth 590 GL (15% capacity). Both storages are expected to rise slowly into early spring. Current MDBC storage is about 2000 GL less than at the same time last year (see Figure 2). The current low storage position provides a bleak outlook for 2007-08. To put this in perspective, current water availability is much worse than 2006-07, which delivered the lowest water availability for the River Murray System over the past 116 years (using modelled behaviour at current level of system development).

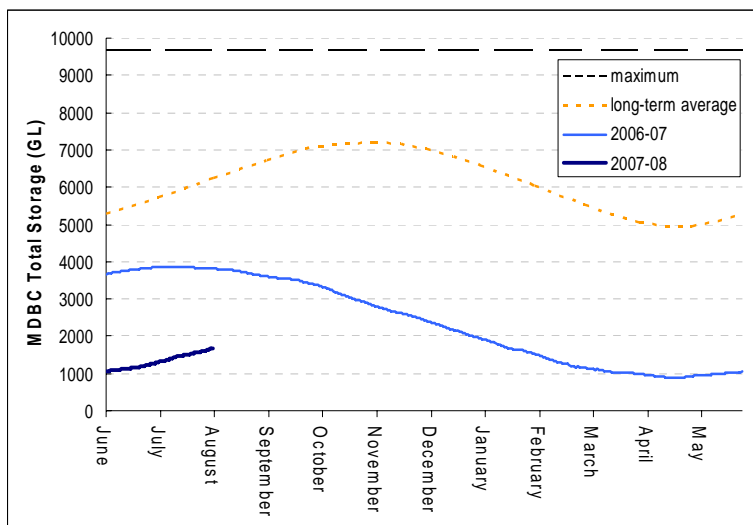


Figure 2. MDBC Total Storage - Recent

seasons and long-term average

RIVER OPERATIONS

Current river operations are focused on maximising availability of water for consumptive use: keeping releases from Hume and Dartmouth low, minimising losses and capturing as much water as possible in Lake Victoria. Lake Mulwala is also being partially lowered to create “airspace” to capture and re-regulate any higher flows originating in the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers, lowering the likelihood of flooding the Barmah-Millewa Forest. Flow to South Australia is now being held near 1150 ML/day, representing a small increase from the target flow in June of 950 ML/day.

At 10 August, there was 900 GL of water (excluding transmission losses) available for sharing between States according to special sharing rules agreed by partner governments to manage extremely low resource availability. This volume more than meets critical human requirements in the three States. South Australia has announced a 13% allocation, with full delivery of carryover. Victoria has made all carryover water available and allocation is currently at 0%. NSW allocation is also 0% but is making allocations to individual licences to meet critical industry needs and to sustain permanent plantings. Physical access to carryover water and allocations in each State can not yet be guaranteed for all users. Further improvements are needed to move towards more normal River Murray system operations and provide for losses in State irrigation channel systems.

RAINFALL OUTLOOK

The Bureau of Meteorology’s rainfall outlook shows 40% to 50% chance of exceeding median rainfall across most of the Basin for the 3-month period August to October 2007 (see Figure 3).

The Bureau reports that dynamic computer models are indicating a moderate chance of a La Niña in 2007 but these models are “*not indicating this as emphatically as a few months ago*”. Typically, La Niña means average to above average rainfalls over eastern Australia.

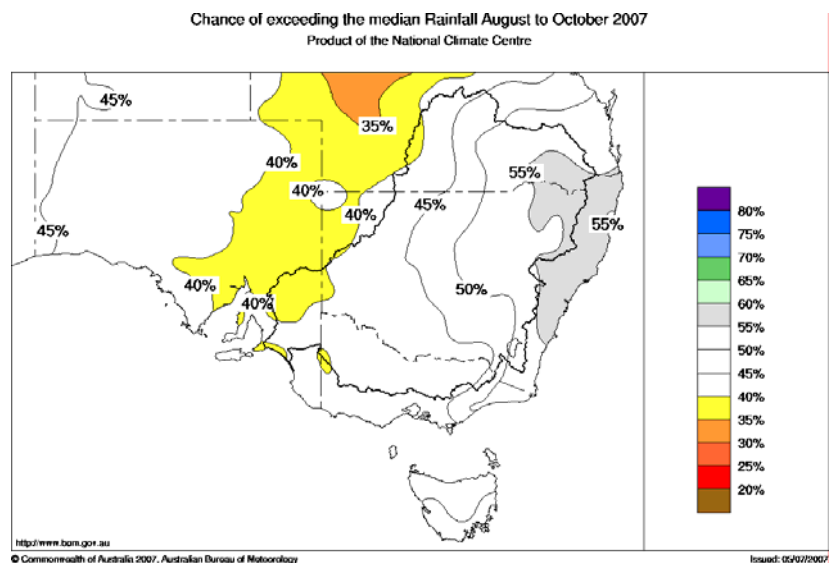


Figure 3. Chance of exceeding the median rainfall August to October 2007 (Australian Bureau of Meteorology)

SUMMARY

The situation is very serious. Although storages are rising slowly, we still have a long way to go to reach even the level of water availability at this time last year. Daily inflow rates have receded to levels observed in late May. Contingency measures are in place to save water, including the disconnection of some wetlands to reduce losses due to evaporation. The outlook for 2007/08 remains grim and is highly dependant on rainfall over the next three months. The months from

November to May do not typically yield substantial inflows, as rainfall declines and evaporation losses increase.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How do I get more information?

MDBC will provide further drought updates in coming months, and will release periodic operational outlooks as the season progresses. Additional information is available at www.mdbc.gov.au and from the relevant Australian and State Government Agencies.

For media interviews with MDBC personnel, please contact:

Sam Leone, MDBC Media Liaison, telephone: 0407 006 332

REFILLING OF STEVENS WEIR POOL

14 August 2007

State Water Corporation advised today that the partial refilling of Stevens Weir pool will start tomorrow 15th August in preparation for delivering stock and domestic water into the Wakool Irrigation District.

State Water Customer Service Manager, Lindsay Beck, said State Water would gradually refill the Stevens Weir pool to take advantage of water within the Murray system below Hume Dam.

"The partial refilling of the weir pool from within system water will avoid releases being made from Hume Dam

"The partial refilling of the weir pool will be finished in the first week in September.

"State Water advises river users in the Edward River section influenced by Stevens Weir to watch for changing river levels during the coming weeks and plan their activities accordingly," Mr Beck said.

As the season progresses State Water will revise the delivery strategy for stock and domestic water dependent on river flows in the Murray System.

For further information about water delivery please contact State Water Duty Operations Officer on 03 5898 3925.

-ENDS-

Media enquiries and interviews:

Donna Ambler 02 6841 2077 or 0429 449 711

For **Water Delivery Announcements** and State Water Media Releases go to:
<http://www.statewater.com.au/whanew/mediareleases.htm>

For **Available Water Determinations** and Department of Natural Resources
Media Releases go to:
http://waterinfo.dlwc.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html

For more information about **storage levels** and **river heights**
go to the *Waterinfo Website* at <http://www.waterinfo.nsw.gov.au>

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	407.52	607	16%	80	527	+17
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	175.51	690	23%	30	660	+32
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.19	468	69%	100	368	+39
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		76	4%	(- -) #	0	-7
Total		9 352		1 841	20%	--	1 555	+81

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = **18%**

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		430	42%	3	427	+28
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		475	29%	24	451	-1
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		686	20%	100	586	+48

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 14-Aug-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	208	+63	Snowy-Murray	+1	236
Snowy-Murray Component	149	+22	Tooma-Tumut	+13	64
Target Storage	1 190		Nett Diversion	-12.0	172
			Murray 1 Release	+12	311

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	0.0	1.2
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	.2
Licensed Pumps	n/a	3.2
Lower Darling	0.0	.2
TOTAL	0.1	4.8

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	.0	
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.0	
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.4	1
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.0	2
Licensed pumps - LMW	0.5	3
TOTAL	0.9	6

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	124 *	(1 100 ML/day)
Flow this week	7.5	
Flow so far this month	20	
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	90
Euston	100	110	100
Red Cliffs	-	-	-
Merbein	120	100	110
Burtundy (Darling)	1 070	1 070	1 070
Lock 9	140	140	140
Lake Victoria	200	190	190
Berri	460	470	460
Waikerie	640	620	630
Morgan	680	660	640
Mannum	440	440	440
Murray Bridge	520	520	520
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 980	1 960	2 020
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	2 440	1 860	1 760
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 640	2 500	2 470
Goolwa Barrages	12 510	16 310	16 310



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	-	-	-	2 950	F	2 670	2 100
Jingellic	4.0	1.95	208.47	6 720	F	4 320	4 270
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.46	218.35	730	S	730	650
Heywoods	5.5	1.06	154.69	460	S	460	460
Doctors Point	5.5	1.69	150.16	2 120	F	1 920	1 570
Albury	4.3	0.80	148.24	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.71	126.73	1 870	R	1 510	1 490
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.09	116.13	5 520	R	5 070	5 510
Tocumwal	6.4	1.49	105.33	5 320	S	5 410	5 720
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.68	80.23	4 620	F	4 910	4 640
Swan Hill	4.5	1.07	63.99	5 100	S	4 930	4 370
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.56	51.68	6 390	S	6 240	6 800
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.36	43.20	6 760	R	6 670	7 700
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 310	F	6 650	8 180
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.01	27.77	5 780	F	6 230	7 670
Rufus Junction	-	2.36	19.29	560	F	650	850
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.18	-	950	F	1 110	1 080
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.79	155.02	1 879	F	1 680	1 300
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.08	146.76	4 009	F	4 010	3 910
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.20	92.62	460	S	470	480
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.30	81.07	1 070	S	1 120	990
Edward at Liewah	-	1.80	57.18	1 130	F	1 240	1 630
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.24	54.73	139	S	150	160
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.60	56.56	264	F	300	290
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.21	-	56	F	130	240
Darling at Bourke	-	4.11	-	410	S	480	700
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.57	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 390	7 430
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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	-0.50	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.07	+0.07
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.09	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.07	-0.04
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.13	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.02	+0.02
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.18	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.11
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.37	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.08	+0.00	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.08	+0.07
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.03	-0.07	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.07	-0.57

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	0.96	70.31	749
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.04	0.47	61.77	602



Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.24

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.42	All closed	-	CLOSED
Mundoo	26 openings	0.28	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.45	All closed	CLOSED	CLOSED

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