

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 28 February 2007



Our Ref : M2006/01015/prs, dwg  
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2 March, 2007

## Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall this week was mainly confined to the eastern part of the Basin with severe thunderstorms bringing heavy rain and hail to some isolated areas. There was 40 mm of rain at Dartmouth Reservoir, 57 mm at Biggara (Upper Murray) and 15 mm at Yarrawonga. Due to the patchy nature of the storms the inflow to the River Murray from a few streams has increased marginally, whereas other streams have shown no response. For example, the River Murray at Biggara increased from 100 to 500 ML/day while the Ovens River at Rocky Point has remained steady at 70 ML/day.

## River Operations

Storage in Hume Reservoir increased by 31 GL this week to 107 GL (3.5% capacity) due to the release from the dam being reduced from 9 500 to 7 500 ML/day and further releases from the Snowy Mountains Scheme (about 15 GL). In response, the release from Dartmouth Reservoir has continued to be gradually lowered and is currently 8 300 ML/day. Further gradual reductions in the release from Dartmouth are planned over the coming weeks. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir fell by 54 GL to 645 GL (16.5% capacity).

Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 6 600 to 5 500 ML/day, with a further reduction to about 5 000 ML/day expected to be implemented over the coming week. This change will result in flows along the entire river system being significantly lower than normal for this time of year (*see attached media release*). For example, the flow through the Edward River offtake has already been reduced to 100 ML/day.

The flow to South Australia has been reduced from 7 000 to 3 500 ML/day and over the coming weeks may be varied slightly above or below this in order to maintain a flow at Lock 1. The current flow at Lock 1 is 4 300 ML/day but it is expected reduce significantly over the coming week. The level of the Lower Lakes fell by only 2 cm this week to 0.29 m AHD, but due to the expected lower flows over Lock 1 a greater rate of fall may occur over the coming weeks if conditions remain dry.

## February 2007 Summary

Thunderstorms during February brought much needed rain to many parts of the Murray Valley with most areas receiving close to average rainfall for this time of year (*see attached map*). The weather patterns experienced in the southern part of the Basin appear to be different from a year ago and show encouraging signs of further rain.

Although inflow to the River Murray System during February was again very low at about 35 GL, the 'wetting up' of the catchment should be beneficial in terms of runoff in the long run. Using modelled historical inflows and assuming 'current levels of development' over the last 115 years, the previous minimum inflow for February was 56 GL in 2003. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> consecutive month that the inflow to the River Murray System has been at a record low.

DAVID DREVERMAN  
General Manager



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

(Thursday, 1 March, 2007)

## **MURRAY FLOWS TO FALL BELOW NORMAL LEVELS**

Flows along the River Murray and the Edward-Wakool River System are being reduced to below normal levels to conserve water for the 2007-08 season.

Despite the drought, the Murray has been running at normal levels until recently due to the release of stored water from Dartmouth and Hume dams.

However, release from Hume has now been reduced significantly and further cuts are likely over coming weeks. River Murray Water (RMW) General Manager, David Dreverman said today that the cuts would result in significant reductions in river levels in those river reaches not controlled by weirpools.

“Such reductions would not normally be seen until the end of the irrigation season in May. Not only are the reductions earlier this year, but it’s also possible that river levels downstream of Torrumbarry Weir could fall below these normal winter minimum levels as early as late March.

“The lower flows will help conserve water in Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs for next season. This is particularly important given the extremely low storage levels currently being experienced as a result of the severe drought.

Mr Dreverman also stressed “The flow reductions are not expected to significantly reduce weir pool levels before the end of the irrigation season”. However, levels in the upper reaches of weir pools are likely to be lower than normal for this time of the year as they are more dependent on the flow in the river than the pool level. For example, the level at Echuca (located at the top end of the Torrumbarry Weir pool) this time last year was about 87.1 m AHD compared to 86.5 m AHD currently with a river flow of about 5 500 ML/day at that location. If the river flow reduces to about 3 000 ML/day then the river level may fall another 40 cm to about 86.1 m AHD.

Flow downstream of Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced over the past week and is likely to be less than 5 000 ML/day by mid March. The River Murray at Swan Hill, currently about 1.0 m gauge height, is expected to fall towards 0.6 m by mid March if low inflows persist”, Mr Dreverman said.

Flow downstream of Stevens Weir is also being reduced and is expected to be about 300 ML/day in early March. Further downstream, release from Euston Weir is expected to gradually fall from 5 000 to below 2 000 ML/day by mid March. Flow to South Australia is currently being reduced from 7 000 ML/day and will be about 2 400 ML/day by late March.

“If dry conditions continue into April, river flows along the entire River Murray System are likely to be reduced to levels below the normal winter minimums. This will conserve water resources for next season,” Mr Dreverman said.

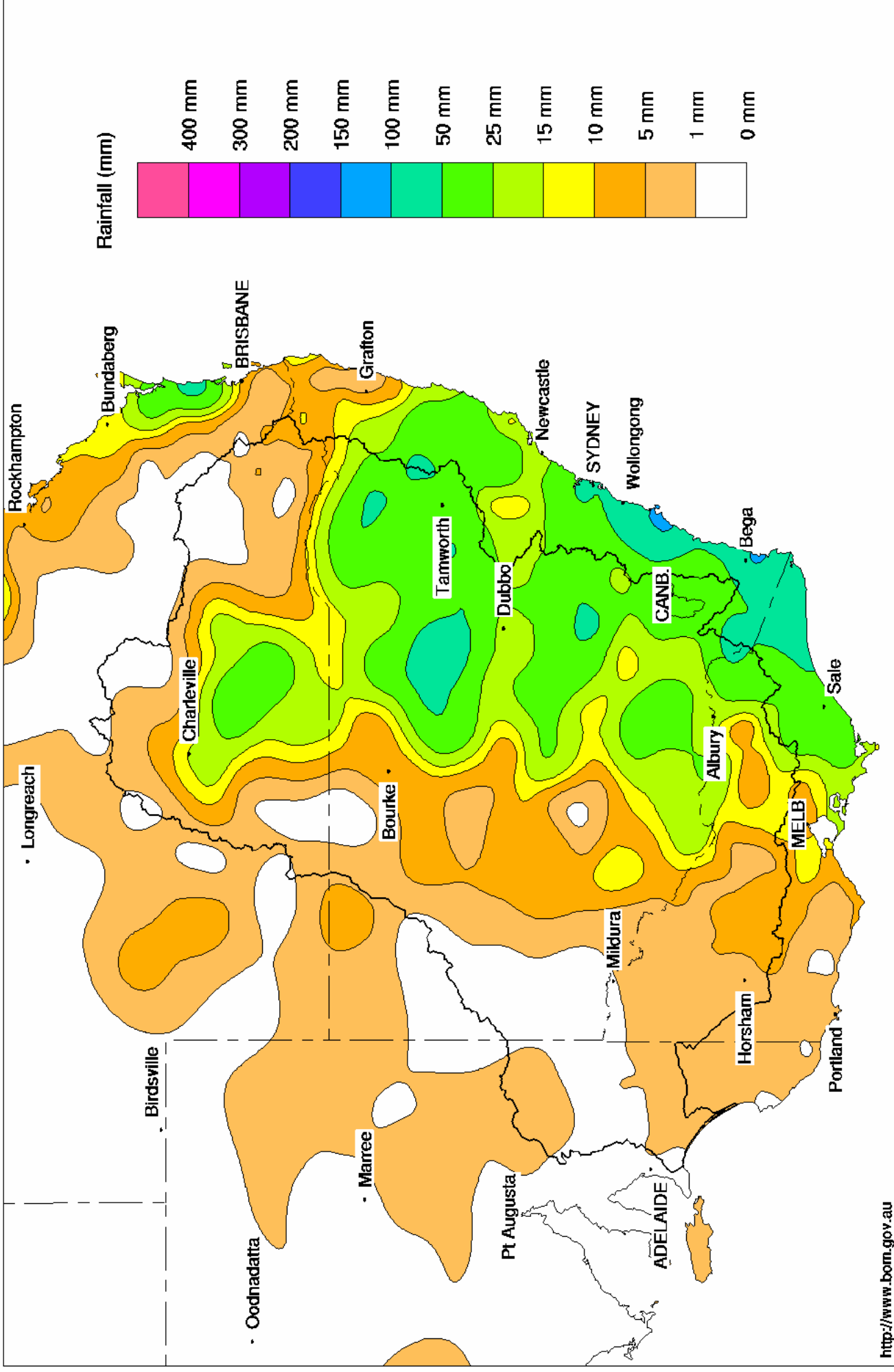
“Flows will be continually reviewed and updates on changes to river levels will be announced over the coming months in the RMW Weekly Report (available on the MDBC web page) and in the future RMW Operations Updates.”

Boat operators, stock owners, river pumpers and other river users are advised to take these changed water levels into account and make any necessary adjustments to their activities.

**Media contact: Sam Leone, MDBC Media Liaison Manager, Phone: 0407 006 332**

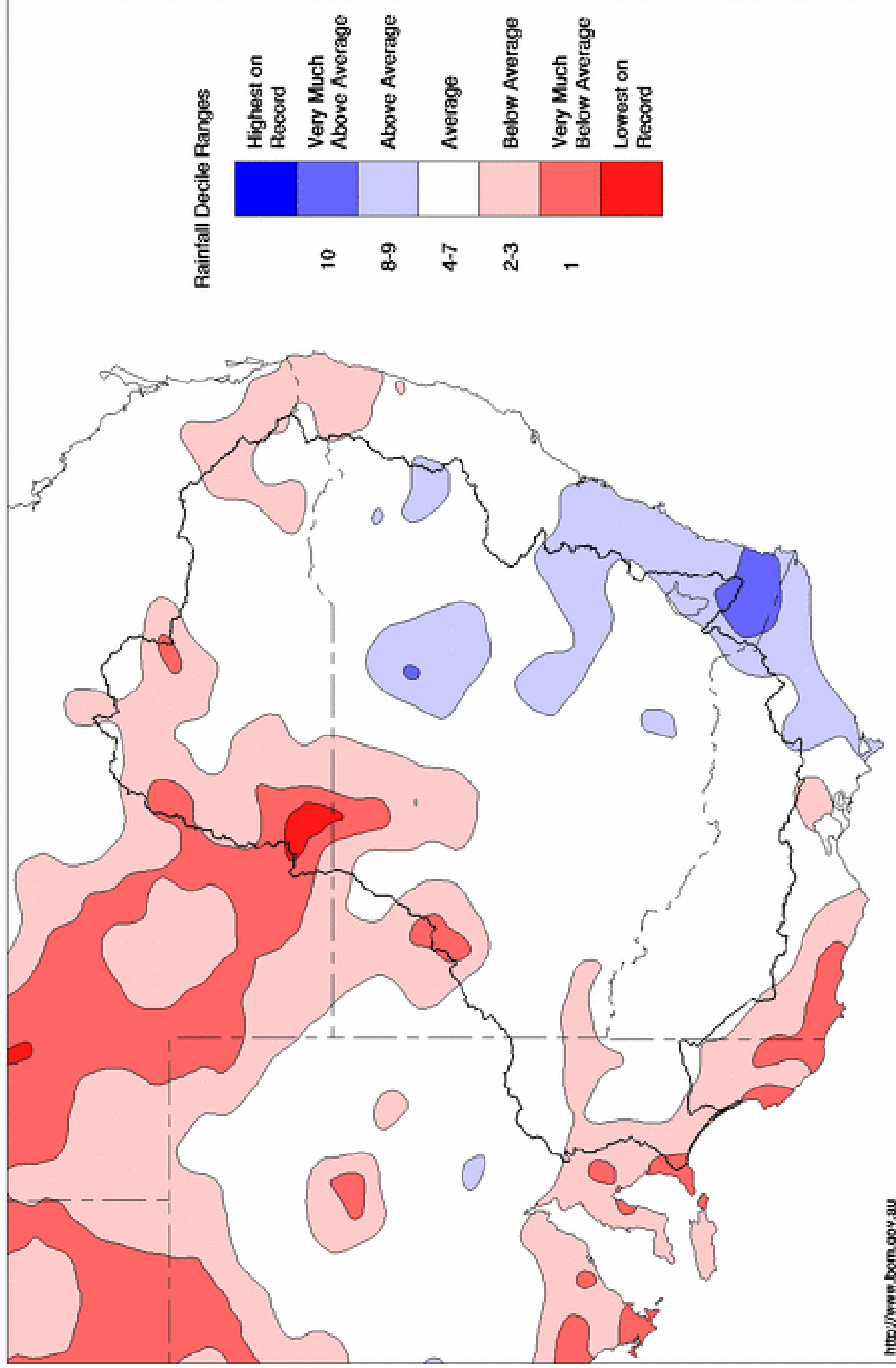
# Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 28th February 2007

Product of the National Climate Centre



# Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles February 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	409.30	645	17%	80	565	-54
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	166.05	107	4%	30	77	+31
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.18	264	39%	100	164	-41
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		143	8%	(- -) #	0	-7
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 158</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>-71</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL

% of Total Active MDBC Storage = 9%

# 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		271	26%	3	268	-1
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		193	12%	24	169	-22
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		283	8%	100	183	-11

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 27-Feb-2007

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2006
Lake Eucumbene - Total	446	-20	Snowy-Murray	+17	774
Snowy-Murray Component	299	-8	Tooma-Tumut	+1	57
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	16.2	716
			Murray 1 Release	+15	881

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

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2006
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.3	305.4
Wakool System loss	1.9	55.8
Western Murray Irrig.	0.7	19.7
Licensed Pumps	3.7	148.2
Lower Darling	0.1	17.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>546.7</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2006
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	4.4	307
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	9.1	515
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	119
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.1	151
Licensed pumps - LMW	8.6	165
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26.4</b>	<b>1 257</b>

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	194	
Flow this week	49.0	(7 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	194	
Flow last month	181	

**Salinity (EC)**

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2006
Swan Hill	80	100	70
Euston	90	90	90
Red Cliffs	-	200	110
Merbein	110	120	100
Burtundy (Darling)	1 050	1 040	810
Lock 9	120	120	120
Lake Victoria	160	170	160
Berri	230	230	230
Waikerie	270	270	340
Morgan	300	320	370
Mannum	400	400	450
Murray Bridge	400	400	430
Milang (Lake Alex.)	1 410	1 450	1 240
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	1 480	1 500	1 080
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 660	2 620	2 300
Goolwa Barrages	3 980	4 140	2 410



**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	-	-	-	430	R	2 130	3 340
Jingellic	4.0	1.10	207.62	800	F	3 160	1 900
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	3.06	219.95	8 660	F	9 100	9 680
Heywoods	5.5	2.24	155.87	7 340	F	8 110	10 040
Doctors Point	5.5	2.39	150.86	7 740	F	8 510	10 350
Albury	4.3	1.39	148.83	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.97	127.99	7 860	F	8 680	10 150
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.09	116.13	5 520	F	5 990	6 840
Tocumwal	6.4	1.65	105.49	6 050	F	6 170	6 860
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.72	80.27	4 750	S	4 700	4 950
Swan Hill	4.5	0.99	63.91	4 320	R	4 330	4 580
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.35	51.47	5 270	F	5 500	5 670
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.07	42.91	4 860	F	5 000	5 260
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	3 990	F	4 000	4 270
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	3 510	R	3 410	3 770
Rufus Junction	-	3.42	20.35	6 280	F	6 470	6 280
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.36	-	4 480	R	4 320	4 090
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.61	153.84	140	F	240	130
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.41	145.09	29	S	30	30
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.16	92.58	400	S	380	410
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.66	80.43	410	F	650	1 170
Edward at Liewah	-	1.89	57.27	1 220	R	1 240	1 320
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.36	54.85	287	S	290	290
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.46	56.42	191	S	190	180
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	15	F	80	40
Darling at Bourke	-	3.01	-	-	F	-	-
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.67	-	25	S	30	50

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	1 760	- 30
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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	-0.01	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.13	+1.10
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.01	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+0.14
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.18
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.05	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.04	+0.71
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.22
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.05	+0.01	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.05	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.02	+0.18	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.05	-0.39

<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	-2.88	0.66	70.01	355
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-3.02	0.23	61.53	343



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	0.31

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.29	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.30	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.30	All closed	Closed	Open

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