Lower Lakes Quick Figures – as at 31 July 2008

Normal Lower Lakes operating range: 0.3m to 0.75m AHD	• At Full Supply Level (0.75m AHD) the Lakes hold approximately 2200 GL. • With few exceptions, the Lakes have fluctuated within this range since The Barrages were constructed in the 1930s. • The lowest recorded Lakes level prior to 2008 was approximately 0.1 m AHD during the drought in the late 1960s.
Current approximate Lower Lake levels: **Albert:** -0.3m AHD **Alexandrina:** -0.4m AHD	• The Lower Lakes are currently below sea level. • Sea water is kept out of the Lakes by the five barrages which separate the Lakes from the Coorong and Murray Mouth.
Estimated annual net evaporation and seepage from the Lakes (in dry years): 750 to 950 GL	• Net evaporation is total evaporation minus local rainfall. • There are very large volumes of water lost through evaporation from the Lakes because of their large surface area. Evaporation rates are not significantly reduced at lower lake levels.
Water required to fill and maintain both Lakes to 0m AHD until July next year: 1050 - 1250 GL	• A 300 GL volume of water, if delivered today, would fill the Lower Lakes from their July 2008 levels to 0m AHD. • However, if no additional water is delivered with this 300 GL, the Lakes would return to the current levels during summer (assuming dry conditions). • The total amount required to fill and maintain the Lakes from their July 2008 levels to 0m AHD, for one year, is 1050-1250 GL (300 GL plus one year of evaporation 750-950 GL).
Water that is planned to be delivered to the Lower Lakes in 2008/09: 350 GL	• Under dry inflow contingency planning arrangements approximately 350 GL of dilution flows (needed to maintain River Murray water quality) should flow into the Lower Lakes (in 2008/09).
Estimated water in storages in the Murray-Darling Basin: **(refer to MDB Water Availability Fact sheet)**	• Under current dry inflow contingency planning arrangements, the water in public storages is already committed to meeting critical human needs, individual carry-over, and announced allocations. • The ability to extract water from private storages is limited and would incur significant transmission losses between the Northern Basin and the Murray System.
Losses incurred to deliver water from storages in the northern Murray-Darling Basin 2000 km to the Lower Lakes (in dry conditions): About 70-80% * *** depends on amount, temperature, time of year and previous flow conditions**	• At a low flow rate (to minimise transmission losses) several months would be required to deliver water.

- These figures are indicative, but agreed by all jurisdictions.
- AHD (Australian Height Datum) is the Australian standard altitude measurement.