The Engineering Works of the River Murray

location	On the Murray and Mitta Mitta Rivers, in New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria.
owner	Murray Darling Basin Commission

the plaques

type	**National Engineering Landmark and Centenary of Federation Plaques**
locations	At Hume Dam (New South Wales), Yarrawonga Weir (Victoria) and Blanchetown Weir (South Australia) . Plaques are yet to be permanently fixed.

plaque text (Hume Dam)

The Engineering Works of the River Murray

The inter-governmental conference on the waters of the River Murray at Corowa in 1902 gave rise to one of the great engineering initiatives of the new Federation. The creation of the River Murray Commission in 1915 by the governments of the Commonwealth, New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria established the framework under which the four governments would work together for the equitable, efficient and sustainable use of the waters of the River Murray. A comprehensive scheme of works, comprising Hume and Dartmouth Dams, Lake Victoria and a series of locks, weirs and barrages from Yarrawonga to the Murray mouth, has been constructed to support irrigation, urban water supply, hydro-electric generation, navigation, recreation and flood mitigation. Their purpose continues to be to contribute to human welfare. The challenge remains for current and future generations to ensure that continuing operations sustain the health of the river's ecological community.

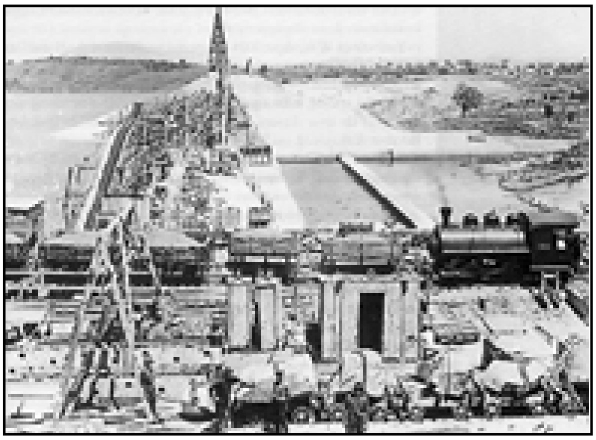
Similar plaques are at Yarrawonga Weir and Blanchetown Weir.

Dedicated by The Institution of Engineers, Australia and the Murray Darling Basin Commission 2001 — The Centenary of Federation.

Hugh McKinney

British civil engineer Hugh McKinney, while attached to the Indian Irrigation Department, visited the Riverina area of Australia in 1879 and saw its potential for irrigation. He settled in Australia in 1879, joining the NSW Lyne Royal Commission on the Conservation of Water in 1884, and subsequently the NSW Department of Public Works.

His proposals for developing the irrigation and navigation potential of the River Murray formed the basis the recommendations of the Corowa conference and the Inter-State Royal Commission of 1902. These recommendations were largely embodied in the River Murray Waters Act, approved by the Commonwealth and three State Parliaments in 1915.



Hume Dam construction