



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 31 AUGUST 2011

Trim Ref: D11/26029

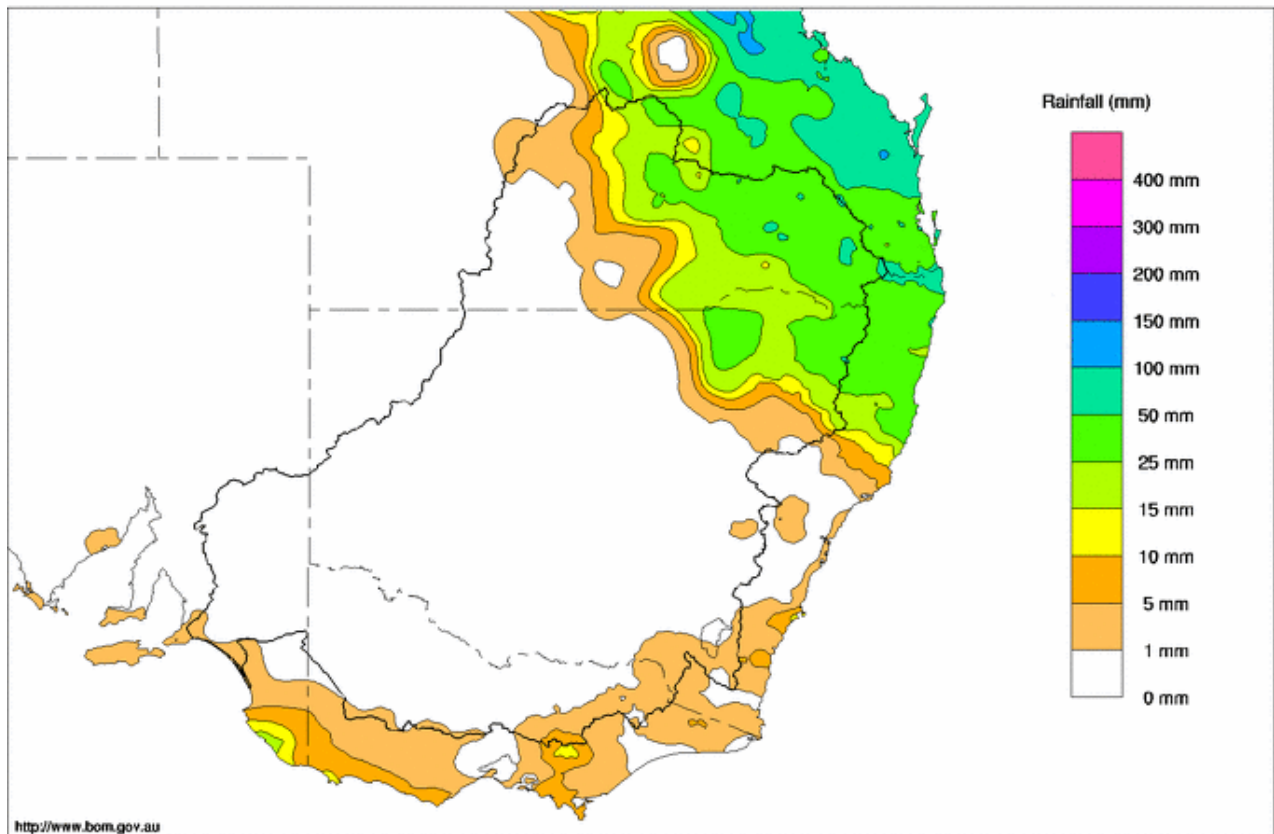
Rainfall and Inflows

There was a distinct change in rainfall distribution across the Murray-Darling Basin this week compared with most recent weeks. While a ridge of high pressure resulted in relatively dry conditions across the southern catchments, a trough and upper level pool of cold air in the north-east of the Basin caused showers and thunderstorms to develop over parts of Queensland and far north-east NSW (Map 1).

In Queensland, some of the best weekly totals included 56 mm at Toowoomba and 44 mm at Warwick at the top of the Condamine catchment. In NSW, there was rain over the Border Rivers and Gwydir River catchments including 39 mm at Inverell and 41 mm at Moree. This rain has resulted in modest stream flow responses. For example, on the Macintyre River, the flow at Boggabilla increased from around 500 to 3,300 ML/day with further rises expected; while at Warwick, the Condamine River rose from near-zero flow to peak at about 1,500 ML/day.

In the south of the Basin there was little rain recorded, meaning most Murray System tributaries have receded throughout the week. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic decreased from 11,900 to 9,900 ML/day; while on the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta receded from 13,400 to 7,100 ML/day. On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys also receded. After reaching a peak of almost 20,000 ML/day at the beginning of the week, the flow has now fallen below 10,000 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 31st August 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



© Commonwealth of Australia 2011, Australian Bureau of Meteorology

Issued: 31/08/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 31 August 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 7 GL during the week and is now 7,387 GL (86% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage rose by 20 GL during the week to reach 2,713 GL or 70% capacity. Release was reduced early in the week from 700 ML/day, for electricity generation, back to the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

Storage in Dartmouth is now at its highest level since late 2002 – a time when it was being drawn upon to supply downstream demands to fulfil its primary role as a drought ‘reserve’ (Figure 1). Following another major draw down during the extreme dry period of 2006-07, the storage reached its second lowest volume since it was constructed (12%). It has subsequently remained at relatively low levels until last year, when a return of higher and more consistent rainfall has improved inflows and enabled the storage to steadily recover, ready to be called upon during future dry years.

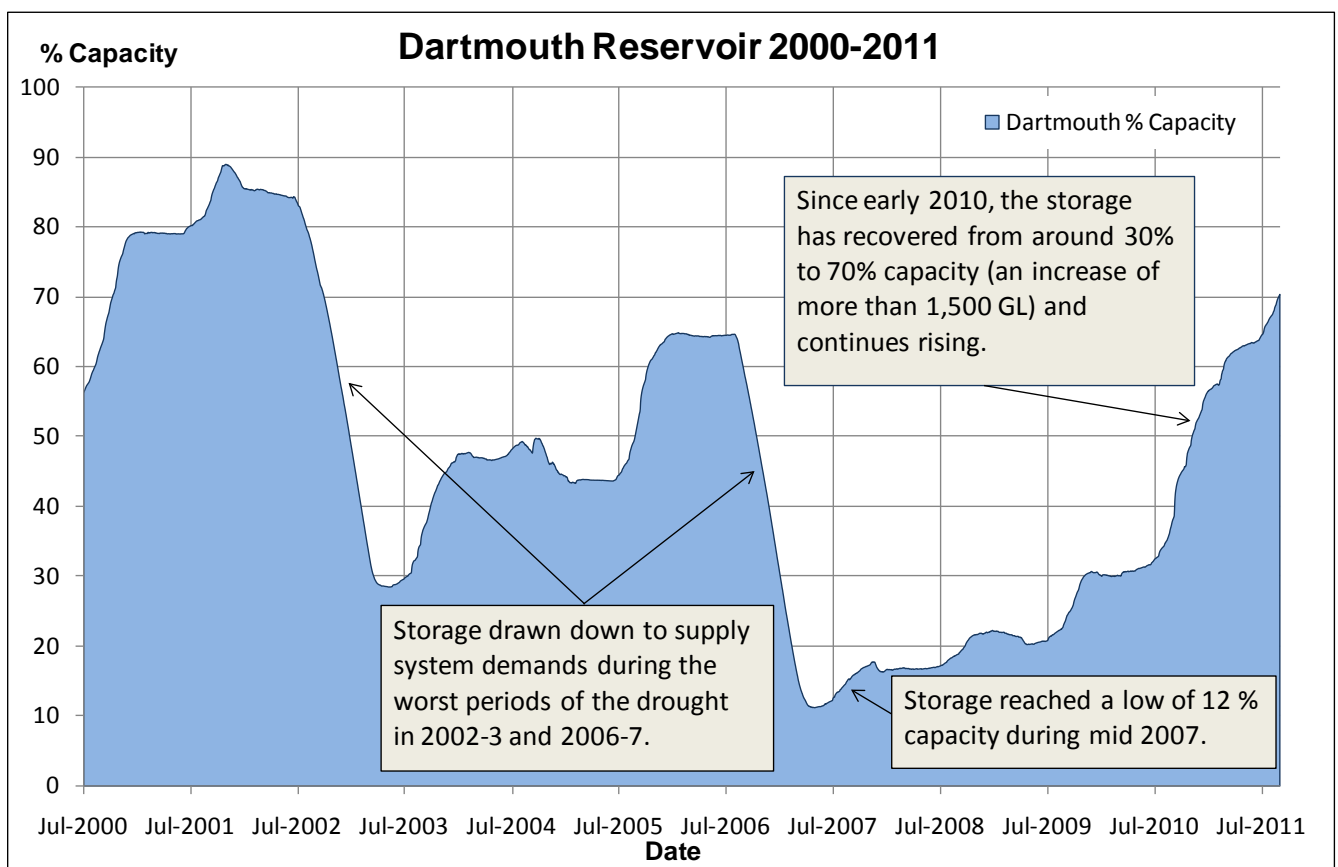


Figure 1 - Dartmouth Reservoir % capacity 2000 - 2011. The storage has reached 70% for the first time since spring 2002.

At Hume Reservoir, the storage rose by 23 GL during the week to 2,939 GL (98% capacity). The release was progressively reduced during the week in response to the dry conditions and is currently 6,500 ML/day. However, with outlooks showing rainfall in coming weeks the release is expected to rise slightly over the coming days to maintain or increase airspace. Operations in coming weeks will be affected by rainfall and demand forecasts, which remain under close and constant review.

Downstream at Lake Mulwala, the level is currently 124.82 m AHD and with rain forecast is expected to be lowered to about 124.7 m AHD over the coming week. Inflows have receded during the week and the release through Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 50,000 to 20,900 ML/day. The release is now expected to be reduced more slowly and decrease towards 15,000 ML/day over the coming days.

On the Edward-Wakool system, flows are now rising through most reaches. On the Edward River, the flow at Deniliquin has increased from 11,600 to 15,500 ML/day and is expected to continue rising for several more days; while at Stevens Weir, the gates remain clear of the water and the flow is now

12,100 ML/day and rising. Downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Kyalite began rising during the week and is now at 8,500 ML/day. This flow is expected to continue rising during the first half of September.

At Torrumbarry Weir, the release peaked during the week at 35,600 ML/d. The weir gates were removed from the water during the week, but with flows now receding, they were lowered back into the river on 29 August. The Torrumbarry Weir pool is now being brought back up to FSL after being operated about half a metre lower to manage the water levels at the upstream end of the weir pool. Diversions through National Channel increased during the week and are currently at around 1,500 ML/day.

Further downstream, inflow from the Murrumbidgee River increased from around 1,500 to 8,000 ML/d during the week, and is expected to increase to over 9,000 ML/d. The flow at Euston reached a low of about 29,000 ML/day on 29 August, and is now on the rise again. The river flow at Euston is expected to continue rising until well into September. The Euston Weir pool is currently 46.86 m AHD, about 0.7 m below full supply level, to assist with construction works, but is now being gradually raised back to full supply level over the coming two weeks.

The Menindee Lakes remain surcharged at 1,951 GL (113% capacity). Without further rain, the level in the lakes is expected to slowly decline over the next few months as inflow recedes, releases continue and evaporative losses increase with the warmer weather. Release from the lakes continues to be pulsed, with flow past Weir 32 varying between 130–800 ML/day and averaging the normal minimum for surcharged conditions of 500 ML/day.

Lake Victoria continues to be drawn down, with the current level now 25.13 m AHD (458 GL, 68% capacity). The lake level is expected to be maintained at about 25 m AHD for at least the next few days, before possibly rising again. The flow into South Australia is currently about 38,000 ML/day and is expected to continue falling during the next week.

The Lower Lakes are currently 0.56 m AHD, after reaching a minimum of about 0.54 m during the week. This lower level has been targeted to draw saline water out of Lake Albert and replace it with fresher water as the lake levels are raised again in the coming weeks.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 31 Aug 2011

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	466.67	2 713	70%	71	2 642	+20
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.67	2 939	98%	23	2 916	+19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.13	458	68%	100	358	-40
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 951	113%	(480 #)	1 471	-5
Total		9 269		8 061	87%	--	7 387	-7
Total Active MDBA Storage							86% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	1 005	98%	3	1 002	+17
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 586	97%	24	1 562	-12
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 172	95%	100	3 072	+12

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 30 Aug 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 545	n/a	Snowy-Murray	-0	273
Snowy-Murray Component	452	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+11	129
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	-11	143
			Murray 1 Release	+16	402

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2011	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2011
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	4.2	73	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.1	3
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	19
Western Murray Irrigation	0.2	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	3
Licensed Pumps	1.1	10	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	2
Lower Darling	0.2	2	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.6	11
TOTAL	5.7	86	TOTAL	2.9	38

* Figures derived from estimates and monthly data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All data above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

* Flow to SA will be greater than entitlement for August due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *	
Flow this week	278.1	(39 700 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	1,081.2	
Flow last month	845.9	

Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	120	120	120
Euston	110	110	110
Red Cliffs	110	100	110
Merbein	80	90	90
Burtundy (Darling)	330	350	340
Lock 9	100	110	110
Lake Victoria	210	200	200
Berri	160	150	190
Waikerie	-	-	10
Morgan	200	180	220
Mannum	180	210	230
Murray Bridge	180	260	230
Milang (Lake Alex.)	500	560	570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	310	290	300
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 800	5 750	5 410
Goolwa Barrages	560	540	1 030

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 31 Aug 2011

River Murray	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)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	4 870	F	3 000	3 580
Jingellic	4.0	2.31	208.83	9 860	R	9 540	17 060
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.81	218.70	1 510	F	1 810	2 970
Heywoods	5.5	2.20	155.83	6 730	F	11 070	21 140
Doctors Point	5.5	2.55	151.02	9 570	F	13 550	25 660
Albury	4.3	1.56	149.00	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.79	128.81	12 010	F	17 930	29 180
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.92	117.96	20 870	F	33 850	45 660
Tocumwal	6.4	4.37	108.21	29 380	F	41 240	40 940
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.62	85.17	30 640	F	33 860	25 400
Swan Hill	4.5	3.51	66.43	21 510	R	21 070	19 800
Wakool Junction	8.8	6.73	55.85	29 480	R	29 330	31 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.40	46.24	29 530	R	29 630	34 340
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	27 470	F	27 590	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.72	29.48	32 170	F	34 460	39 840
Rufus Junction	-	6.46	23.39	38 160	F	39 870	40 160
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.46	-	40 200	R	37 110	28 070
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.14	155.37	2 370	F	2 720	4 780
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	10.00	147.68	7 100	F	9 000	19 320
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	5.12	96.54	9 810	F	13 840	15 380
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	5.30	85.08	12 100	F	10 910	7 450
Edward at Liewah	-	4.07	59.45	4 540	R	4 000	3 940
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	3.33	56.82	4 690	R	4 340	5 810
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.09	61.05	8 070	R	4 310	2 090
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.27	-	200	R	100	70
Darling at Bourke	-	4.21	-	910	S	950	880
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.95	-	800	F	710	590

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	17 720	32 530
---	--------	--------

Weirs and Locks Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+1.39	+4.15
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.42	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	+2.34
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.74	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.04	+2.05
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.04	+1.74	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+3.22
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.04	+2.08	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.06	+2.59
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.03	+1.40	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.35	+2.75
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.00	+2.42	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	+1.71

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

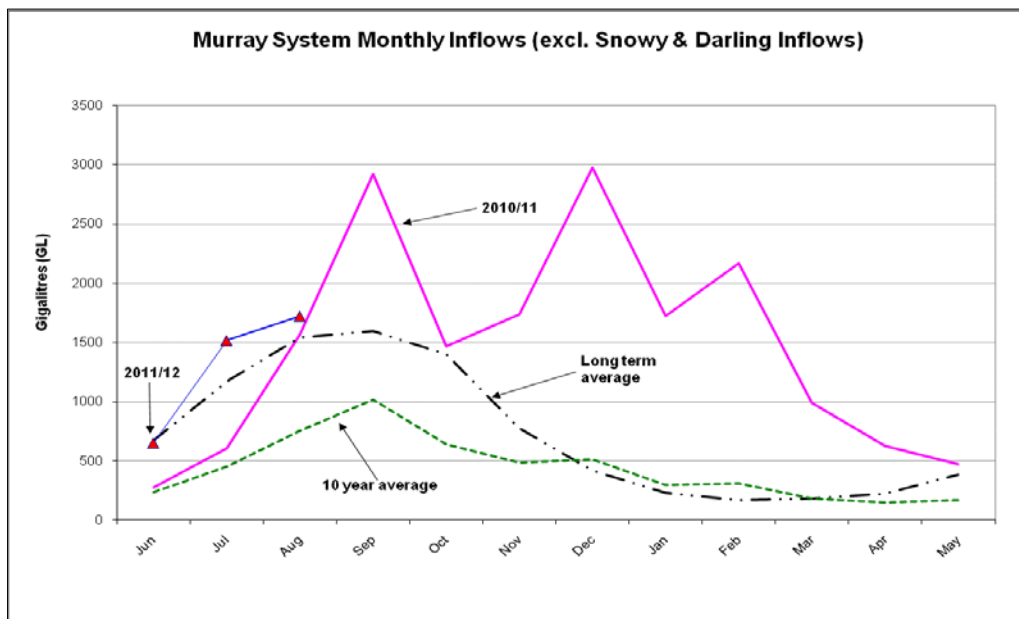
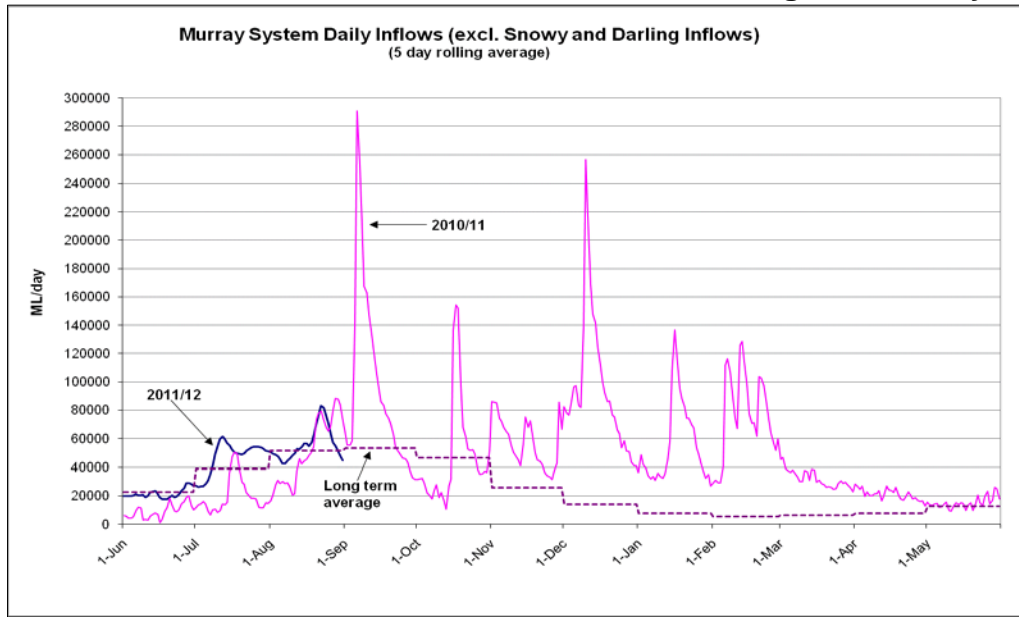
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.56
--	------

Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-	30	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.58	6	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	40	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.59	90	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 31 Aug 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	10%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	50%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	53%
General security	0%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	78%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	0%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
---------------	------

NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
 SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>