



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 07 SEPTEMBER 2011

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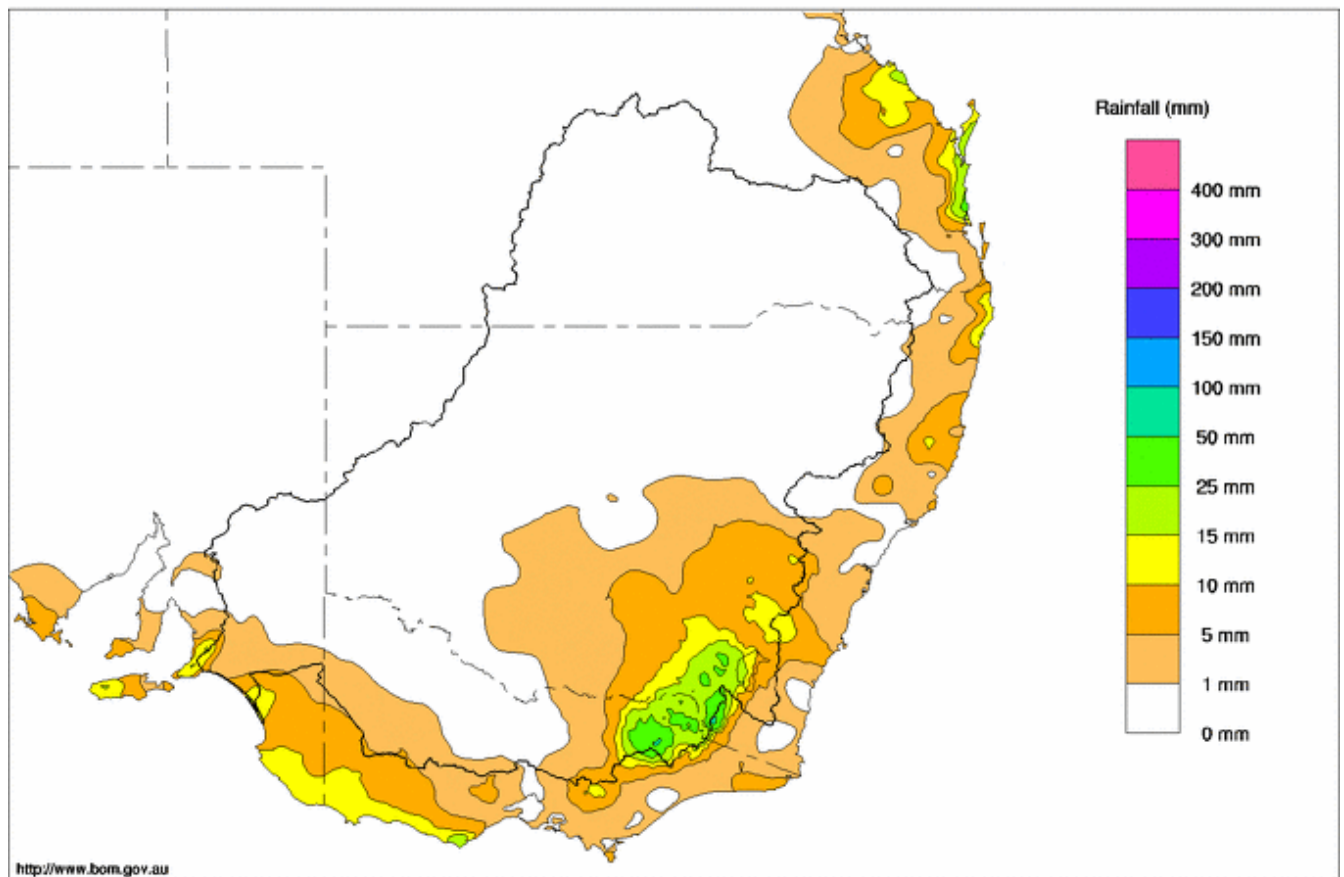
Rainfall and Inflows

The weather across the majority of the Murray-Darling Basin remained relatively dry and warm throughout the week, with only the south and south-eastern areas recording rain – mostly late in the week as two closely spaced rain systems crossed the region (Map 1).

Highest precipitation fell over the Victorian Alps and the NSW Snowy Mountains. In Victoria, the best totals fell in the upper Ovens catchment with 41 mm at Harrietville and 37 mm at Mt Hotham. In NSW, the high Alpine areas recorded over 50 mm; while on the south-west slopes there was 26 mm at Batlow and 24 mm at Tumbarumba.

The relatively light rain totals fell after a spell of quite dry and mild weather across the upper Murray catchments meaning stream flow responses were only modest. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara increased from around 1,500 ML/day early in the week to a peak of over 2,100 ML/day; while at Jingellic the flow receded to 6,700 ML/day during the week, but has since increased to around 11,000 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point receded from 4,600 to 3,600 ML/day but increased to a flow of 4,100 ML/day following the rain.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 7th September 2011
Product of the National Climate Centre



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Issued: 07/09/2011

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 07 September 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



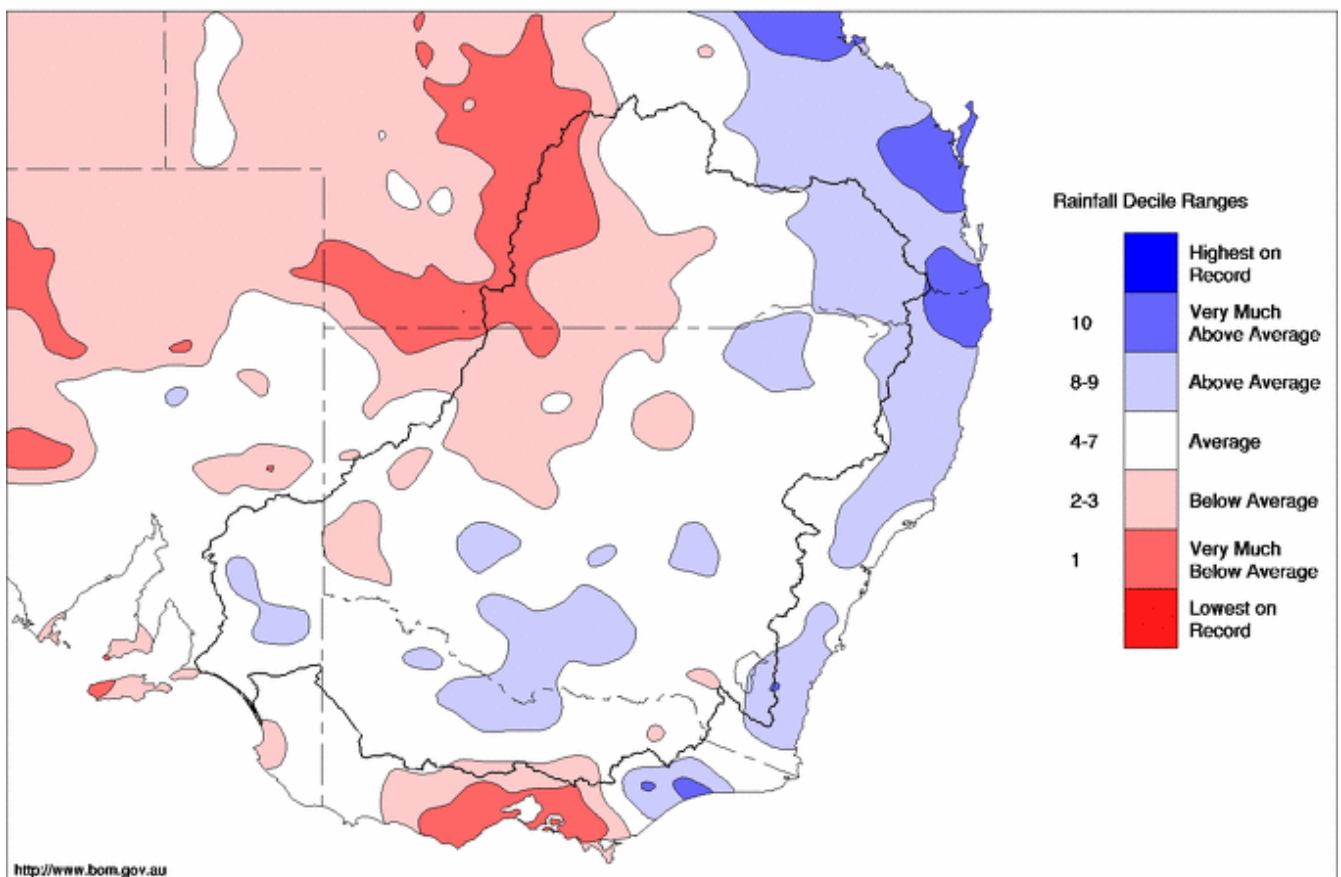
August 2011 Summary

Rainfall for August averaged 32.2 mm across the Murray-Darling Basin (51st driest out of 112 years of record), with the majority of the Basin observing average or close to average conditions (Map 2).

Murray system inflows (excluding Snowy releases and Menindee inflows) for August were about 1,700 GL. This is higher than August last year (1,570 GL) and the long term average for August (1,540 GL), demonstrating the responsiveness of the wet catchment and also the possible contributions from snow melt in maintaining good base stream flows.

Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles August 2011

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 01/09/2011

Map 2 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for August 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 16 GL this week to 7,403 GL (86% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage rose by 23 GL to 2,736 GL, which is 71 % capacity. The release was maintained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day.

At Hume Reservoir this week, releases were increased to 12,000 ML/day as the storage was initially lowered to create airspace in anticipation of increased inflows from forecast rain. However, with inflows on the lower end of the forecast, releases are now being reduced again and are currently around 9,500 ML/day. The storage is currently 2,947 GL (98% capacity), which is near where it started the week. The storage is expected to continue rising over the coming week, however operations will be affected by rainfall and demand forecasts, which remain under close and constant review.



At Yarrowonga Weir, the lake level is currently 124.76 m AHD. Releases were reduced from 18,800 ML/day back to 14,000 ML/day during the week, and are expected to reduce further to around 12,000 ML/day over the next couple of days. Relatively little rain fell around the irrigation districts this week and demand has increased from 1,700 ML/day to 3,750 ML/day at the Mulwala Canal and from 350 ML/day to 1,500 ML/day at the Yarrowonga Main Channel.

On the Edward River, the flow at Deniliquin peaked during the week at around 17,000 ML/day. Flow downstream of Stevens Weir peaked around 13,000 ML/day and is currently around 9,900 ML/day. Further downstream on the Wakool River, the flow at Stoney Crossing is 8,700 ML/day and is expected to rise to around 12,000 ML/day by the middle of September.

At Torrumbary Weir, the pool has returned to full supply level. Diversions to the National Channel are currently 1,700 ML/day and are forecast to rise to 3,500 ML/day in the coming week. The flow downstream of the weir has continued to fall away and is currently around 23,700 ML/day. Further downstream, the flow is expected to peak at Swan Hill at around 22,500 ML/day in the next few days while the inflow from the Murrumbidgee River is around 9,400 ML/day and is expected to hold around this level for another week. The flow at Euston is currently 34,400 ML/day and expected to continue to rise over the coming week.

The Menindee Lakes remain surcharged at 1,939 GL (112% capacity). Pulsed flows past Weir 32 ranged between 1,000 ML/day and 400 ML/day; while the flow at Burtundy has fallen away to 300 ML/day. At the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers, the flow at Wentworth is 33,100 ML/day and rising.

Lake Victoria water level was lowered to 25 m AHD over the past few weeks in order to help maintain and protect vegetation as part of the Lake Victoria Operating Strategy. However, with upstream irrigation demand increasing, and assuming a drier outlook, the Lake is now being refilled so that it can assist in meeting downstream flow requirements over the coming summer. Flow to South Australia fell away over the week from 37,000 ML/day back to 25,300 ML/day, but is expected to begin climbing again in the next few days.

The average level in the Lower Lakes is currently 0.54m AHD. The level will begin rising again over the coming week and be at 0.85 m AHD by the end of September.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 07 Sep 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	467.10	2 736	71%	71	2 665	+23
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.71	2 947	98%	23	2 924	+9
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.04	455	67%	100	355	-3
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 939	112%	(480 #)	1 459	-11
Total		9 269		8 077	87%	--	7 403	+17
Total Active MDBA Storage							86% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	996	97%	3	993	-9
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 582	97%	24	1 558	-3
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 190	96%	100	3 090	+18

* 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 06 Sep 2011

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	1 583	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+1	274
Snowy-Murray Component	398	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+8	122
Target Storage	1 240		Net Diversion	-7	152
			Murray 1 Release	+11	414

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)	21.6	87	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	4.4	7
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	21
Western Murray Irrigation	0.3	1	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	1.2	5
Licensed Pumps	1.5	11	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	2
Lower Darling	0.2	2	Licensed pumps - LMW	3.7	15
TOTAL	23.6	101	TOTAL	9.6	50

* 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 September due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

Entitlement this month	135.0 *	
Flow this week	217.2	(31 000 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	217.2	
Flow last month	1,082.2	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	220	160	130
Euston	130	130	110
Red Cliffs	120	110	110
Merbein	100	90	90
Burtundy (Darling)	360	340	340
Lock 9	110	100	110
Lake Victoria	210	190	200
Berri	170	160	180
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	230	210	220
Mannum	190	180	220
Murray Bridge	190	180	220
Milang (Lake Alex.)	630	560	570
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	240	250	290
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 850	5 810	5 490
Goolwa Barrages	720	590	950

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 07 Sep 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	-	-	-	3 750	F	3 020	3 240
Jingellic	4.0	2.39	208.91	10 800	R	8 410	9 540
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.87	218.76	1 750	R	1 480	1 810
Heywoods	5.5	2.60	156.23	11 000	F	10 340	11 070
Doctors Point	5.5	2.91	151.38	13 340	R	12 450	13 550
Albury	4.3	1.87	149.31	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.99	129.01	13 300	F	11 800	17 930
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.17	117.21	14 060	F	16 700	33 850
Tocumwal	6.4	3.08	106.92	17 020	F	19 950	41 240
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	6.08	84.63	23 680	F	27 210	33 860
Swan Hill	4.5	3.62	66.54	22 240	S	21 950	21 070
Wakool Junction	8.8	7.30	56.42	33 750	R	31 750	29 330
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	4.89	46.73	34 360	R	32 390	29 630
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	28 810	F	28 810	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	4.78	29.54	33 100	R	32 000	34 570
Rufus Junction	-	5.72	22.65	25 290	F	30 840	39 870
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.45	-	39 200	F	40 190	37 110
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.24	155.47	2 540	R	2 200	2 720
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.64	147.32	5 600	R	5 830	9 000
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.96	94.38	3 750	F	6 870	13 840
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	4.85	84.62	9 880	S	12 040	10 910
Edward at Liewah	-	4.51	59.89	5 630	R	5 210	4 000
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	4.15	57.64	8 660	R	6 600	4 340
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	5.45	61.41	9 400	S	9 120	4 310
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.63	-	1 360	R	730	120
Darling at Bourke	-	4.16	-	590	F	700	950
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.82	-	300	F	500	710

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	14 280	18 660
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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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.14	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.70	+3.43
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.05	+1.72
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.28	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+1.49
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+1.93	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.21	+2.62
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+2.14	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.00	+2.30
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.06	+0.95	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.18	+2.60
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.48	+1.88	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.06	+1.70

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

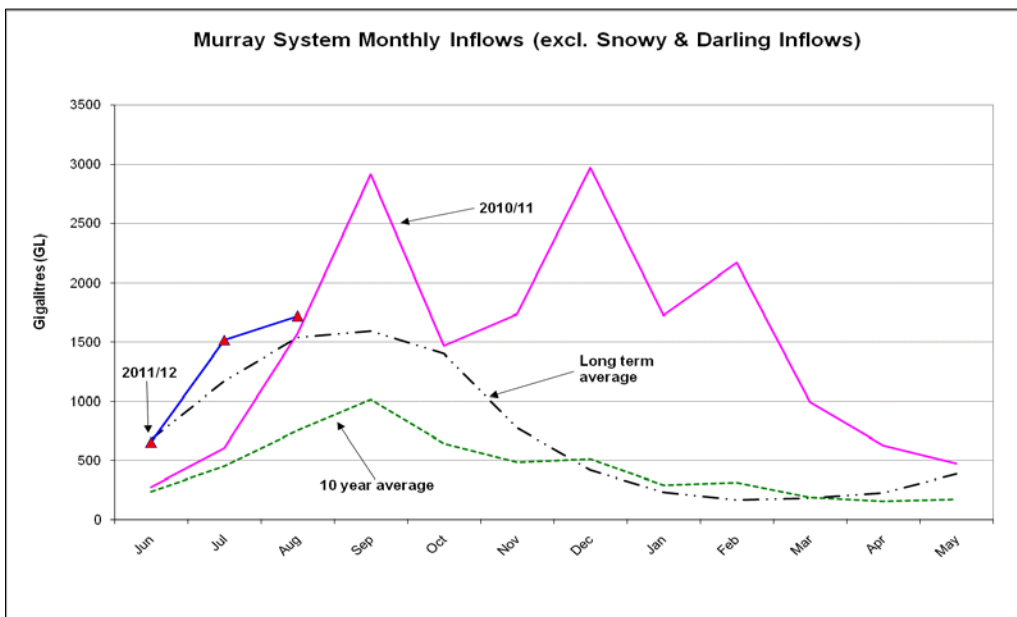
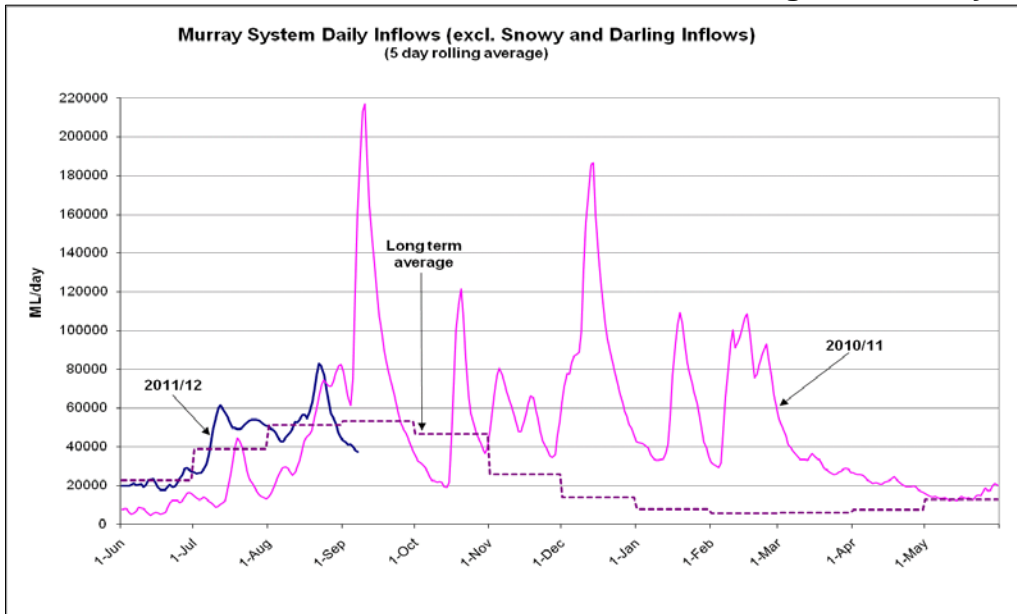
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.54
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.58	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	20	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.61	60	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 07 Sep 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	15%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	61%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	57%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	87%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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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/>