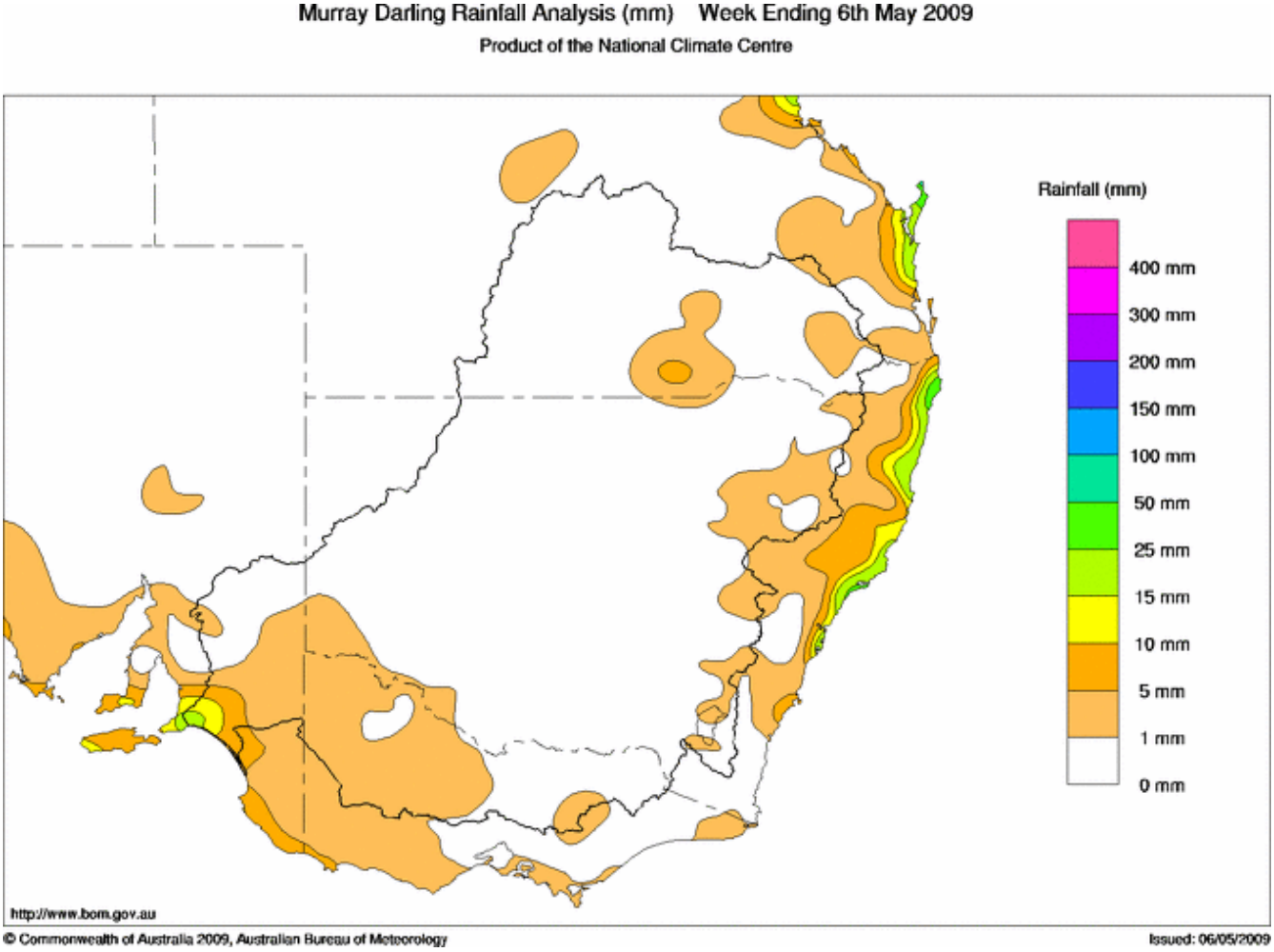
RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 06 MAY 2009

Trim Ref: D09/5938 8 May, 2009

Rainfall and Inflows

During the past week, very little rain was recorded across the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). Finniss, near Lake Alexandrina in South Australia, recorded the highest rainfall with 20 mm. As a result of the rain in late April, inflows to the River Murray System over the past week averaged about 3 000 ML/day, but are now gradually receding.



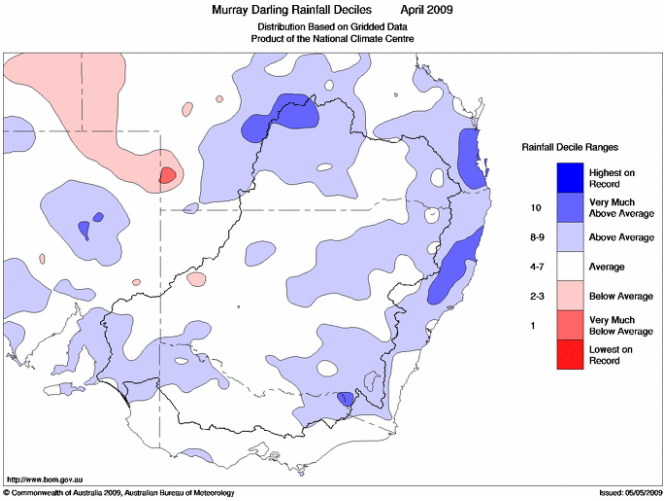
Map 1

April 2009 summary

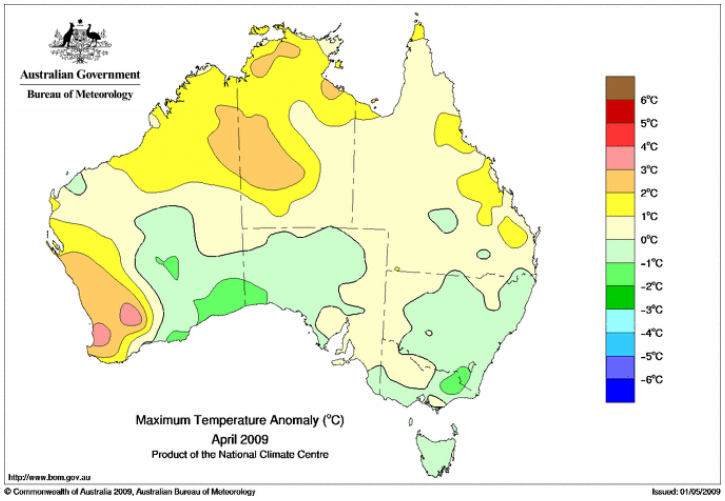
Rain during April was average to above average across the Basin. The upper and lower Murray received above average rainfall (see decile map attached). Temperatures throughout the southern Basin were average to below average. Daily maximum temperatures in the upper Murray were 1 to 2°C below the long term average for April (see temperature anomaly map for April).

Despite average rainfall and cool weather, system inflows in April were around 50 GL, slightly higher than the minimum recorded in 2007 (42 GL), but well below the long term average of 230 GL. These low April inflows, notwithstanding average rainfall, can be attributed to the very dry state of the River Murray catchments in terms of both surface soil moisture content and depleted groundwater systems feeding the creeks and streams. The beneficial effect of the late April rain will be realised if there is further rain in early May.

The MDBA's total active (useable water) storage at the end of April was 836 GL (or 9 % of capacity), less than at the end of April 2008 (988 GL), and well below the April average of 4 300 GL, but higher than at the end of April 2007 (607 GL).



Map 2



Map 3

Algal Blooms

The alert levels for Hume Reservoir and the River Murray at Albury and Howlong have been downgraded to Amber. The algal bloom is also in decline in the River Murray at Corowa, in Lake Mulwala and in the river downstream as far as Moama, as well as in the Gulpa Creek/Edward River/lower Wakool River system, and the Red alerts are expected to be lifted for most of these locations shortly. The mid reaches of the River Murray from Torrumbarry Weir to Boundary Bend remain on Amber alert. The river at Euston also remains on Red alert, but blue-green algal presence is also decreasing rapidly (call the Regional Algal Coordinating Committee hotline on 1800 999 457 for more information) and also from the NSW Department of Water and Energy's website www.dwe.nsw.gov.au or Goulburn Murray Water's website at www.g-mwater.com.au.

Lake Mulwala Drawdown

The first phase of the lowering of Lake Mulwala has commenced. The level in Lake Mulwala has reduced from around 124.7 to 124.57 m AHD over the past week and will continue to gradually reduce. The second phase of the lowering will commence mid May when diversions to the Yarrawonga Main Channel are scheduled to cease. The rate of drawdown during this second phase will be accelerated by increasing the release from Yarrawonga Weir. The lake level will be lowered to about 119.5 m AHD (or 5.4 m below FSL) by early June and will remain lowered until mid July (subject to inflow conditions), before being raised in preparation for the irrigation season in late July. Updates will be provided in coming weeks.

River Operations

Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir increased slightly from 814 to 816 GL (or 21% capacity) and the release has been reduced from 500 to 200 ML/day. Storage in Hume Reservoir has continued to increase, rising by 30 GL to 112 GL (or 3.7 % capacity). The rain that fell in the last week of April, coupled with decreasing air temperatures enabled the flow at Doctors Point to be reduced from 1 700 to 1 200 ML/day.

The release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced from 3 500 to 3 000 ML/day and is expected to remain at around this level until phase two of the Lake Mulwala drawdown commences in mid May, when the release is expected to increase to more than 4 000 ML/day. Torrumbarry Weir pool was gradually raised during the week from 85.94 to 86.00 m AHD but due to an increase in demand at National Channel, is currently being gradually lowered again to around 85.92 m AHD (13 cm below Full Supply Level) in order to supplement downstream flows.

Wentworth weir pool is at FSL (30.8 m AHD) and Mildura Weir is currently 2 cm above FSL (34.40 m AHD). Over the next two weeks, Mildura weir pool may be increased up to 5 cm above FSL, Wentworth Weir may be raised up to 10 cm above FSL, the Lock 9 weir pool may be raised to 25 cm above FSL and the Lock 8 weir pool raised to 50 cm above FSL. These temporary weir pool raisings are being implemented in order to capture flows in transit whilst the inlet to Lake Victoria is partially closed due to maintenance works at Scaddings Bridge.

The flow to South Australia has been reduced from 3 000 ML/day to 1 900 ML/day due to decreasing river losses and demands downstream of Lock 6. The weirs at Locks 2 to 5 are all close to Full Supply Level (FSL) whereas the weir at Lock 6 is 9 cm below FSL and the weir at Lock 1 is 8 cm above FSL.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

Week ending Wednesday 06 May 2009

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	416.65	816	21%	80	736	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	166.23	112	4%	30	82	+31
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	21.83	141	21%	100	41	-3
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		229	13%	(- -) #	0	-4
Total		**9 352**		**1 299**	**14%**	**- -**	**860**	**+26**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **10%**

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

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		399	39%	3	396	-0
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		492	30%	24	468	+1
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		407	12%	100	307	+1

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 05-May-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2009
Lake Eucumbene - Total	466	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+21	14
Snowy-Murray Component	342	-	Tooma-Tumut	+1	1
Target Storage	1 290		Nett Diversion	19.8	12
			Murray 1 Release	+25	17

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	-1.7	167.6
Wakool System loss	1.7	47.6
Western Murray Irrig.	0.1	24.5
Licensed Pumps	1.4	113.4
Lower Darling	0.1	10.6
TOTAL	**1.6**	**363.7**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2008
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.6	134
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	6.8	259
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.2	100
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.2	16
Licensed pumps - LMW	2.3	148
TOTAL	**11.1**	658

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	93 *	
Flow this week	14.9	(2 100 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	12	
Flow last month	93	

* Reduced to approx. 60 GL during May drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	40	40	60
Euston	70	70	90
Red Cliffs	100	100	120
Merbein	90	90	130
Burtundy (Darling)	520	540	470
Lock 9	150	160	200
Lake Victoria	300	290	260
Berri	260	250	360
Waikerie	-	400	480
Morgan	460	480	510
Mannum	620	650	620
Murray Bridge	700	700	640
Milang (Lake Alex.)	5 740	5 730	4 230
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 970	4 290	4 200
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	10 550	10 320	7 470
Goolwa Barrages	26 020	26 860	23 210

Week ending Wednesday 06 May 2009

River Levels and Flows

River Murray	Minor Flood stage (m)	Gauge height local (m)	Gauge height (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average flow this week (ML/day)	Average flow last week (ML/day)
Khancoban	-	-	-	4 380	F	3 480	4 200
Jingellic	4.0	1.55	208.07	3 530	R	3 900	4 470
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.26	218.15	300	S	350	710
Heywoods	5.5	1.39	155.02	970	S	810	2 940
Doctors Point	5.5	1.47	149.94	1 120	F	1 280	3 170
Albury	4.3	0.66	148.10	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	0.52	126.54	1 350	F	1 630	4 260
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.60	115.64	2 910	F	2 960	3 350
Tocumwal	6.4	1.06	104.90	3 200	R	3 310	3 580
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	0.90	79.45	2 060	F	2 610	2 610
Swan Hill	4.5	0.64	63.56	2 350	S	2 520	2 140
Wakool Junction	8.8	1.66	50.78	3 060	F	3 180	2 580
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	0.78	42.62	3 280	S	3 100	2 540
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	3 290	F	3 030	2 670
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.99	27.75	2 490	S	2 510	2 210
Rufus Junction	-	2.48	19.41	1 080	F	1 360	2 820
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.77	-	1 190	S	1 380	1 500
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.82	154.05	350	F	630	500
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.72	145.40	310	R	390	410
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	370	S	420	430
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.66	80.43	390	S	340	370
Edward at Liewah	-	1.12	56.50	520	F	560	580
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.16	54.65	70	F	80	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.32	56.28	120	S	140	190
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.17	-	10	S	20	40
Darling at Bourke	-	4.00	-	70	R	40	160
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.76	-	190	F	200	190

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 520	2 430

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	-0.32	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+0.22
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	-0.04	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.09	-0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.01	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.02	+0.01	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.00	+0.15
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.00	+0.35	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.00	+0.09
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.20	+0.28	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.02	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.31	+0.35	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.08	-1.52

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht. local (m)	d/s gauge ht. (m AHD)	Flow (ML/day)
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-2.34	0.807	70.157	448
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.94	0.02	61.32	169

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.91

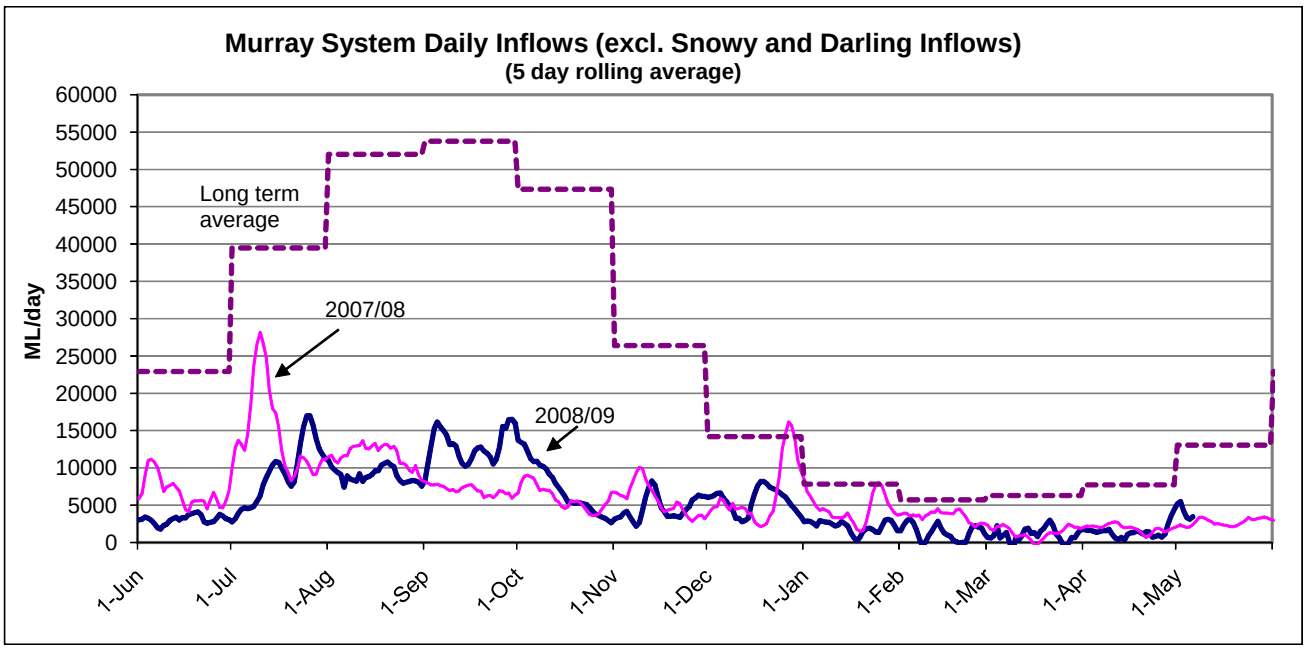
Barrages

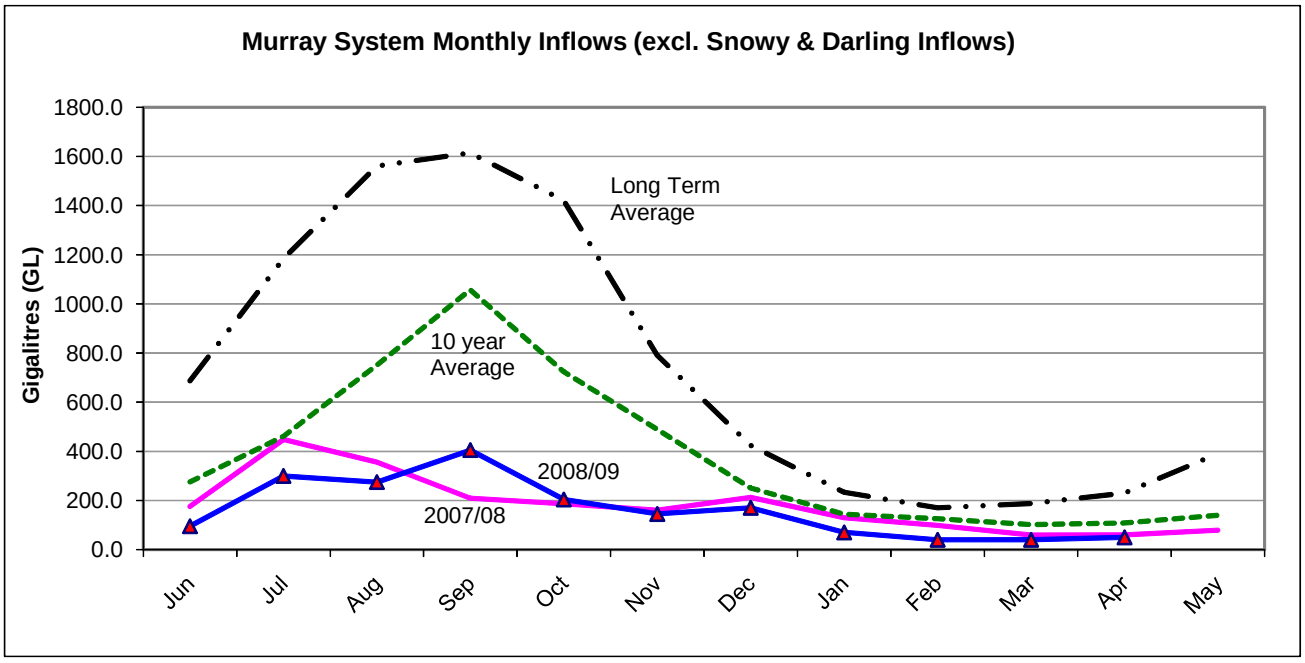
Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.99	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.60	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-0.30	All closed	Closed	Closed

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

Week ending Wednesday 6th May 2009





State Allocations (as at 6th May 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	9%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	21%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	35%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	33%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18%

NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html
VIC : http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp
SA : http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html