REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 20 February 2008

Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, ms **22 February, 2008**
Trim Ref : *08/2008*

Rainfall and Inflows

There was very little rain in the Murray-Darling Basin over the past week with none received over the upper Murray, Mitta Mitta, Ovens and Kiewa catchments. The northeast of the Basin had the best falls with Coonamble in central NSW receiving 15mm.

Murray River System inflows (exc. Menindee) for February are around 80 GL thus far and are likely to exceed last year's February inflows of 86 GL. However, unless there is further heavy rainfall in the upper Murray catchments, inflows are unlikely to reach average February inflows of 172 GL.

River Operations

Total MDBC storage has increased slightly from 1 880 to 1 890 GL over the past week reaching a level well above the February 2007 storage volume of 1 250 GL. This is primarily due to an additional 210 GL in Menindee Lakes and an extra 400 GL in Hume Reservoir compared with February 2007. However, total MDBC storage is still well below the long term average of 5 500 GL for the end of February. Storage in Dartmouth Reservoir remained steady at around 683 GL while storage in Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes increased by 20 and 15 GL respectively. Hume Reservoir storage reduced from 480 to 470 GL.

In response to the improved storage volume in Lake Victoria the release from Yarrawonga Weir has been reduced to 5 000 ML/day in order to reduce flows along the Murray River and retain as much water as possible in upper Murray storages. Consequently the release from Torrumbarry Weir has decreased from 4 700 to 3 500 ML/day, and is expected to remain steady at 3 500 ML/day over the coming week. The release from Euston Weir has reduced from 5 500 to 5 000 ML/day and the pool level has remained near Full Supply Level (47.6 m AHD). Similarly, the release from Mildura Weir has decreased from 6 000 to 4 500 ML/day.

On the Darling River, NSW has maintained a flow of 700 ML/day at Weir 32 over the past week and the flow further downstream at Burtundy has steadily decreased from 2 900 to 1 300 ML/day. The combination of lower flow in both the Murray and lower Darling Rivers has reduced the flow at Wentworth Weir this week from 6 600 to 4 300 ML/day. Flow in the Murray above Wentworth Weir will continue to gradually decline over coming weeks unless widespread, heavy rain is received.

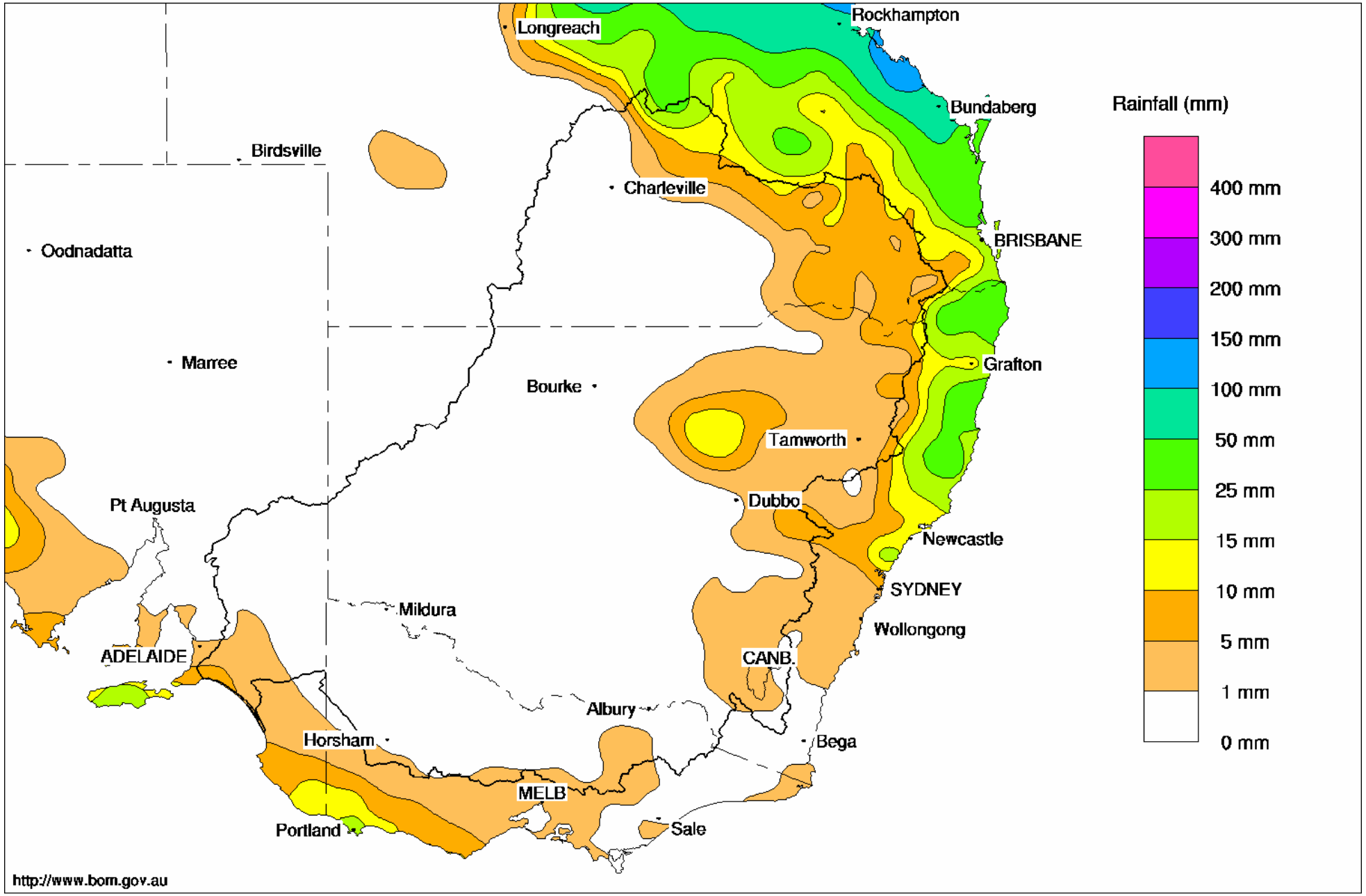
River salinity level at Wentworth Weir is currently around 110 EC, well below the peak of 750 EC experienced earlier this month with the passage of higher salinity water from the lower Darling and Campaspe Rivers. Salinity levels downstream of Wentworth Weir are now returning to levels experienced in January. The salinity of the Murray at Lock 9 is currently 150 EC compared to 200 EC in Lake Victoria. In order to provide South Australia (SA) with the freshest possible water over the coming weeks, the flow to SA will primarily be supplied by flow along the Murray River rather than releases from Lake Victoria. However, consistent with our longer term plan, when the flow at Wentworth Weir reduces in mid March, the release from Lake Victoria will again be progressively increased to provide the majority of the SA flow requirement.

Storage in Menindee Lakes is now expected to approach 550 GL due to continued inflows from tributaries into the Darling River. At this stage it is not expected to exceed the 640 GL volume required to return Menindee Lakes to MDBC control without further significant rain in the upper Darling catchment. Lake Alexandrina is currently at about -0.3 m AHD (or 30cm below mean sea level) and is expected to continue gradually falling over the coming weeks, unless there is significant local rainfall.

DAVID DREVERMAN
General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 20th February 2008

Product of the National Climate Centre



Issued: 20/02/2008

Week ending Wednesday 20 Feb 2008

Water in Storage

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage (GL)	Current Storage %	Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	411.05	683	17%	80	603	-0
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	172.90	470	15%	30	440	-19
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.28	373	55%	100	273	+18
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		363	21%	(- -) #	0	+14
Total		**9 352**		**1 890**	**20%**	**- -**	**1 316**	**+12**

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = **15%**

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

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026		430	42%	3	427	+6
Blowering Reservoir	1 631		426	26%	24	402	+0
Eildon Reservoir	3 390		666	20%	100	566	-28

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 19-Feb-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	601	-6	Snowy-Murray	+6	305
Snowy-Murray Component	467	-5	Tooma-Tumut	+1	146
Target Storage	1 460		Nett Diversion	4.3	159
			Murray 1 Release	+6	524

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.6	57.9
Wakool System loss	1.7	16.4
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	16.3
Licensed Pumps	2.4	59.2
Lower Darling	0.3	8.2
TOTAL	**7.8**	**157.8**

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	2.5	54
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	7.4	109
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.1	71 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	7
Licensed pumps - LMW	7.6	124
TOTAL	**20.8**	366 *

* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures.

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	194 *	
Flow this week	24.4	(3 500 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	81	
Flow last month	141	

* Reduced to approx. 113 GL during February drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2007
Swan Hill	70	70	90
Euston	90	90	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	110	110	140
Burtundy (Darling)	250	240	1 090
Lock 9	150	200	150
Lake Victoria	200	180	180
Berri	250	260	370
Waikerie	-	380	570
Morgan	430	430	630
Mannum	890	880	610
Murray Bridge	840	880	600
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 380	3 370	2 690
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 020	3 060	2 310
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	4 620	4 500	3 040
Goolwa Barrages	24 330	24 070	17 570

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN COMMISSION

Week ending Wednesday 20 Feb 2008

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	-	-	-	2 690	R	1 590	1 750
Jingellic	4.0	1.16	207.68	1 030	F	1 900	2 100
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.40	218.29	590	F	630	720
Heywoods	5.5	2.06	155.69	5 660	R	5 380	6 140
Doctors Point	5.5	2.23	150.70	6 020	R	5 710	6 440
Albury	4.3	1.26	148.70	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.48	127.50	4 960	F	5 460	5 720
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	0.96	116.00	4 780	F	5 040	5 880
Tocumwal	6.4	1.47	105.31	5 130	S	5 360	6 170
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.36	79.91	3 450	F	4 040	4 840
Swan Hill	4.5	0.94	63.86	4 170	F	4 420	4 770
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.11	51.23	4 540	F	4 830	5 440
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.07	42.91	5 030	F	5 490	6 470
Mildura Weir (d/s)		-	-	4 560	F	5 010	6 610
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.86	27.62	4 370	F	5 480	7 640
Rufus Junction	-	2.85	19.78	2 990	R	2 980	3 470
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.00	-	1 180	F	1 480	1 620
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.07	154.30	713	R	540	520
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.73	145.41	328	F	510	530
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.14	92.56	369	S	390	720
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.97	80.74	700	F	580	520
Edward at Liewah	-	1.09	56.47	542	F	590	860
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.18	55.67	85	R	60	10
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.61	57.57	1 140	F	1 140	1 140
Barwon at Mungindi	-	4.01	-	2 645	R	1 920	1 910
Darling at Bourke	-	5.01	-	8 036	F	7 940	7 200
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	1.07	-	1 260	F	2 000	3 480

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 370	2 880

Weirs and Locks

Pool levels above or below design level

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.61	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.00	+0.56
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.00	-0.02
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.00	+0.10
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.05	-39.80	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.26
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.03	+0.22	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.01	+0.16
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.04	-0.24	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.13
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	-0.25	+0.26	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.04	-0.75

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	-0.39	1.1	70.45	949
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-0.09	1.021	62.321	1250

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.28

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertcal Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.42	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.32	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-0.27	All closed	Closed	Closed

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

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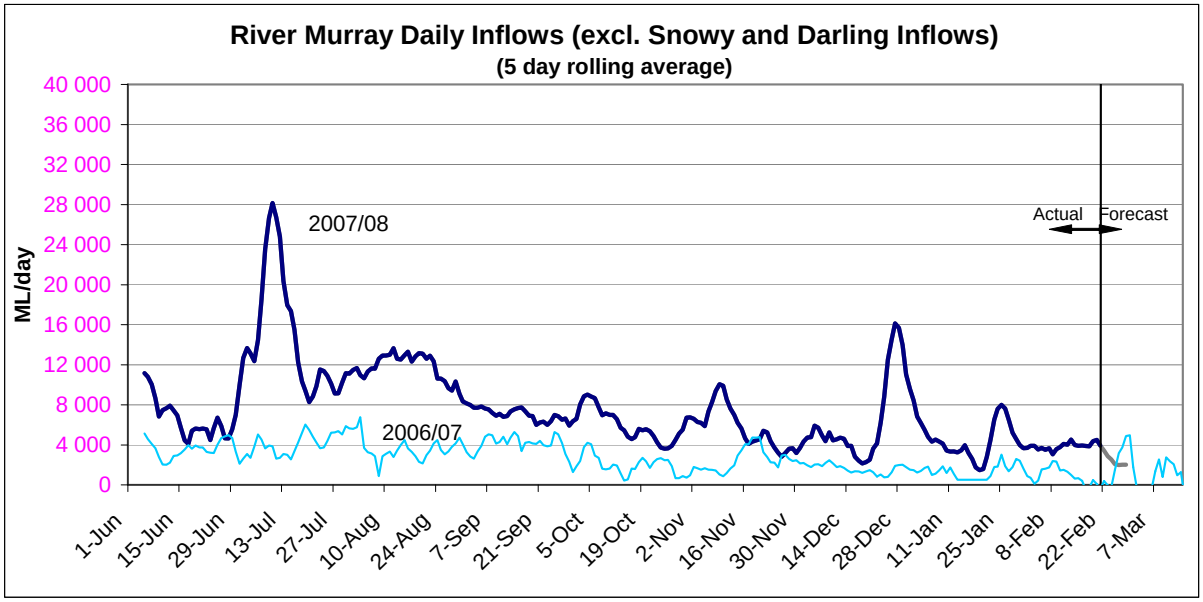

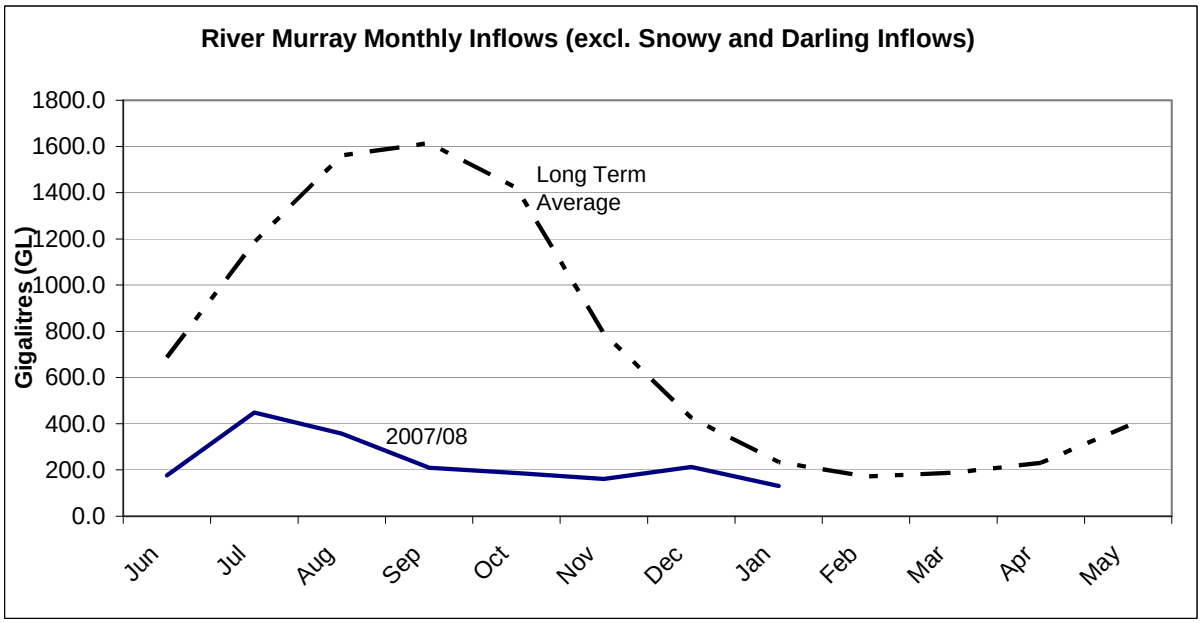

State Allocations (as at 20th Feb 2008)

NSW - Murray Valley

Suspended water re-credit	100%
High security	0%
General security	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	90%
General security	13%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	42%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	53%

South Australia - Murray Valley

irrigation allocation	32%

MURRAY-DARLING BASIN COMMISSION

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