

# REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING

Wednesday, 30 January 2008

*Our Ref : M2008/00001/prs, as  
Trim Ref : 08/1418*

1 February, 2008



## ***Rainfall and Inflows***

During the past week, only light rain fell across most of the Murray-Darling Basin (see Map). Streamflows in the upper tributaries of the River Murray continued to recede, approaching those seen prior to the rain 10 days ago.

The January inflow to the River Murray System (excluding inflow to Menindee Lakes) was about 130 GL, which is below the long term average of 235 GL. However, if inflows to Menindee Lakes are included, the January inflow was about 510 GL which is above the long term average of 360 GL.

The Bureau of Meteorology's latest outlook for late summer to mid-autumn indicates that (for the Basin) there are no strong swings towards below or above median rainfall or temperature (see [http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain\\_ahead.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/rain_ahead.shtml) ).

## ***River Operations***

The storage level of Dartmouth Reservoir has remained steady for the last 2 months, and is currently 678 GL (17 % of capacity). Dartmouth Dam is the preferred site for storing water that will be carried over into next season as it has lower evaporative losses and less chance of spilling than either Hume Reservoir or Lake Victoria. Hume Reservoir continues to supply the bulk of downstream requirements along the mid-Murray and during the week storage decreased by 26 GL to 537 GL (or 18 % capacity). Total storage for the River Murray system (including Menindee Lakes) is currently 1829 GL (or 20 % capacity) which is slightly higher than this time last year (1540 GL) but well below the long term average for the end of January (6030 GL).

The level of Lake Mulwala is currently 124.4 m AHD (50 cm below Full Supply Level), and should remain within the current target operating range of 124.2 to 124.5 m AHD (40 to 70 cm below FSL) during the coming week, unless there is significant rain. Torrumbarry and Euston Weir pools are both currently at (or close to) Full Supply Level, but may be drawn upon in coming weeks to meet downstream demands.

An operational problem at Stevens Weir caused river levels in the Edward River to change significantly early on the 31<sup>st</sup> January (see attached media release from NSW State Water). The problem at the weir resulted in a 2 metre increase in river levels downstream and a 1.5 metre drop upstream. Flows downstream are expected to remain within the river banks and quickly return to normal levels. The level in Stevens weir pool is expected to be restored over the next couple of days.

On the lower Darling River, the release from Menindee Lakes is now arriving at Wentworth Weir. Water quality monitoring indicates that the initial flush of Darling water has a salinity of up to 1 700 EC. Although this water will be diluted by the fresher water in the River Murray, the combined effect is expected to cause a short term rise in salinity for a couple of days, of about 700 EC in the Murray downstream of Wentworth (see attached media release). Impacts on South Australia will be mitigated by passing as much of the higher salinity water as possible into Lake Victoria where it will be diluted with 320 Gigalitres of 180 EC water.

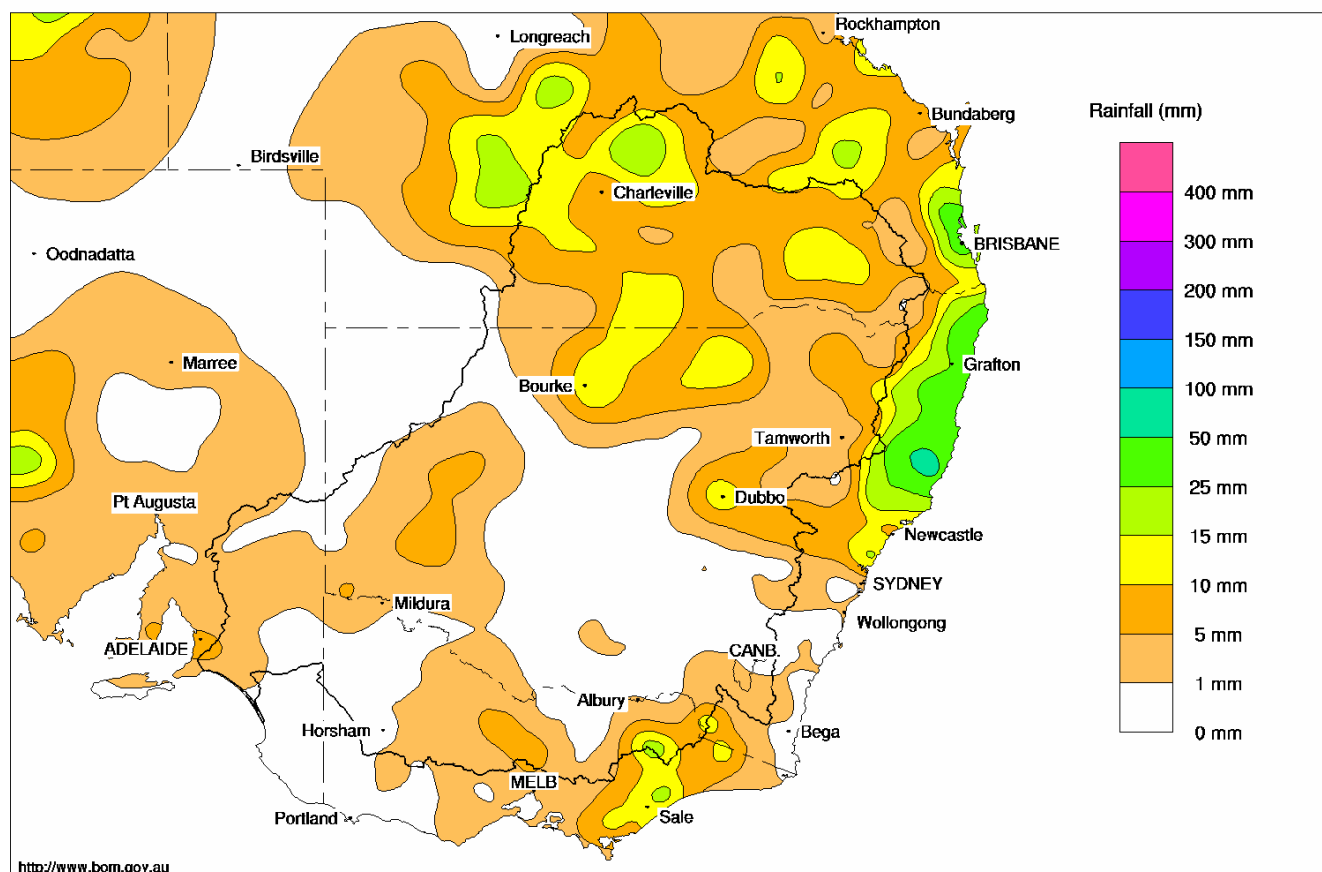
In South Australia, salinities upstream of Lock 1 have either remained steady or declined over the past 3 months. At Morgan for instance, the salinity has declined from 750 to 460 EC. However, the

salinities downstream of Lock 1 have been gradually increasing. At Murray Bridge the salinity has risen from 520 to 780 EC, while at Meningie on the Lower Lakes, the salinity has risen from 2600 to 3900 EC. The water level of the Lower Lakes continues to gradually fall, and is currently at -0.20 m AHD (or 20 cm below mean sea level).

DAVID DREVERMAN

General Manager

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 30th January 2008  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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## **CHANGES TO RIVER LEVEL WARNING EDWARDS RIVER**

31 January 2008

An operational problem at Stevens Weir has caused river levels in the Edwards River to change significantly during the past 24 hours.

State Water Operations Manager, David Clarke said there was a problem with the automatic control gates at Stevens Weir that resulted in the gates slowly opening overnight and releasing water into the river.

"The problem at the weir resulted in a two-metre increase in river levels downstream and a one and a half metre drop upstream," Mr Clarke said.

"Further upstream, the river level at Deniliquin fell about half a metre at the town gauge.

"Although the change in river levels is not expected to have any significant impact on water deliveries, State Water wants to make sure that all river users are aware of these changes in river levels when planning their activities.

"Flows downstream of the weir are expected to remain within the river banks and quickly return to normal levels."

State Water discovered the problem during routine early morning surveillance operations and acted quickly to return the gates to the correct operating position.

"We are working with Murray Irrigation to ensure essential supplies are not interrupted and that the weir pool and river levels are returned to normal operating levels as quickly as possible," Mr Clarke said.

"Although the water released from the weir was unplanned, we can re-regulate the water to ensure it meets critical customer needs.

"Thanks to the assistance of Murray Irrigation, we have also been able to provide a temporary delivery of about 1,000ML/day through the Edward Escape from the Mulwala Canal, directly into the weir pool to restore levels."

The weir pool level is expected to be restored over the next couple of days.

Meanwhile, State Water is investigating the problem that caused the gates to open to ensure that the unplanned release of water does not happen again.

# Media Release

“Stevens Weir is a reliable structure and routine maintenance and inspections are carried out to ensure it is fully operational and structurally sound for water delivery operations,” Mr Clarke said.

“Unfortunately, there has been a problem and State Water is making every effort to inform affected people, quickly correct the problem and return river levels to normal operating levels with minimal impact on river users.”

River users wanting more information should phone the Duty Operations Officer on (03) 5898 3925.

**-ENDS-**

**Media enquiries and interviews:  
Suzie Gaynor 02 6841 2006 or 0428 613 478**



# MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2008

## Temporary rise in Murray salinity at Wentworth expected

The Murray-Darling Basin Commission today advised water users on the Murray River between Wentworth and Lock 9 and also along Frenchman's Creek to expect an increase in salinity as the initial flush of water from the lower Darling River makes its way through the Wentworth Weir pool to Lake Victoria.

Chief Executive Dr Wendy Craik AM said the water being delivered down the lower Darling River had arrived in the upper reaches of the Wentworth Weir pool and was expected to arrive at the weir on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

“Water quality monitoring in the lower Darling indicates that the salinity of the initial flush of Darling water is up to 1 700 EC and should quickly drop to about 250 to 300 EC,” she said.

A small temporary rise in salinity (up to 280 EC) in the Murray, which originated from the Campaspe River in mid-December, will also arrive at Wentworth in the next few days.

“Although the water from the lower Darling River will be diluted by the fresher water in the Murray River, the combined effect is expected to cause a short term rise in salinity for a couple of days, of about 700 EC in the Murray downstream of Wentworth.”

“The increased salinity should only be temporary and salinity below Wentworth Weir should return to more normal levels in the range of 150 to 250 EC,” Dr Craik said.

“We plan to mitigate impacts on South Australia by passing as much of the higher salinity water as possible into Lake Victoria where it will be diluted with 320 Gigalitres of 180 EC water. After mixing, the salinity in the lake is expected to rise by 40 EC to 220 EC.”

“We advise water users between Wentworth and Lock 9 to take into account the rise in salinity when planning their operations over the next two weeks,” Dr Craik said.

For the latest information on river salinity go to:

[www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/river-info/flow-salinity/flow&sal-forecast.pdf](http://www.mdbc.gov.au/subs/river-info/flow-salinity/flow&sal-forecast.pdf)

**For media inquiries contact : Sam Leone, phone 0407 006 332**

TRIM Ref: 08/1412

**Water in Storage**

MDBC Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBC Active Storage (GL)	Change in Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	410.80	678	17%	80	598	+2
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	173.73	537	18%	30	507	-26
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	23.77	321	47%	100	221	+9
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		293	17%	(- -) #	0	+61
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 352</b>		<b>1 829</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>1 325</b>	<b>+45</b>

\* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBC Storage = 16%

# 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	422	41%	3	419	-2
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	416	26%	24	392	-19
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	741	22%	100	641	-15

**Snowy Mountains Scheme**

Snowy diversions for week ending 29-Jan-2008

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversion (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2007
Lake Eucumbene - Total	586	+5	Snowy-Murray	+4	293
Snowy-Murray Component	468	-0	Tooma-Tumut	+2	140
Target Storage	1 520		Nett Diversion	2.2	153
			Murray 1 Release	+10	500

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL)**

New South Wales	This week	From 1 July 2007
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	2.0	50.2
Wakool System loss	1.5	12.6
Western Murray Irrig.	1.0	13.9
Licensed Pumps	2.2	53.1
Lower Darling	0.5	7.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>137.0</b>

Victoria	This week	From 1 July 2007
Yarrawonga Main Channel (net)	1.5	48
Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	8.7	87
Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.5	61 *
Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.1	7
Licensed pumps - LMW	7.6	101
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21.5</b>	<b>304 *</b>

\* please note that these values do not include Millewa pumping figures as they are no longer supplied.

**Flow to South Australia (GL)**

Entitlement this month	217 *	(4 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	30.4	
Flow so far this month	136	
Flow last month	114	

\* Reduced to approx. 145 GL during January 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	80	90	110
Red Cliffs	-	-	130
Merbein	180	170	140
Burtundy (Darling)	220	580	1 190
Lock 9	130	120	150
Lake Victoria	190	180	180
Berri	290	290	380
Waikerie	-	410	600
Morgan	460	470	650
Mannum	860	840	580
Murray Bridge	780	760	580
Milang (Lake Alex.)	3 580	3 570	2 620
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	3 070	3 040	2 220
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 900	4 160	2 890
Goolwa Barrages	23 450	26 700	16 620



**River Levels and Flows**

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	-	-	-	2 480	R	1 810	900
Jingellic	4.0	1.27	207.79	1 660	R	1 820	1 480
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.47	218.36	730	S	700	930
Heywoods	5.5	2.19	155.82	6 870	R	5 620	6 660
Doctors Point	5.5	2.32	150.79	7 030	R	6 080	7 150
Albury	4.3	1.34	148.78	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	1.55	127.57	5 330	F	5 270	7 820
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.17	116.21	6 030	F	6 520	7 440
Tocumwal	6.4	1.69	105.53	6 520	R	6 950	7 690
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.43	80.98	7 330	F	7 930	6 780
Swan Hill	4.5	1.51	64.43	7 910	R	7 350	6 170
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.80	51.92	7 290	R	6 870	5 800
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.48	43.32	7 420	R	7 090	6 390
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 290	F	6 270	5 720
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.18	27.94	7 510	R	6 420	4 340
Rufus Junction	-	2.95	19.88	3 510	R	3 370	4 250
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.16	-	1 280	F	1 470	1 460
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.79	154.02	361	F	450	420
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.89	145.57	604	F	940	1 300
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.67	93.09	1 174	F	2 480	1 730
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.02	80.80	760	F	810	850
Edward at Liewah	-	1.37	56.75	748	R	670	390
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	0.91	55.40	0	S	0	0
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	1.64	57.60	1 169	S	1 220	1 370
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.50	-	739	F	880	520
Darling at Bourke	-	4.53	-	3 536	F	5 650	8 590
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	2.69	-	4 570	S	4 280	290

<b>Natural Inflow to Hume</b> (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	2 270	2 160
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**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
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.46	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.27	+0.69
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.00	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.07	+0.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.01	+0.14	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.08	+0.24
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.54	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.00	+0.15
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.07	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.04	+0.17
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.08	+0.54	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.12	-0.59

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-0.05	1.703	71.053	2072
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	+0.05	1.301	62.601	1630



**Lower Lakes**

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

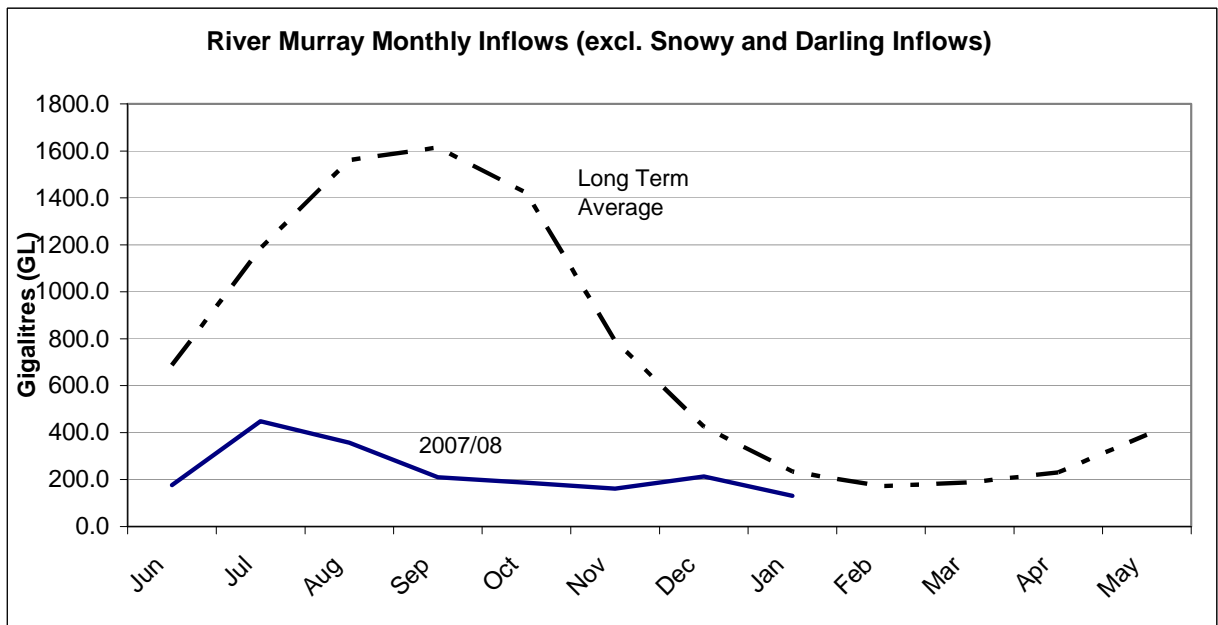
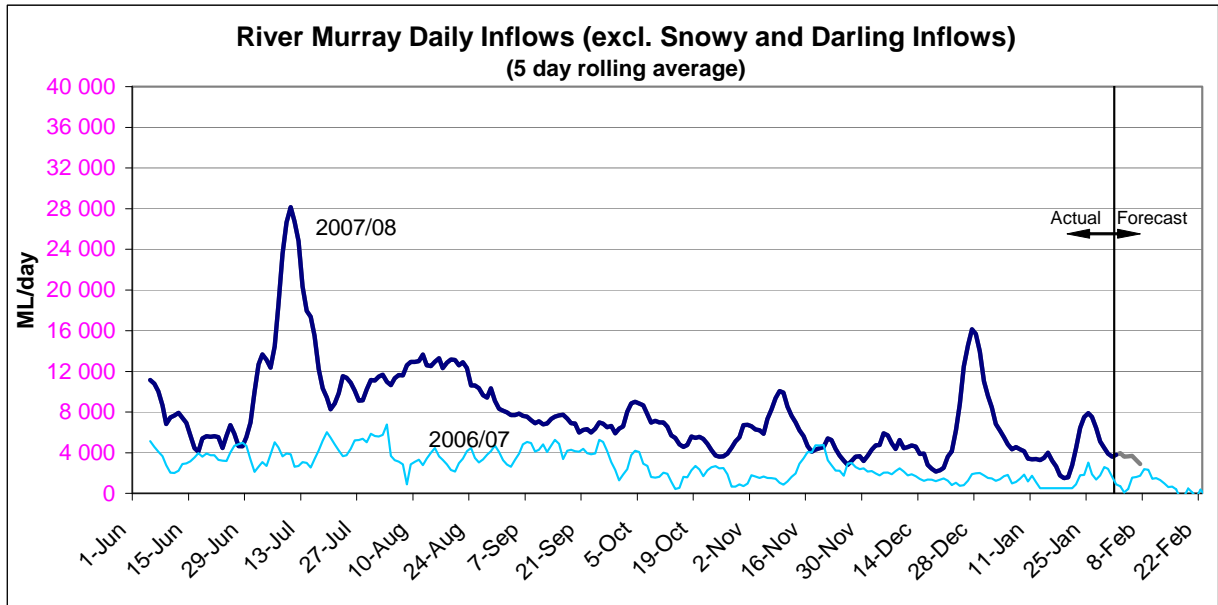
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.20

**Barrages**

**Fishways @ Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-0.26	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.20	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	-0.20	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



**State Allocations (as at 1st Feb 2008)**

**NSW - Murray Valley**

Suspended water re-credit	65%
Critical water	end of March 2008
High security	0%
General security	0%

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

High security	90%
General security	9%

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

irrigation allocation	32%
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**Victoria - Murray Valley**

high reliability	36%
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**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

high reliability	51%
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NSW : [http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/water/state\\_mm\\_murr\\_water\\_quality.shtml#alloc](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>