The Murray–Darling Basin

The Murray–Darling Basin is the world’s largest inland river system located in southeast Australia. The Murray–Darling Basin is shared by six states: South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and the Australian Capital Territory. The Murray–Darling Basin supports a significant proportion of Australia’s population, industry, and agriculture.

The Murray–Darling Basin is a complex catchment with a number of sub-basins, each with its own unique characteristics. The Basin is characterized by a range of topographic features, including mountains, plateaus, and plains.

A challenge in managing the Basin’s resources is delivering sufficient water for people, crops, and industries while maintaining a healthy environment. The Basin is one of the world’s most significant wetland complexes and supports many important ecological systems.

The Murray–Darling Basin has a long history of water management, with many dams and other water infrastructure built to regulate water supply. However, the Basin is facing significant challenges, including changes in rainfall patterns, increased demand for water, and the need to balance environmental sustainability with economic development.

The Murray–Darling Basin is a priority area for the Australian government, with a range of measures in place to support the Basin’s health and sustainability. These measures include water trading, environmental flow commitments, and innovative water management strategies.

The Murray–Darling Basin is also a significant source of cultural and social value, with many communities and industries depending on the Basin for their livelihoods. The Basin is home to a rich diversity of flora and fauna, and efforts are being made to protect and conserve this important natural heritage.

The Murray–Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is the lead agency for water resource management in the Basin, working in partnership with Basin states and the Commonwealth government. The MDBA seeks to ensure that water resources are managed efficiently and sustainably, supporting economic and social development while protecting the Basin’s unique environment.