



Australian Government



River Murray allocations, water orders and delivery

Under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is responsible for determining the total amount of water available to New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia each year.

In the River Murray, the MDBA shares the water between the Victorian, New South Wales and South Australian state governments. **The MDBA is not involved in making allocations to individual entitlement holders**, as this is managed by state governments.

Each state has developed its own set of entitlement licences and rules around how to allocate the state's share of water to their entitlement holders. This means allocations, water orders and delivery of water all work in a different way from state to state and will continue to do so.

Entitlement holders need to place water orders according to the conditions of their water licence. The time it takes for water to be delivered can depend on the entitlement holders' position along the river. Some users need to allow for travel time when placing orders, which can be a few days to a week, when requesting water to be delivered for their use.

Each state agency has a different system for water orders and delivery, and for accessing water in the rivers. In the River Murray, water orders in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australian are collated by the respective state water agencies and provided to the MDBA on a daily basis. The MDBA schedules releases so there is enough water in the right part of the river at the right time to meet demand.

Key facts

The MDBA operates the river on behalf of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.



State governments provide an **allocation of water** to their entitlement holders.



Allocations can change **as the year progresses**, as more water flows into the dams.



Each state has **different rules and requirements about how water is allocated**, and in what order allocations are prioritised.



To access water in the River Murray, an entitlement holder needs to place a water order **directly with their state water agency**.



The **time it takes for water to be delivered** can depend on the entitlement holder's position along the river.



Connect with us.

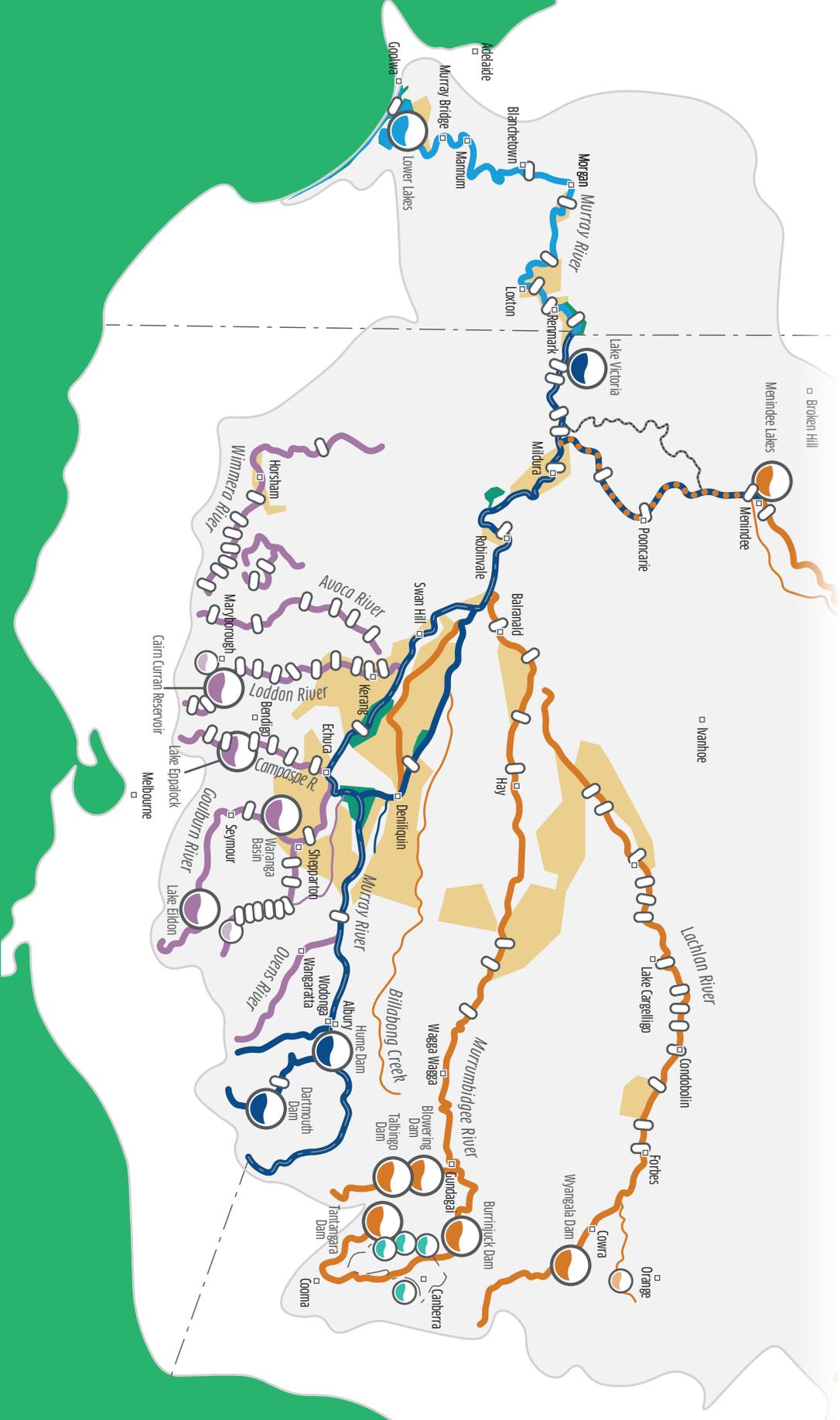
The MDBA has offices in Adelaide, Albury-Wodonga, Canberra, Goondiwindi, Griffith, Mildura, Murray-Bridge, Toowoomba, and regional engagement officers around the Basin.

📞 1800 230 067

@ engagement@mdba.gov.au

🌐 mdba.gov.au

Overview of River Murray system and tributaries



- Water storage > 100 GL
- Water storage < 100 GL
- Weir
- Irrigation area
- Key environmental asset
- Town/city

- Responsibility for operation**
- MDBA (River Murray System)
- New South Wales
- Victoria
- South Australia
- Australian Capital Territory

This diagram is an overview of river operations in the River Murray system. It is not a complete or accurate reference map of irrigation areas and regulating structures.

For more detailed information on operations or regulating structures in each state, contact the relevant state water management authority.

Differences between the state systems

Each state has their own unique suite of water entitlement products. For example New South Wales has high security and general security licences. In Victoria, there are high reliability and low reliability water shares, and South Australia has something different too. These products are different and should not be compared.

Also contributing to the differences between water products in the River Murray System can be state shares. Where rainfall occurs in each catchment drives differences in state shares and hence how much water a state has to allocate.

For more information on your state allocation approaches, contact your state water department.