



Australian Government



MURRAY-DARLING  
BASIN AUTHORITY

# River Murray operations

The River Murray flows through New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia, sustaining rural towns and communities, supporting agricultural production and nourishing many unique Australian plants and animals.

MDBA River Operations is responsible for operating the River Murray on behalf of the joint governments of New South Wales (NSW), Victoria and South Australia.

Key water regulation assets under control of the MDBA include Dartmouth Dam, Hume Dam, Yarrawonga Weir, Torrumbarry Weir, Lake Victoria and the locks and weirs from Lock 15 at Euston to Lock 7 at Rufus River.

The MDBA determines the volume of water released to meet demands, but does not own any water and can only release water from storage when there are state orders or system demands to be met.

The physical operation of structures is managed by water authorities in each state. This includes Menindee Lakes on the Darling River, which contributes some water for use in the Murray system, but is managed by the NSW Government. Additionally, the MDBA does not operate the River Murray downstream of the South Australian border, where the South Australian Government take on this role.

Other key operational roles of the MDBA include: sharing water in the River Murray between the three states, management of salt interception schemes, overseeing maintenance of existing assets and construction of new assets.

The Murray-Darling Basin Agreement sets the MDBA's responsibilities for operating the river. It also provides operating rules the MDBA must follow and be audited against each year.

## Key facts

**The River Murray is Australia's longest river and flows for more than 2500 kilometres through New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia.**



Several major rivers join the Murray, including the Goulburn, Murrumbidgee and Darling, and many smaller rivers and tributaries on its westward journey to the sea.



The Murray-Darling Basin Agreement (**the Agreement**) sets out the water sharing rules across the states.



The main storages in the River Murray are **Dartmouth Dam, Hume Dam, Yarrawonga Weir and Lake Victoria.**



Other major storages connected to the system (but not the responsibility of the MDBA) include **Lake Eildon, Burrinjuck Dam, and the Snowy Mountains storages.**

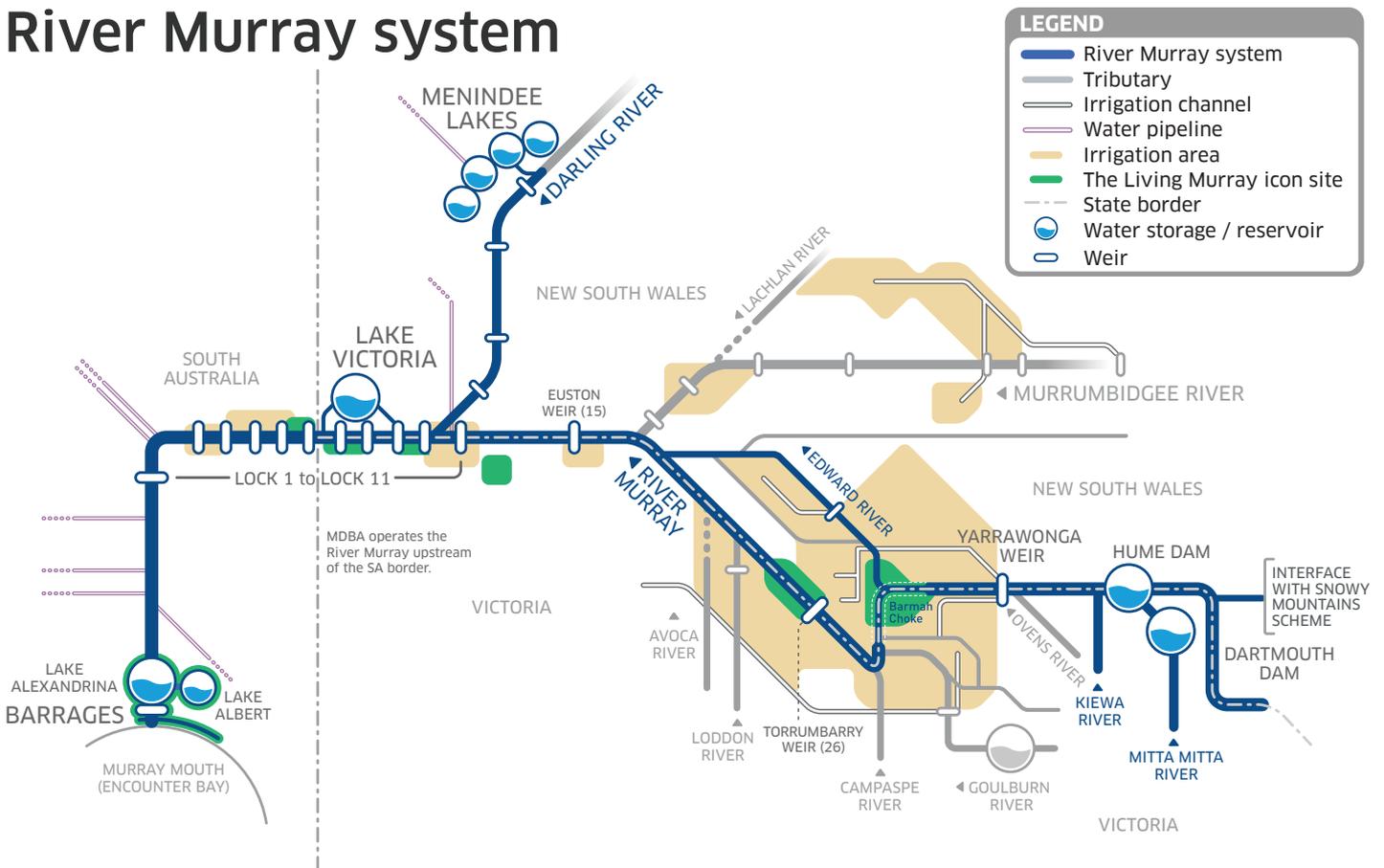


There are **14 weirs, 10 locks and five barrages.** Barrages are built near the river's mouth to stop sea water entering the river system.

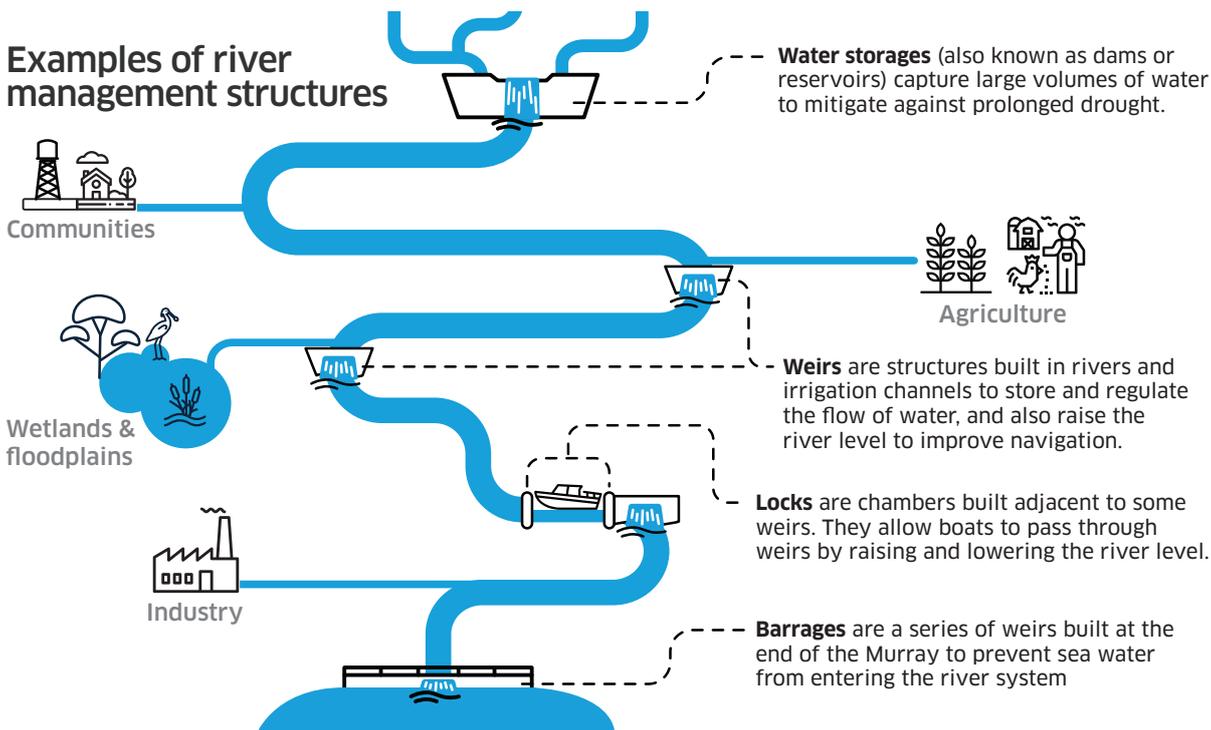


There are currently **14 salt interception schemes** diverting approximately **half a million tonnes of salt** away from river catchments each year.

# River Murray system



## Examples of river management structures



### 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.

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