



Australian Government



The Riverland

Overview



The Riverland includes about 3 million hectares – around 3% of the Murray-Darling Basin.



The Riverland Ramsar wetlands run from the South Australian border to Renmark, include the Chowilla, Pike and Katarapko floodplains and are home to a wide range of waterbirds, plants and aquatic species.



Agriculture includes irrigated and dryland crop production, including intensive horticulture, cereal cropping and grazing.



It is a critical spiritual and cultural location for First Nations of the River Murray and Mallee Region.



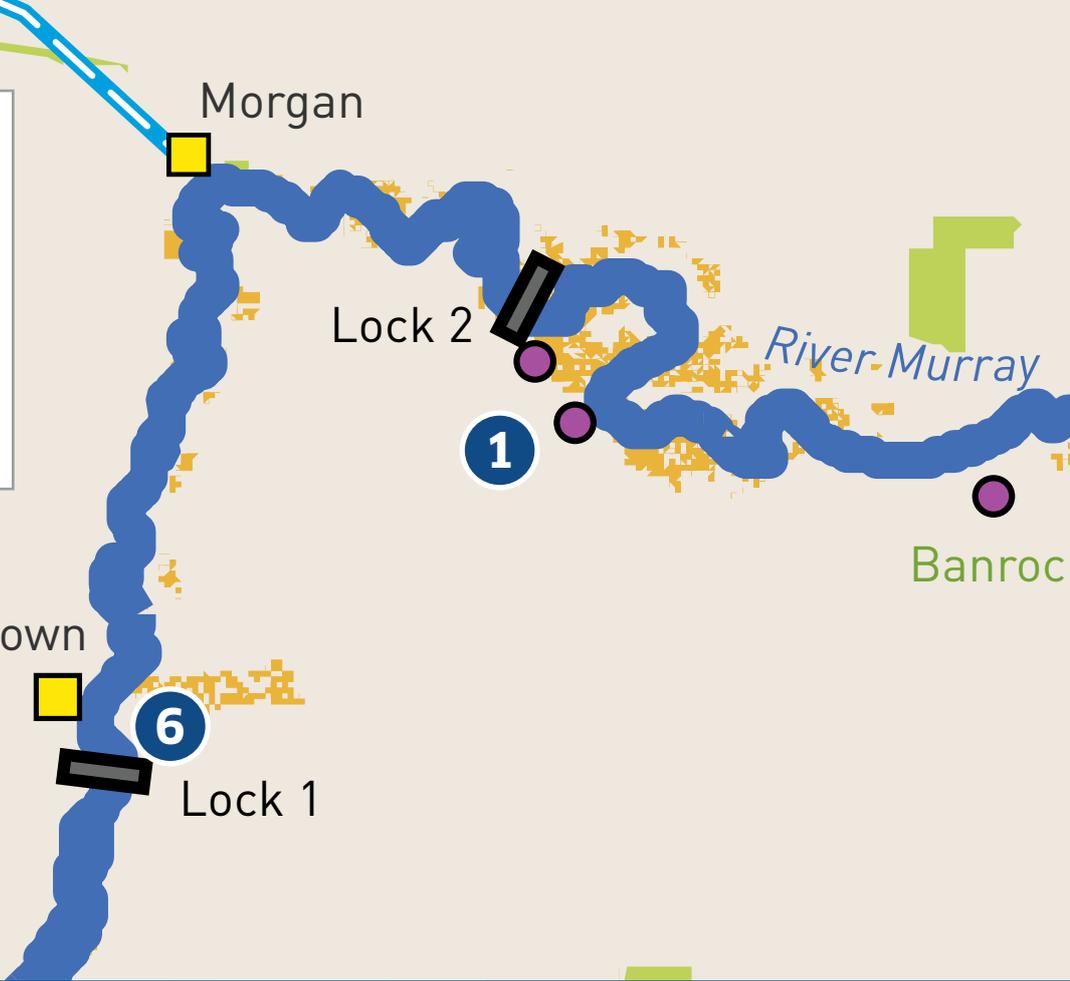
Water-based activities and recreation focussed on the River Murray and dryland conservation reserves are important tourism drawcards.



The River Murray provides water to Adelaide and regional towns, from the Eyre Peninsula to the South East of the state.

Legend

- State border
- Basin border
- River/creek
- Town/city
- Capital city
- Water storage/lake
- National Park
- ▨ Ramsar site
- Irrigation area
- Salt interception scheme



The Riverland

Key information



The Riverland is home to more than 41,000 people. The largest urban centres include Renmark, Berri and Loxton.



Perennial horticulture dominates the Murray River corridor producing grapes, citrus, stone fruit, pistachios and almonds. Other production includes cereal cropping and sheep grazing.



Riverland rainfall ranges from 200 mm to 300 mm. River flow is primarily driven by upstream contributions.





Around the region

- 1 Salt interception schemes play a vital role in improving water quality by preventing salt from entering the river system.
- 2 The Riverland Ramsar site contains a variety of ecological features and species, including the nationally threatened regent parrot, Murray cod, Murray tortoise and southern bell frog.
- 3 There are extensive stands of river red gums bordering the creeks and backwaters. The site also contains 11 of the 12 vegetation communities found within the Riverland biogeographical region, such as Black Box Woodland.
- 4 The Riverland Ramsar site is threatened by reduced natural flows and is supported by actively managed environmental water from the River Murray.
- 5 Water for the environment is managed by federal and state environmental water holders. Management actions include raising and lowering of weir pools and pumping small volumes of water onto disconnected floodplains and wetlands.
- 6 The first lock and weir on the Murray was completed in 1922 at Blanchetown. Lock 6 at Murtho was completed in 1930.

Feature creature: Regent parrot

The regent parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus monarchoides*) is a slim, mostly yellow bird, with blue-black wings. It has a distinctive call and is known by other names such as black-tailed, black-throated, smoker or marlock parrot.

It eats a variety of food including insects, seeds, grasses, plants and cereal crops. It plays an important role in controlling agricultural pests, which can become resistant to pesticides.

The Basin's regent parrot population is considered endangered and attempts have been made by state and federal governments to protect it, such as the National Recovery Plan for the Regent Parrot.

Who does what in the Riverland region?

Renmark Irrigation Trust (08) 8586 6911



provides the infrastructure to deliver irrigation water to the Renmark community.

South Australian Department for Environment and Water - (08) 8207 7700



allocates water to entitlement holders, coordinates delivery of water for the environment



develops and implements water resource plans for South Australian regions of the Murray-Darling Basin, including South Australian River Murray, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and Murray Region



develops and implements projects designed to adjust the sustainable diversion limit.

SA Water - 1300 729 283



manages the operation and maintenance of infrastructure, including barrages, locks and weirs.

New South Wales and Victorian State Governments



supply an equal share of water to South Australia, as per the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority



prepares, implements, monitors and reviews the integrated plan for the sustainable use of the Basin's water resources



operates the River Murray system and delivers water to users on behalf of partner governments



researches and monitors the quality and quantity of Basin water resources and the condition of its associated rivers, wetlands and floodplains



creates and shares information about the Basin's water resources and dependent ecosystems.



Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder - (02) 6274 1111

manages the Australian Government's water entitlements and allocations of water for the environment.



Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment - 1800 803 772

responsible for efficiency programs and collaborating with Basin states.



Local connections

Your nearest MDBA office is **Murray Bridge**
3 South Terrace, Murray Bridge, SA 5253

We also have offices in **Adelaide and Mildura**
10 Corbett Court, Adelaide, SA 5950
Lot 4a 152 Deakin Avenue, Mildura, Vic 3500

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