



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 19TH AUGUST 2015

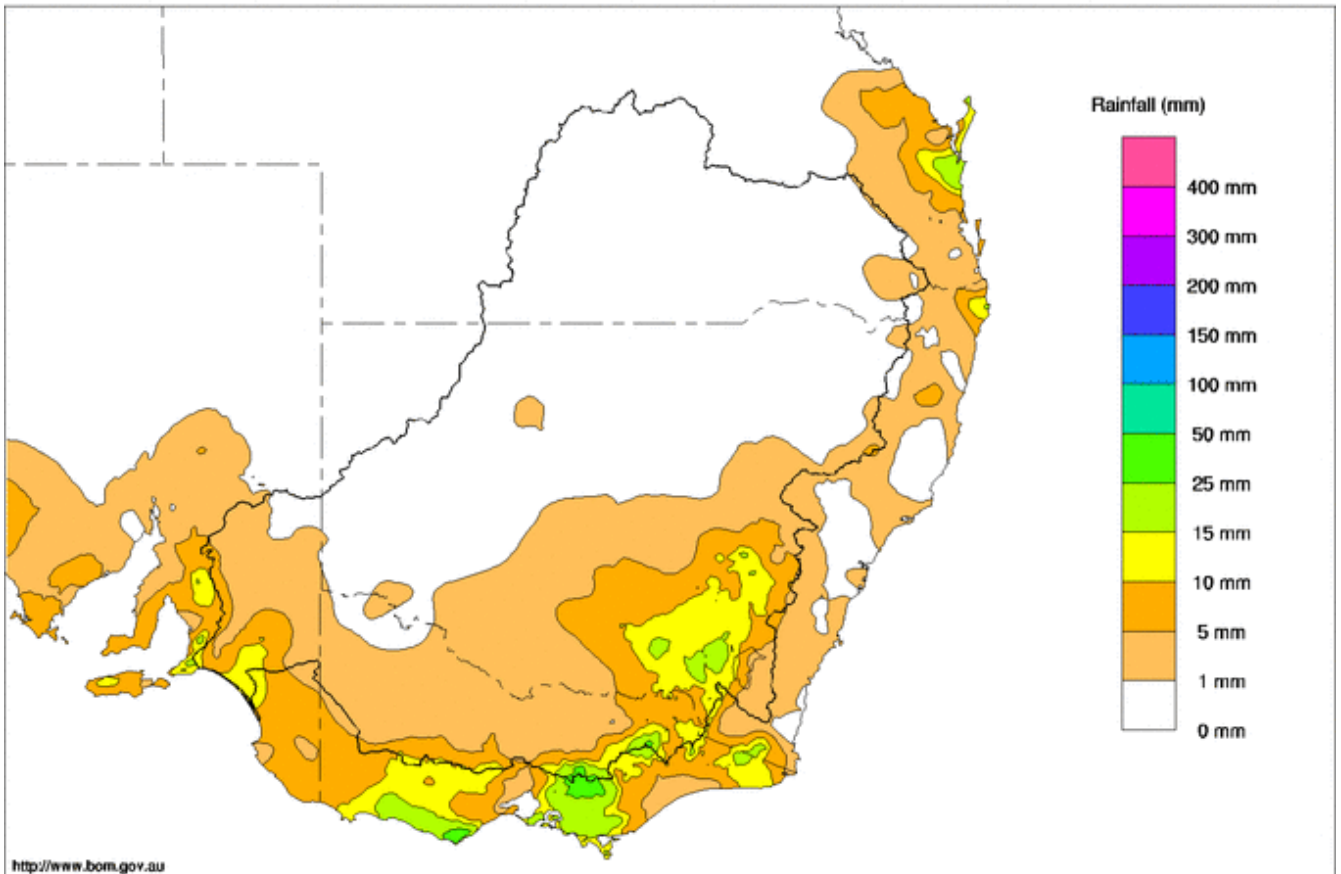
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Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall was mostly confined to the southern and southeast edges of Murray–Darling Basin this week. Dry conditions continued in the northern basin (Map 1).

Highest rainfall totals were recorded in Victoria, including 36 mm at Mt Hotham in the Alps, and 27 mm at Mount William in the southern Wimmera. In New South Wales, there was 22 mm at Burrinjuck dam and 17 mm at Tumut in the southwest slopes, 18 mm at Wagga Wagga and 14 mm at Darlington Point in the Riverina and 16 mm at Orange Airport AWS in the central tablelands. In South Australia, there was 15 mm at Goolwa and 14 mm at Meningie at the Lower Lakes.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 19th August 2015
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 19/08/2015

Map 1 – Murray-Darling Basin rainfall week ending 19th August 2015 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

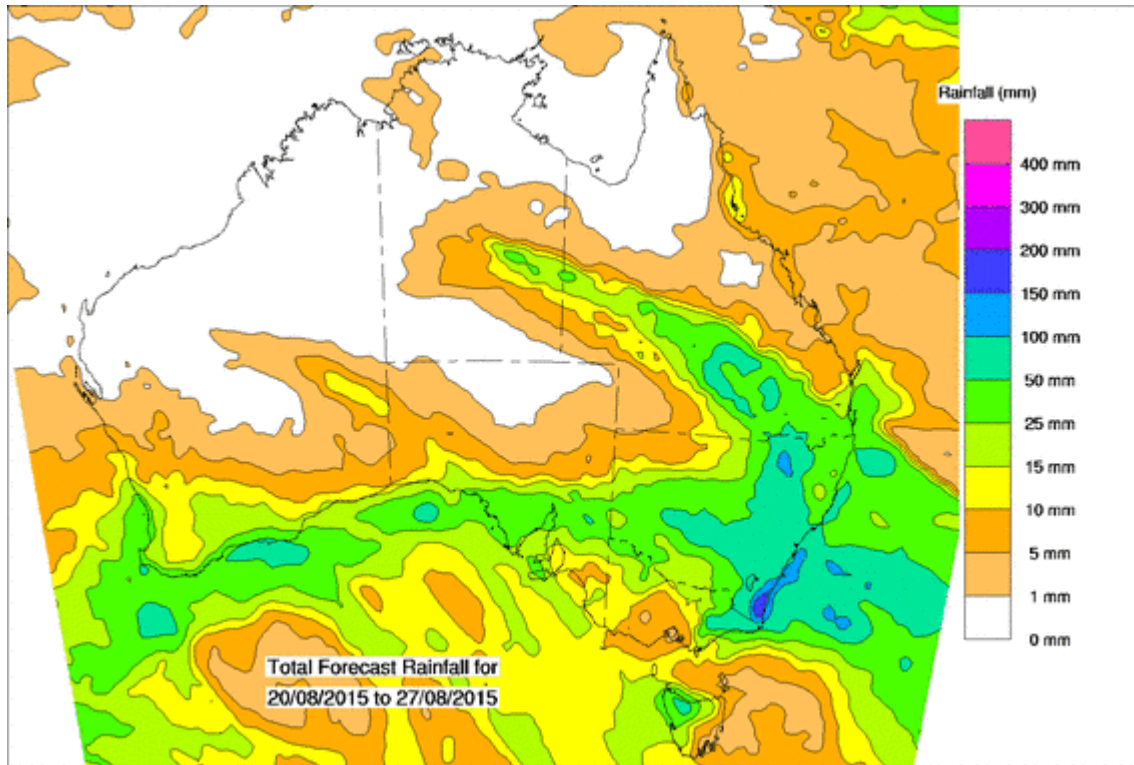
Overall, stream flows in the upper Murray tributaries continued to recede this week, with only small, brief rises following the rain during the week. The Mitta Mitta River at Hinnomunjie reduced from 1,030 ML/day to 860 ML/day, whilst the Murray at Biggara decreased from 1,500 ML/day to 1,250 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta fell from 5,000 ML/day to 3,600 ML/day.



River Operations

- BoM forecasting rain across the Basin late next week
- Weir pool levels at Locks 7, 8, 9 and 15 currently above full supply level

Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting rain across the Basin later in the coming week, with falls of 50 to 100 mm over the western slopes and ranges in New South Wales (Map 2). These falls would raise the potential for modest rises in stream flows across the Murrumbidgee and Darling river catchments. Forecast rainfall across the upper Murray catchments is, however, not as high.



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Map 2 – [Murray-Darling Basin 8 day rainfall forecast for the period 20 August to 27 August 2015 \(Source: Bureau of Meteorology\)](#)

MDBA total storage rose by 21 GL this week, with the active storage now 4,274 GL (51% capacity).

At **Dartmouth** reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 34 GL to 2,706 GL (70% capacity) as high releases continue. During the week, the release increased to 7,500 ML/day, while downstream at Tallandoon the flow is around 8,000 ML/day. These higher releases are transferring water from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir, to assist with meeting downstream demands in the coming months.

Hume reservoir storage increased by 53 GL this week and is now 1,317 GL (44% capacity). Inflows reduced, compared with last week, averaging 15,000 ML/day. The release increased during the week and is currently 8,500 ML/day.

At **Lake Mulwala**, the pool level is currently 124.72 m AHD. Diversions at the major irrigation offtakes have remained low due to low Murray water allocations in NSW and Victoria (see current allocations at page 6) and the forecast rain. Mulwala canal is currently diverting 850 ML/day whilst Yarrawonga main channel is taking 250 ML/day. The release from Yarrawonga weir has been gradually reduced over the week to 13,000 ML/day.

In the **Edward-Wakool** system, flows through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes are 1,600 ML/day and 750 ML/day, respectively. The flow at Toonalook gradually increased over the week due to flows exiting the Millewa forest and is currently 2,700 ML/day. Downstream at Stevens weir, the pool level is about 4.5 m local gauge height, and the release during the week was increased to 1,900 ML/day.



On the **Goulburn** river, the flow at McCoys bridge has averaged around 1,000 ML/day. On the **Campaspe** river, planning is currently underway for the release of a small environmental pulse later next week which is expected to reach around 1,300 ML/day for two days.

At **Torrumbarry** weir, diversion at National channel is currently 1,000 ML/day and forecast to remain around this rate over the coming week. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry increased to 9,700 ML/day and is expected to be around 10,000 ML/day over the coming week.

On the **Murrumbidgee** river, the flow at Balranald increased to 3,400 ML/day during the week and is now receding. Flows above the August end-of-system target value of 1,100 ML/day are expected for the remainder of August due to rainfall which fell in the upper catchment early in the month.

At **Euston** weir, the flow has increased to 10,500 ML/day and is expected to reach around 14,000 ML/day in the coming week. The pool level at Euston remains above full supply level (FSL), (currently 47.86 m AHD and 26 cm above FSL), as part of the current weir pool variability program that aims to achieve a more natural wetting and drying cycle for the riverine environment. The pool level is expected to be raised a further 24 cm to 50 cm above FSL in early September. This trial at Euston weir is part of a broader weir pool variability program for 2015-16 that includes weirs and locks 7, 8 and 9, where the pool levels are respectively 27 cm, 60 cm and 29 cm above the FSL. Locks 7 and 8 are expected to be raised further, to around 50 cm and 80 cm (respectively) above FSL in early September.

Storage in the **Menindee Lakes** is currently 99 GL (6% capacity). The flow into the Lower Darling river at Weir 32 has reduced to 100 ML/day. Water from this release is currently flowing past Pooncarie but is not expected to pass Burtundy.

At **Lake Victoria**, the storage volume increased by 1 GL to 445 GL (66% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently 6,500 ML/day, with flows expected to remain above 6,000 ML/day for the remainder of the month.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina is 0.77 m AHD. Releases through the barrages are continuing when conditions allow. There are currently two gates open at Goolwa barrage and five gates open at Tauwitchere and a total barrage flow estimated at around 1,600 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 19 Aug 2015

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	466.55	2 706	70%	71	2 635	-34
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	181.53	1 317	44%	23	1 294	+53
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	24.97	445	66%	100	345	+1
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		99	6%	(- -) #	0	+1
Total		9 269		4 567	49%	--	4 274	+21
Total Active MDBA Storage							51% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	634	62%	3	631	+16
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	705	43%	24	681	+8
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 029	61%	100	1 929	+26

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 18 Aug 2015

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2015
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 143	+11	Snowy-Murray	+10	145
Snowy-Murray Component	1 052	-8	Tooma-Tumut	+2	77
Target Storage	1 190		Net Diversion	7	69
			Murray 1 Release	+14	214

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2015	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2015
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.2	21	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	0.5	1
Wakool Sys Allowance	1.2	1	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0	6
Western Murray Irrigation	0.1	0	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	0.8	2
Licensed Pumps	0.5	3	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0	0
Lower Darling	0.1	1	Licensed pumps - LMW	1.2	8
TOTAL	5.1	26	TOTAL	2.5	17

* Figures derived from estimates and monthly data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All data above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

* Flow to SA will be greater than normal entitlement for this month due to the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	124.0 *
Flow this week	50.5
Flow so far this month	136.5
Flow last month	231.8

(7 200 ML/day)

Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2015
Swan Hill	60	80	80
Euston	130	120	110
Red Cliffs	130	120	130
Merbein	130	130	150
Burtundy (Darling)	910	900	900
Lock 9	140	150	180
Lake Victoria	220	220	200
Berri	230	230	250
Waikerie	330	350	340
Morgan	310	340	320
Mannum	330	330	330
Murray Bridge	340	350	360
Milang (Lake Alex.)	710	710	710
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	640	630	610
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 080	2 050	2 040
Goolwa Barrages	900	1 160	1 110



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 19 Aug 2015

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	-	-	-	3 020	F	2 750	3 080
Jingellic	4.0	1.93	208.45	5 960	S	5 900	8 550
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.12	220.01	7 880	F	7 910	7 950
Heywoods	5.5	2.54	156.17	8 500	R	7 570	4 880
Doctors Point	5.5	2.59	151.06	10 050	R	9 320	8 180
Albury	4.3	1.61	149.05	-	-	-	-
Corowa	4.6	2.24	128.26	9 270	R	9 300	8 280
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	2.00	117.04	12 960	F	13 900	15 410
Tocumwal	6.4	2.72	106.56	13 740	F	14 500	15 690
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.06	81.61	9 750	R	9 120	6 810
Swan Hill	4.5	1.62	64.54	8 800	R	7 530	5 950
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.22	52.34	8 870	R	8 120	7 080
Euston Weir (d/s)	9.1	1.92	43.76	10 470	R	10 160	8 240
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	10 850	F	10 000	8 440
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.23	27.99	10 570	R	10 160	9 060
Rufus Junction	-	3.42	20.35	6 050	F	6 820	6 710
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.78	-	6 980	R	6 930	7 070
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.8	1.90	155.13	1 920	R	1 870	3 210
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	9.09	146.77	3 600	F	4 200	6 630
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.58	93.00	1 100	R	1 010	1 010
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	5.5	1.96	81.73	1 940	F	1 670	1 070
Edward at Liewah	-	1.86	57.24	1 190	R	960	1 250
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.30	54.79	230	R	160	170
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.50	59.46	3 380	R	2 690	2 460
Barwon at Mungindi	6.1	3.38	-	480	F	430	670
Darling at Bourke	9.0	4.13	-	500	R	430	610
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.79	-	0	F	0	0

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	9 280	14 150
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Weirs and Locks Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrowonga	124.90	-0.18	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.27	+1.10
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.01	+0.08
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.26	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.01	+0.22
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.04	+0.26	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+0.87
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.02	+0.59	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.04	+0.25
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.29	+0.62	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.01	+0.22
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.60	+0.38	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.09	+0.03

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.77
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Barrages

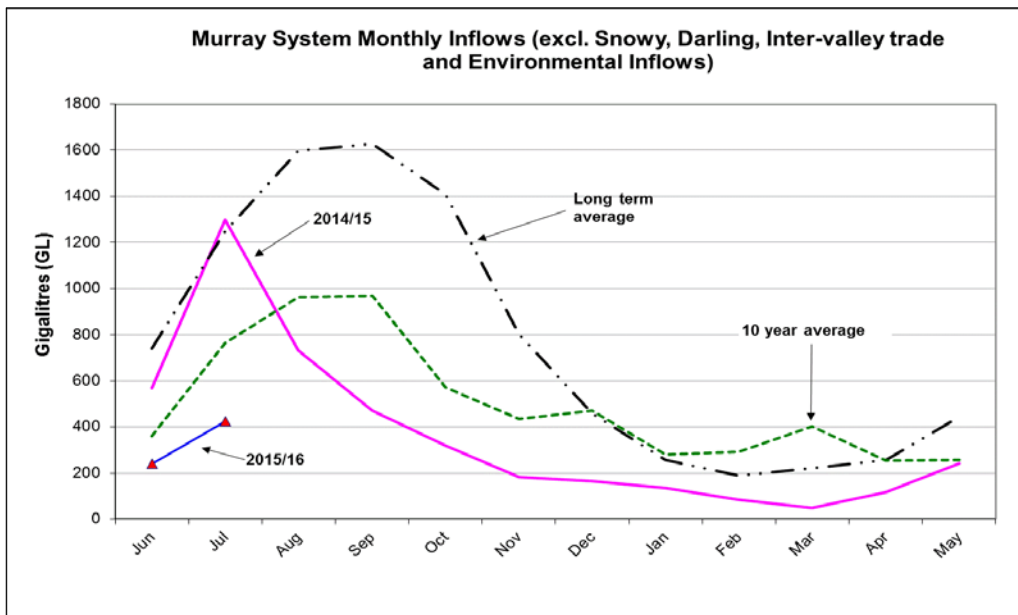
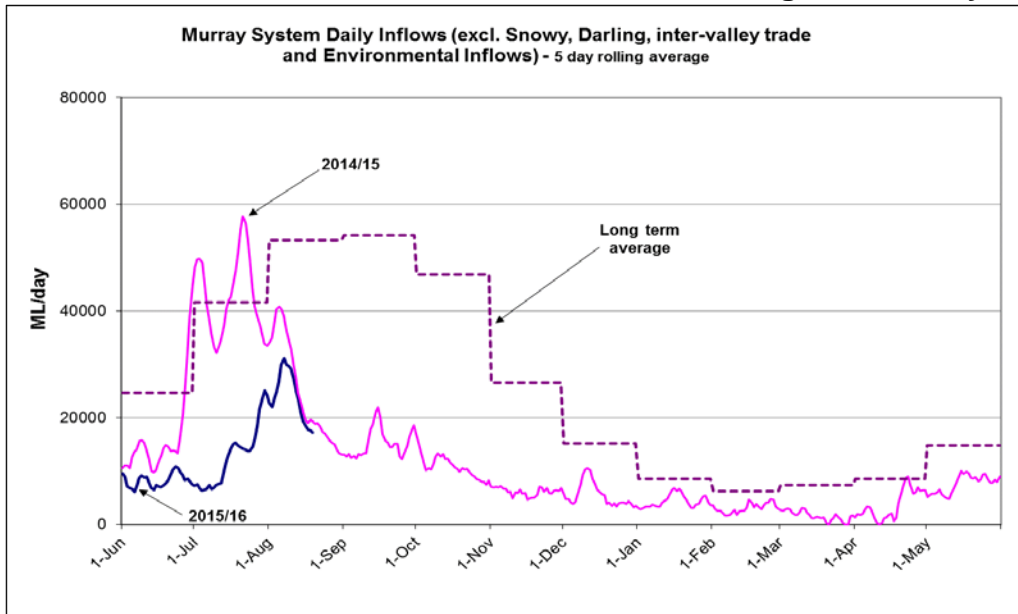
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.87	2	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.87	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.89	5	Open	Open

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



Week ending Wednesday 19 Aug 2015



State Allocations (as at 19 Aug 2015)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	0%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	50%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	17%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	58%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	20%
General security	0%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>

VIC : <http://www.nvrn.net.au/allocations/current.aspx>

SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>