



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 27 JULY 2011

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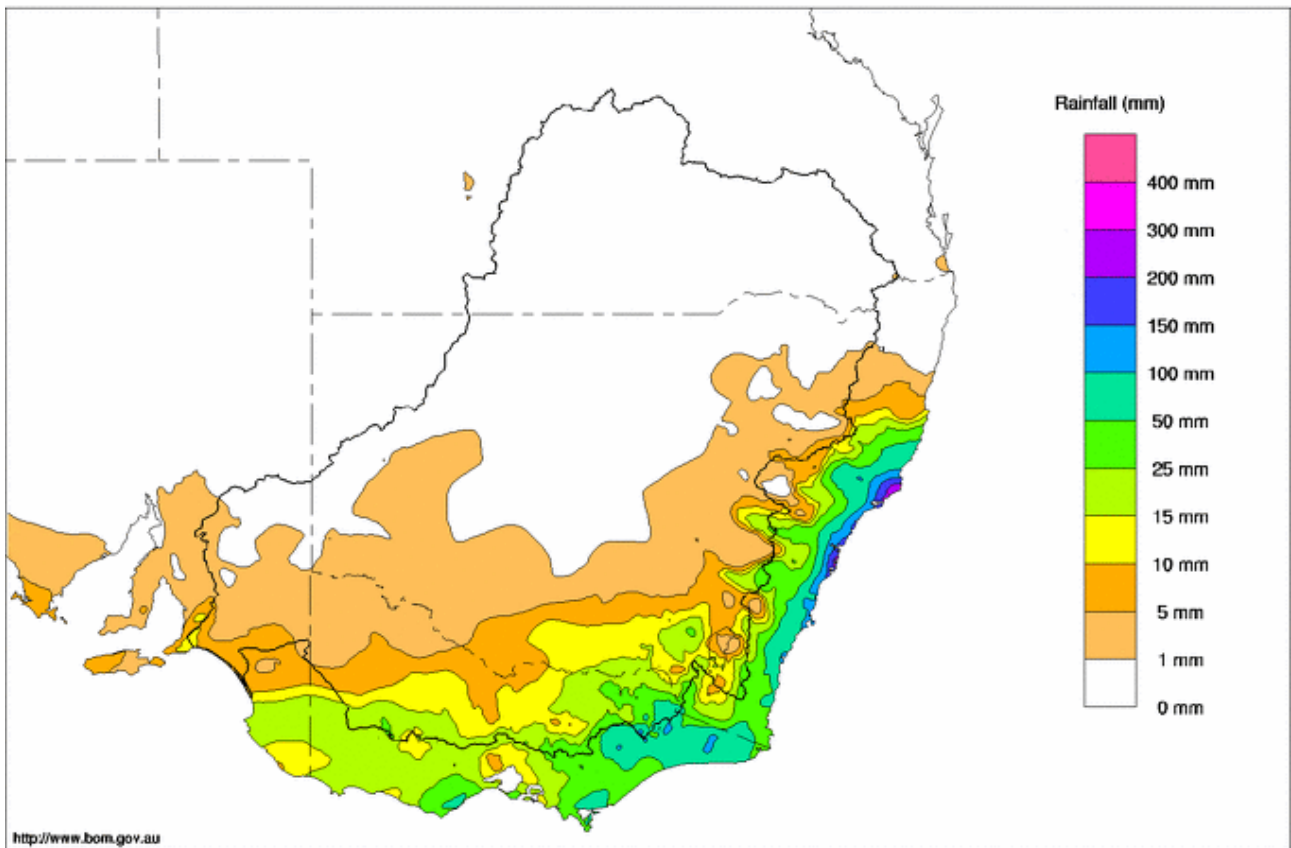
## Rainfall and Inflows

A deep Tasman Sea low that directed strong winds and heavy rain onto the central NSW and Gippsland coasts delivered relatively light rain inland of the Great Divide early in the week. A weaker front and trough followed and brought further light rain to the southern Murray-Darling Basin.

Highest precipitation totals were recorded in the upper Mitta Mitta catchment, where Omeo picked up 39 mm, and in the NSW Snowy Mountains where around 40 mm fell as snow over the high alpine areas. Elsewhere, there was 25 mm at Rocky Valley and 24 mm at Beechworth in north east Victoria, 23 mm at Kilmore Gap in central Victoria, while in the north of the Basin conditions were mostly dry (Map 1).

Streams in the upper Murray catchments have continued to flow well. In the upper River Murray the flow at Jingellic has been averaging around 10,000 ML/day throughout the week and is currently flowing at 9,700 ML/day. In the upper Mitta Mitta catchment, the flow at Hinnomunjie began the week at 1,200 ML/day, before rising to a peak of 3,500 ML/day and is now at 1,400 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has receded slowly from 13,000 to 8,300 ML/day.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 27th July 2011  
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 27 July 2011 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



## River Operations

MDBA active storage has increased 16 GL since last week and is now 7,196 GL (84% capacity). At Dartmouth Reservoir the storage rose by 24 GL during the week to 2,583 GL, which is more than two-thirds full. This is the highest storage volume at Dartmouth Reservoir since October 2002.

At Hume Reservoir, with little rain forecast, the level is being slowly raised to target about 150 GL airspace by the end of July. During the week, release from the reservoir has been reduced from 13,000 to 8,500 ML/day. The volume in the reservoir is now 2,838 GL (94% capacity), which is an increase of 15 GL since last week.

The water level in Lake Mulwala continues to be raised by about 10-12 cm/day and the level is currently 124.24 m AHD. The target level of 124.7 m AHD is expected to be reached in early August. Release from Yarrawonga Weir has been generally decreasing during the week and is currently 17,500 ML/day. Without further rain, release should continue a downward trend during the next week.

On the Edward River, the flow past Stevens Weir peaked at 8,600 ML/day on 25 July and is now receding. However, further downstream on the Edward-Wakool system, flows at Moulamein, Liewah and Stoney Crossing are expected to continue rising for the next 1–2 weeks.

The flow in the Goulburn River past McCoys Bridge reached a peak of 18,100 ML/day on 25 July. This flow is expected to remain higher than 10,000 ML/day for at least the next week. Downstream on the River Murray, the flow past Torrumbarry Weir is currently 30,800 ML/day, with the peak expected in the next few days at just over 31,000 ML/day.

At Swan Hill, the river level is currently 3.41 m (local gauge height) and is expected to continue rising to about 3.6–3.65 m early next week. These levels will correspond to flows of about 22,100–22,500 ML/day.

At Balranald on the Murrumbidgee River, the flow is about 9,000 ML/day and expected to remain at about this rate for the next 5–7 days. Downstream of the confluence with the Murrumbidgee, the River Murray at Euston currently has a flow of approximately 28,800 ML/day. This flow is expected to increase to greater than 32,000 ML/day in the next 1–2 weeks.

The Menindee Lakes remain surcharged at about 1,959 GL (113% capacity) and the flow past Weir 32 remains steady at the normal minimum of 500 ML/day.

Lake Victoria has been lowered over the week, with a net outflow from the lake of 30 GL. The level in the lake is currently 25.39 m AHD and the stored volume is 490 GL (72% capacity). This lowering of the lake is due to there being sufficient water in transit upstream to enable filling at a later date.

The flow into South Australia is currently around 34,000 ML/day and expected to remain around 35,000 ML/day for the next 1–2 weeks. The level in the Lower Lakes is currently about 0.65 m AHD and expected to remain at about this level during the next week. Flows through the Murray Mouth are currently about 15,000 ML/day and these high flows are expected to continue throughout August.

**For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Murray



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 27 Jul 2011**

| MDBA Storages             | Full Supply Level | Full Supply Volume<br>(GL) | Current Storage Level | Current Storage |            | Dead Storage<br>(GL) | Active Storage<br>(GL) | Change in Total Storage for the Week<br>(GL) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|------------|----------------------|------------------------|--|
|                           | (m AHD)           |                            | (m AHD)               | (GL)            | %          |                      |                        |  |
| Dartmouth Reservoir       | 486.00            | 3 856                      | 464.18                | 2 583           | 67%        | 71                   | 2 512                  | +24  |
| Hume Reservoir            | 192.00            | 3 005                      | 191.15                | 2 838           | 94%        | 23                   | 2 815                  | +15  |
| Lake Victoria             | 27.00             | 677                        | 25.41                 | 490             | 72%        | 100                  | 390                    | -30  |
| Menindee Lakes            |                   | 1 731*                     |                       | 1 959           | 113%       | (480 #)              | 1 479                  | +7   |
| <b>Total</b>              |                   | <b>9 269</b>               |                       | <b>7 870</b>    | <b>85%</b> | <b>--</b>            | <b>7 196</b>           | <b>+16</b>                                   |
| Total Active MDBA Storage |                   |                            |                       |                 |            |                      | 84% ^                  |  |

**Major State Storages**

|                      |       |       |     |     |       |     |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 959   | 93% | 3   | 956   | +14 |
| Blowering Reservoir  | 1 631 | 1 586 | 97% | 24  | 1 562 | -12 |
| Eildon Reservoir     | 3 334 | 3 018 | 91% | 100 | 2 918 | +14 |

\* 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 26 Jul 2011

| Storage                | Active Storage (GL) | Weekly Change (GL) | Diversions (GL)  | This Week | From 1 May 2011 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 1 283               | +27                | Snowy-Murray     | +6        | 264             |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 371                 | +8                 | Tooma-Tumut      | +3        | 71              |
| Target Storage         | 1 170               |                    | Net Diversion    | 2         | 193             |
|                        |                     |                    | Murray 1 Release | +15       | 339             |

**Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) \***

| New South Wales           | This Week  | From 1 July 2011 | Victoria                        | This Week  | From 1 July 2011 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------------|---------------------------------|------------|------------------|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)   | 8.2        | 21               | Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)   | 0          | 0                |
| Wakool Sys Allowance      | 0.0        | 0                | Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 0.1        | 0                |
| Western Murray Irrigation | 0.0        | 0                | Sunraysia Pumped Districts      | 0.2        | 1                |
| Licensed Pumps            | 1          | 3                | Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0          | 2                |
| Lower Darling             | 0          | 0                | Licensed pumps - LMW            | 1          | 3                |
| <b>TOTAL</b>              | <b>9.2</b> | <b>24</b>        | <b>TOTAL</b>                    | <b>1.3</b> | <b>6</b>         |

\* 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 entitlement for July due to Additional Dilution Flow and Unregulated Flows.

|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| Entitlement this month | 108.5 * |
| Flow this week         | 229.8   |
| Flow so far this month | 709.4   |
| Flow last month        | 633.9   |

(32 800 ML/day)

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

|                         | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2010 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill               | 90      | 100                        | 200                         |
| Euston                  | 110     | 130                        | 170                         |
| Red Cliffs              | 120     | 130                        | 160                         |
| Merbein                 | 90      | 90                         | 160                         |
| Burtundy (Darling)      | -       | 310                        | 300                         |
| Lock 9                  | 110     | 120                        | 190                         |
| Lake Victoria           | 230     | 230                        | 200                         |
| Berri                   | 200     | 210                        | 240                         |
| Waikerie                | -       | -                          | 210                         |
| Morgan                  | 230     | 260                        | 310                         |
| Mannum                  | 280     | 300                        | 330                         |
| Murray Bridge           | 310     | 300                        | 330                         |
| Milang (Lake Alex.)     | 560     | 570                        | 1 510                       |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 510     | 530                        | 890                         |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.)    | 5 540   | 4 970                      | 7 500                       |
| Goolwa Barrages         | 800     | 820                        | 5 400                       |



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 27 Jul 2011

| River Murray                     | Minor Flood Stage<br>(m) | Gauge Height |         | Flow<br>(ML/day) | Trend | Average Flow this Week<br>(ML/day) | Average Flow last Week<br>(ML/day) |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|---------|------------------|-------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                  |                          | local (m)    | (m AHD) |                  |       |                                    |                                    |
| Khancoban                        | -                        | -            | -       | 3 020            | F     | 3 340                              | 3 890                              |
| Jingellic                        | 4.0                      | 2.29         | 208.81  | 9 760            | R     | 9 930                              | 10 850                             |
| Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River ) | 4.2                      | 1.81         | 218.70  | 1 540            | F     | 1 560                              | 2 280                              |
| Heywoods                         | 5.5                      | 2.36         | 155.99  | 8 710            | F     | 11 260                             | 17 210                             |
| Doctors Point                    | 5.5                      | 2.75         | 151.22  | 11 580           | F     | 14 000                             | 19 660                             |
| Albury                           | 4.3                      | 1.76         | 149.20  | -                | -     | -                                  | -                                  |
| Corowa                           | 7.0                      | 3.09         | 129.11  | 13 970           | S     | 15 570                             | 21 740                             |
| Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)            | 6.4                      | 2.78         | 117.82  | 19 480           | F     | 23 040                             | 29 320                             |
| Tocumwal                         | 6.4                      | 3.70         | 107.54  | 22 800           | F     | 24 660                             | 29 250                             |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)           | 7.3                      | 6.63         | 85.18   | 30 750           | R     | 28 750                             | 23 960                             |
| Swan Hill                        | 4.5                      | 3.41         | 66.33   | 20 870           | R     | 20 300                             | 18 180                             |
| Wakool Junction                  | 8.8                      | 6.40         | 55.52   | 27 040           | R     | 26 060                             | 23 460                             |
| Euston Weir (d/s)                | 8.8                      | 4.32         | 46.16   | 28 790           | R     | 28 150                             | 26 380                             |
| Mildura Weir (d/s)               | -                        | -            | -       | 25 060           | F     | 25 060                             | -                                  |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s)             | 7.3                      | 4.63         | 29.39   | 30 760           | S     | 30 310                             | 29 510                             |
| Rufus Junction                   | -                        | 6.24         | 23.17   | 33 790           | F     | 32 770                             | 29 640                             |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)         | -                        | 2.21         | -       | 29 140           | R     | 27 560                             | 23 780                             |
| <b>Tributaries</b>               |                          |              |         |                  |       |                                    |                                    |
| Kiewa at Bandiana                | 2.7                      | 2.43         | 155.66  | 2 900            | F     | 2 710                              | 2 700                              |
| Ovens at Wangaratta              | 11.9                     | 10.25        | 147.93  | 8 260            | F     | 9 870                              | 8 770                              |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge        | 9.0                      | 7.36         | 98.78   | 17 680           | F     | 17 700                             | 15 360                             |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)     | -                        | 4.48         | 84.25   | 8 330            | F     | 8 330                              | 5 990                              |
| Edward at Liewah                 | -                        | -            | -       | 3 830            | R     | 3 680                              | 2 820                              |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing        | -                        | 2.86         | 56.35   | 4 920            | R     | 4 500                              | 3 550                              |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald        | 5.0                      | 5.35         | 61.31   | 8 990            | R     | 7 600                              | 6 690                              |
| Barwon at Mungindi               | -                        | 3.33         | -       | 330              | F     | 460                                | 670                                |
| Darling at Bourke                | -                        | 4.26         | -       | 1 210            | S     | 1 200                              | 1 140                              |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks        | -                        | -            | -       | 850              | F     | 980                                | 1 350                              |

|   |        |        |
|---|--------|--------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume<br>(i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 14 360 | 14 270 |
|---|--------|--------|

**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      | -0.66 | -     | No. 7 Rufus River     | 22.10       | +1.11 | +3.96 |
| No. 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05       | -0.49 | -     | No. 6 Murtho          | 19.25       | +0.02 | +2.07 |
| No. 15 Euston      | 47.60       | -0.33 | -     | No. 5 Renmark         | 16.30       | +0.02 | +1.79 |
| No. 11 Mildura     | 34.40       | -0.01 | +1.68 | No. 4 Bookpurnong     | 13.20       | +0.04 | +2.81 |
| No. 10 Wentworth   | 30.80       | -0.03 | +1.99 | No. 3 Overland Corner | 9.80        | +0.02 | +2.18 |
| No. 9 Kulnine      | 27.40       | +0.01 | +1.13 | No. 2 Waikerie        | 6.10        | -0.01 | +2.28 |
| No. 8 Wangumma     | 24.60       | +0.07 | +2.02 | No. 1 Blanchetown     | 3.20        | -0.01 | +1.46 |

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD) | 0.65 |
|--|------|

**Barrages**

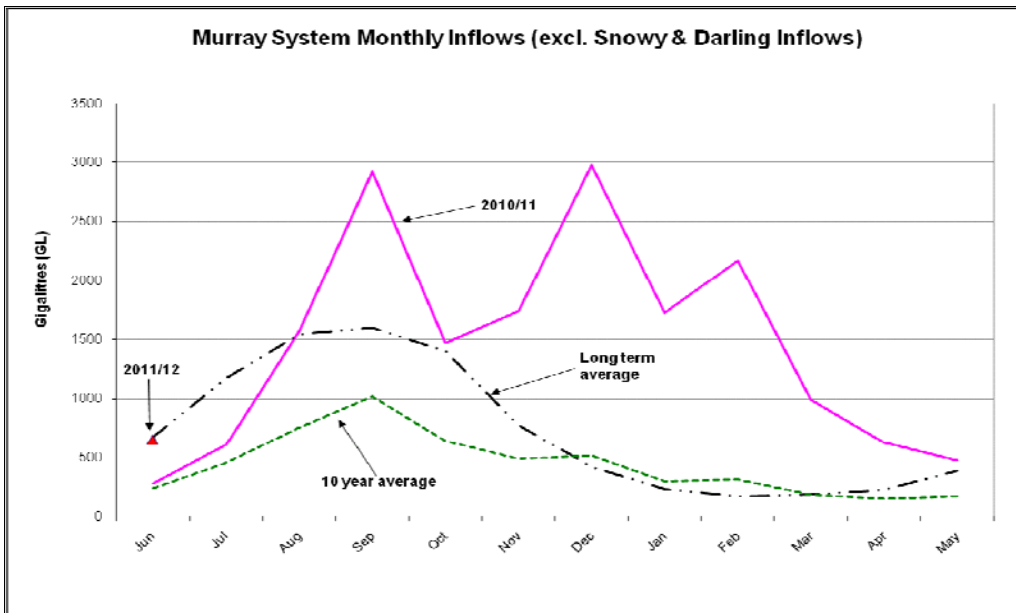
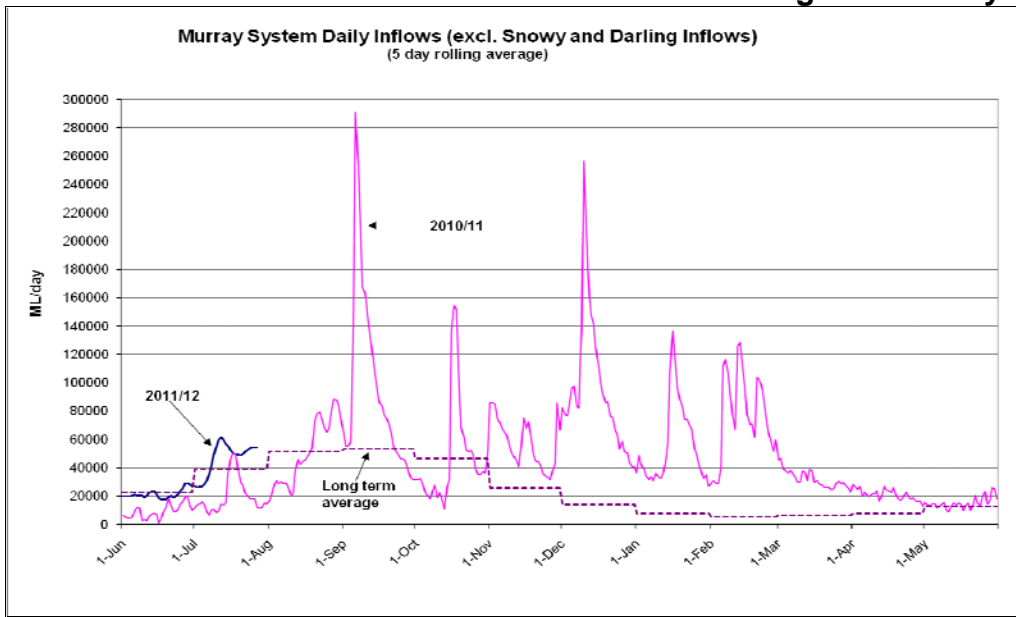
**Fishways at Barrages**

|                | Openings     | Level (m AHD) | No. Open | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa         | 128 openings | 0.70          | 10       | -         | Open          |
| Mundoo         | 26 openings  | 0.63          | 6        | -         | -             |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings   | -             | 1        | -         | -             |
| Ewe Island     | 111 gates    | -             | 22       | -         | -             |
| Tauwichee      | 322 gates    | 0.74          | 30       | Open      | Open          |

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



Week ending Wednesday 27 Jul 2011



State Allocations (as at 27 Jul 2011)

NSW - Murray Valley

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| High security    | 97% |
| General security | 0%  |

Victorian - Murray Valley

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| High reliability | 33% |
| Low reliability  | 0%  |

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| High security    | 95% |
| General security | 50% |

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

|                  |     |
|------------------|-----|
| High reliability | 60% |
| Low reliability  | 0%  |

NSW - Lower Darling

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| High security    | 100% |
| General security | 100% |

South Australia - Murray Valley

|               |      |
|---------------|------|
| High security | 100% |
|---------------|------|

NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx>  
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>  
 SA : <http://www.waterforgood.sa.gov.au/category/news/>