



# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 24 OCTOBER 2012

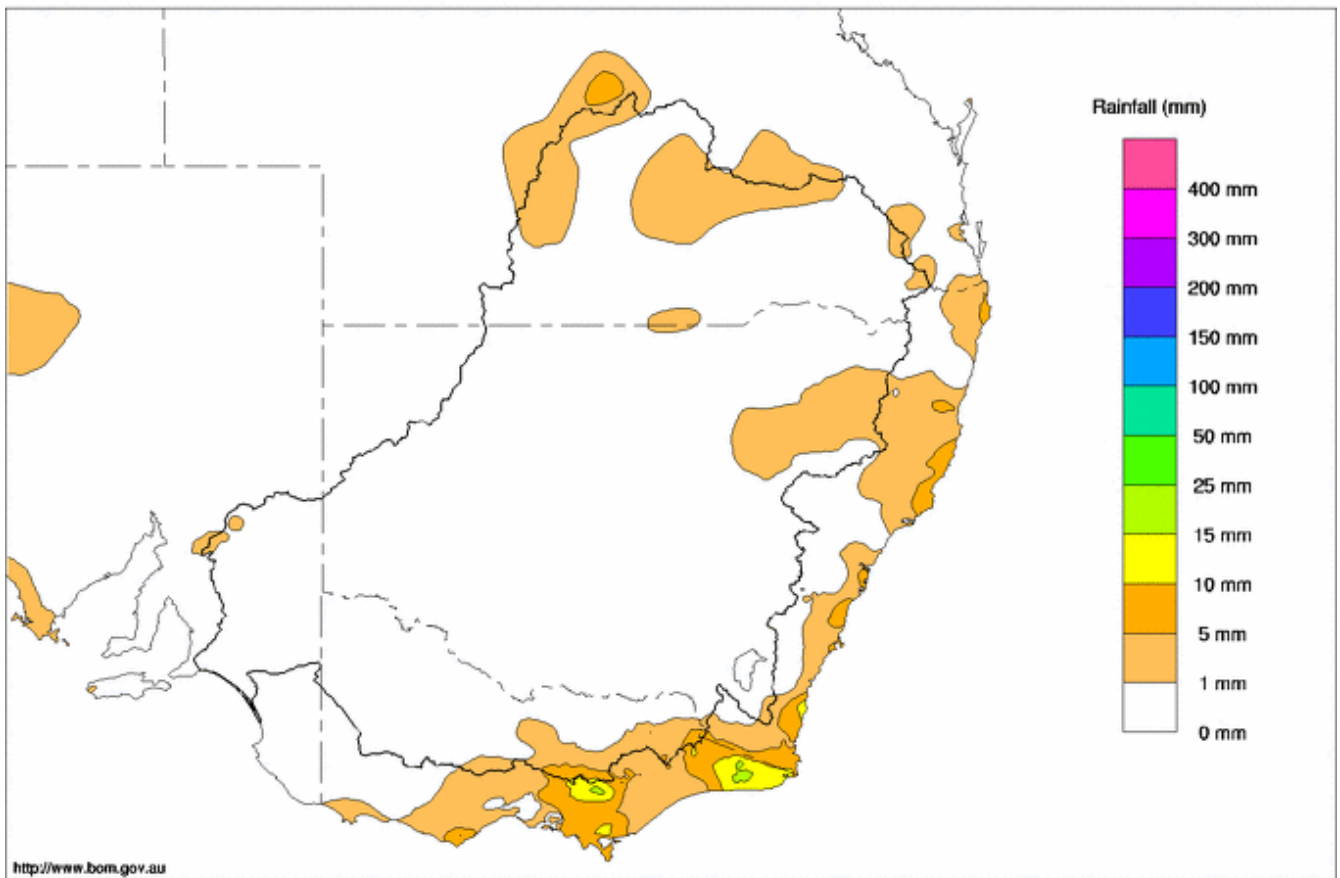
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## Rainfall and Inflows

It's been one of the driest weeks across the Murray-Darling Basin for some time with hot temperatures in the north and very little rain recorded at any location despite the passage of a weak trough and another burst of cold southerly winds over south-eastern areas late in the week. The only location to record more than 5 mm was Woods Point in the upper Goulburn River catchment. The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that the mostly dry conditions will continue during the coming days.

Stream flows in the upper Murray system tributaries have receded throughout the week. For example, on the upper Mitta Mitta River, the flow at Hinnomunjie Bridge decreased from 4,800 ML/day to 1,400 ML/day. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Biggara receded from 2,800 to 1,800 ML/day. The flow also fell away on the Ovens River, with an additional decrease resulting from a reduction in the release from Lake Buffalo by Goulburn-Murray Water to assist in filling the storage prior to summer. The Ovens River at Rocky Point dropped from 2,300 to 1,200 ML/day.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 24th October 2012  
Product of the National Climate Centre



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

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Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 24 October 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)



## River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 20 GL this week and is currently 8,721 GL, or 101% capacity. Before this week's slight decrease, the active storage had reached its highest level (8,741 GL) since December 1990. However at that time, it was possible to surcharge Menindee Lakes to levels well above those currently permitted; so in effect, under the current storage configuration and operating protocols, last week's MDBA active storage is close to the highest level it could now reach. Information on upper State shares within each storage can be found on the MDBA water accounting page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting>.

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage volume increased by 20 GL to 3,812 GL (99% capacity) (Figure 1). The release, measured at Colemans, has remained at the normal minimum of 200 ML/day; however increased releases to pass inflows and prevent unnecessary erosion caused by water flowing over the spillway are now scheduled to commence on 25 October. The release will initially increase to 1,000 ML/day before a further increase to create a pulse peaking at 3,000 ML/day begins on 30 October. See the attached flow advice for more details. Now that Dartmouth Reservoir is at 99% capacity, inflows will have to be passed to manage airspace and the storage will be effectively spilling. However, water will only flow over the Dartmouth spillway if and when rainfall is sufficiently heavy that inflows exceed the capacity of the power station to pass them. This mode of operation is likely to continue through at least until next winter (Figure 1).



**Figure 1 - Dartmouth Reservoir looking upstream (top) and towards the spillway (bottom), 23 October 2012.** After being as low as 11% capacity during April 2007, higher rainfall in recent years has resulted in a steady rise. Between February 2010 and October 2012, the storage increased from 30% capacity to effective Full Supply (99%).  
Photo: Peter Liepkalns, Goulburn-Murray Water.



At Hume Reservoir, the storage volume has decreased by 28 GL from a peak level of 2,983 GL on 17 October to the current volume of 2,955 GL (98% capacity). The release has been increased to 13,500 ML/day and is expected to be increased slightly more in the coming days to meet downstream demands. Hume Reservoir is now in the supply mode of operation and if dry conditions continue, is expected to continue decreasing in volume during the weeks and months ahead. The additional inflow to Hume Reservoir resulting from the commencement of spill from Dartmouth Reservoir is quite small and will have minimal impact unless there is a return to wet conditions.

At Yarrawonga Weir, total diversions through Mulwala Canal and Yarrawonga Main Channel have increased to almost 10,000 ML/day. The pool level in Lake Mulwala is 124.77 m AHD and the release downstream is currently 8,800 ML/day. A release close to 9,000 ML/day is expected in the coming days.

On the Edward River system, combined inflow through the Edward and Gulpa offtakes has remained fairly steady at around 2,100 ML/day. At Stevens Weir, the flow has decreased from 2,300 to 1,500 ML/day and may decrease slightly more in the coming days. Flows along the lower Edward, Wakool and Niemur Rivers continue to slowly recede.

On the Goulburn River, a pulse of environmental water passed the McCoys gauge during the week with a peak of 4,500 ML/day on 21 October. The flow has now decreased to 2,800 ML/day and should continue to slowly recede in the coming week. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow on the River Murray has remained between 10,500 and 12,000 ML/day throughout the week, with about 2,250 ML/day being diverted through National Channel. The flow downstream of Torrumbarry is expected to decrease below 10,000 ML/day in the coming days.

On the lower Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald has increased this week with the arrival of environmental water released from upstream. The current flow is 5,600 ML/day and flows above 4,000 ML/day are expected to continue through until early summer.

At Euston Weir the flow is currently at 21,400 ML/day and should continue slowly receding in the coming week. Flows through the Sunraysia district are also receding but remain above 20,000 ML/day at Colignan and Mildura.

Total storage at Menindee Lakes decreased by 22 GL this week to 1,962 GL (113% capacity). The release to the lower Darling River (measured at Weir 32) has been increased to 3,900 ML/day. Further increases to the release as described in last week's lower Darling River flow advice are now being reviewed in light of on-going planning for environmental flow targets on the lower River Murray. Further updates will be provided in future Weekly Reports. Downstream on the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has eased further and is now at 800 ML/day but expected to begin rising again next week.

At Lake Victoria the volume increased this week from 657 to 666 GL (98% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently 19,700 ML/day and should remain fairly steady in the range from 19,000 to 20,000 ML/day during the coming days.

The flow over Lock 1 has receded from 43,700 to 32,000 ML/day; and at the Lower Lakes, the 5 day average level for Lake Alexandrina has increased to 0.76 m AHD.

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

DAVID DREVERMAN  
Executive Director, River Management



**Water in Storage**

**Week ending Wednesday 24 Oct 2012**

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	485.32	3 812	99%	71	3 741	+20
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	191.75	2 955	98%	23	2 932	-28
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.91	666	98%	100	566	+8
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 962	113%	(480 #)	1 482	-22
<b>Total</b>		<b>9 269</b>		<b>9 395</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>8 721</b>	<b>-20</b>
Total Active MDBA Storage							101% ^	

**Major State Storages**

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	969	94%	3	966	-46
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 485	91%	24	1 459	-16
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 319	100%	100	3 220	+1

\* 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 23 Oct 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2012
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 415	+14	Snowy-Murray	+0	471
Snowy-Murray Component	906	+30	Tooma-Tumut	+4	166
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-4	305
			Murray 1 Release	+12	685

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

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2012	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2012
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	55.8	353	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	13.9	70
Wakool Sys Allowance	0.0	0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	13.8	148
Western Murray Irrigation	0.6	4	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.5	19
Licensed Pumps	5.8	58	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.3	6
Lower Darling	2.9	95	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36.5</b>	<b>292</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 this month due to Unregulated Flows and Additional Dilution Flow.

Entitlement this month	170.0 *	
Flow this week	163.9	(23 400 ML/day)
Flow so far this month	933.3	
Flow last month	1,383.7	

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2012
Swan Hill	100	100	120
Euston	100	130	120
Red Cliffs	120	120	120
Merbein	210	190	130
Burtundy (Darling)	500	480	420
Lock 9	140	150	130
Lake Victoria	210	220	240
Berri	210	210	200
Waikerie	370	290	220
Morgan	290	240	210
Mannum	210	200	200
Murray Bridge	240	230	240
Milang (Lake Alex.)	370	360	420
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	230	230	270
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	3 510	3 540	3 420
Goolwa Barrages	470	450	2 450



**River Levels and Flows**

**Week ending Wednesday 24 Oct 2012**

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	-	-	-	1 920	F	3 280	3 020
Jingellic	4.0	1.81	208.33	5 680	F	7 800	8 590
Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River )	4.2	1.61	218.50	910	S	980	1 940
Heywoods	5.5	2.97	156.60	13 460	R	11 920	8 430
Doctors Point	5.5	3.15	151.62	16 600	R	15 340	11 370
Albury	4.3	2.14	149.58	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.28	129.30	15 970	S	14 120	14 190
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.49	116.53	8 790	R	8 270	14 420
Tocumwal	6.4	2.19	106.03	9 020	R	9 260	16 140
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.64	82.19	11 760	F	11 310	12 540
Swan Hill	4.5	1.98	64.90	10 570	R	11 380	12 290
Wakool Junction	8.8	4.88	54.00	16 400	F	17 690	19 510
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	3.33	45.17	21 400	F	22 460	27 120
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	22 360	F	22 880	31 850
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.99	28.75	20 290	R	22 650	35 790
Rufus Junction	-	5.09	22.02	18 500	F	21 920	38 830
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	2.17	-	32 040	F	38 890	44 060
<b>Tributaries</b>							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	2.10	155.33	2 280	F	2 440	2 440
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.61	146.29	2 170	R	2 430	2 690
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	2.54	93.96	2 780	F	3 540	1 770
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.68	81.45	1 540	F	2 330	3 110
Edward at Liewah	-	2.77	58.15	2 240	F	2 450	2 550
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	2.03	55.53	2 360	F	2 740	3 460
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	4.23	60.19	5 660	R	4 160	3 760
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.11	-	0	F	0	20
Darling at Bourke	-	4.15	-	590	S	610	880
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.94	-	770	F	930	1 050

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	11 320	15 450
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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	-0.13	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.21	+2.82
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.02	+1.09
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.04	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.03	+0.97
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+1.07	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+1.93
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.11	+1.35	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+1.41
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.69	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	-0.19	+1.81
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.04	+1.14	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.14	+1.42

**Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

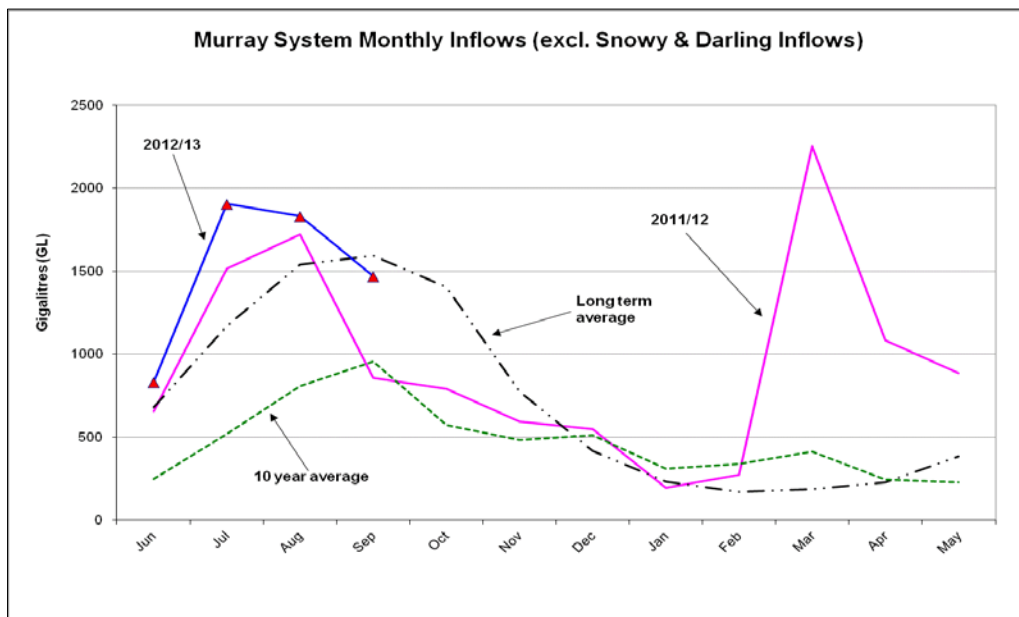
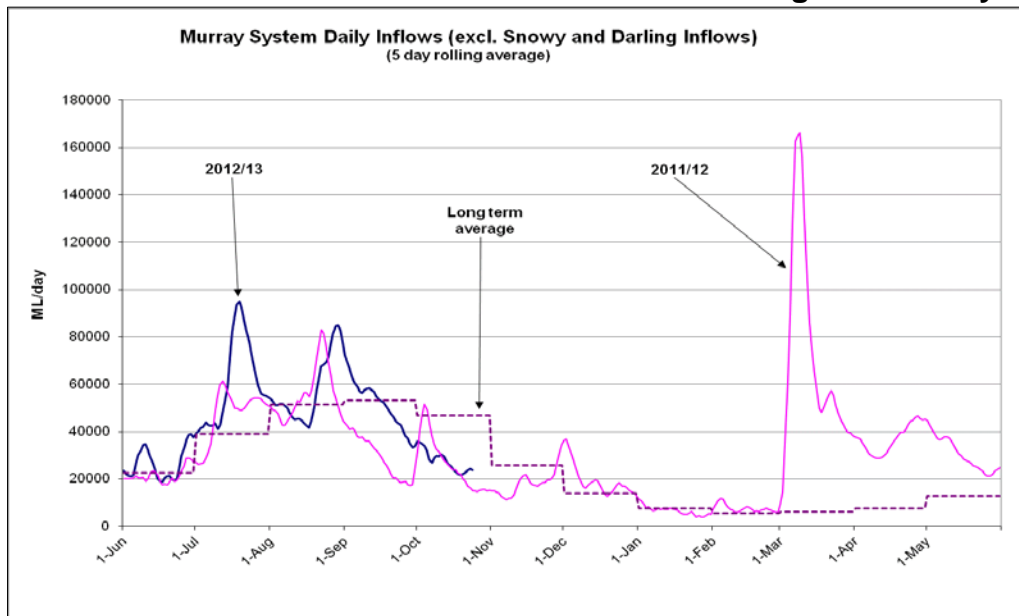
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.76
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**Barrages**

**Fishways at Barrages**

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.79	20	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.53	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	10	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.77	40	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 24 Oct 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	95%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	64%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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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/>

# Mitta Mitta River Flow advice



23 October 2012

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## Higher Dartmouth releases commencing 25 October 2012

The release of water from Dartmouth Dam will increase from 25 October 2012. Dartmouth Dam is currently at 99% capacity. Releases through the high level outlet while the dam is nearly full will enable hydro-electric power generation, while maintaining high levels of water security and reducing the risk of flows over the spillway. These releases are also expected to benefit the environment of the Mitta Mitta River without significantly impacting on river users.

Initially, the flow at Colemans will be 1,000 ML/day from 25 October, increasing to 3,000 ML/day on 30 October. The flow will then be gradually reduced during the remainder of the week, to about 2,000 ML/day on 4 November.

The rate of rise in the river level at Colemans could be up to 150 mm/hr, with the maximum rate of fall being 30 mm/hr.

In the next few weeks, releases are planned to maintain the water level in Lake Dartmouth at about 485.4 m AHD (60 cm [40,000 ML] below full supply level) which will reduce the likelihood of flows passing over the spillway. Therefore, in the foreseeable future, the flow at Colemans is likely to remain in the range of 500–4,000 ML/day, depending on inflows to the lake.

If the flow at Colemans is likely to exceed 4,000 ML/day or the flow at Tallandoon is expected to exceed 5,000 ML/day, a further flow advice will be issued.

MDBA will provide a flow forecast each Wednesday for the following week on the MDBA website at [http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river\\_info/storage\\_volumes](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/storage_volumes).

Landholders and river users, including pumpers, should take in to account the increase in flow rates along the Mitta Mitta River and make any necessary adjustments to their river activities.

ENDS

**For media information contact the MDBA Media Office at [media@mdba.gov.au](mailto:media@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0141. For other information contact MDBA at [inquiries@mdba.gov.au](mailto:inquiries@mdba.gov.au) or 02 6279 0100.**

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