



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2012

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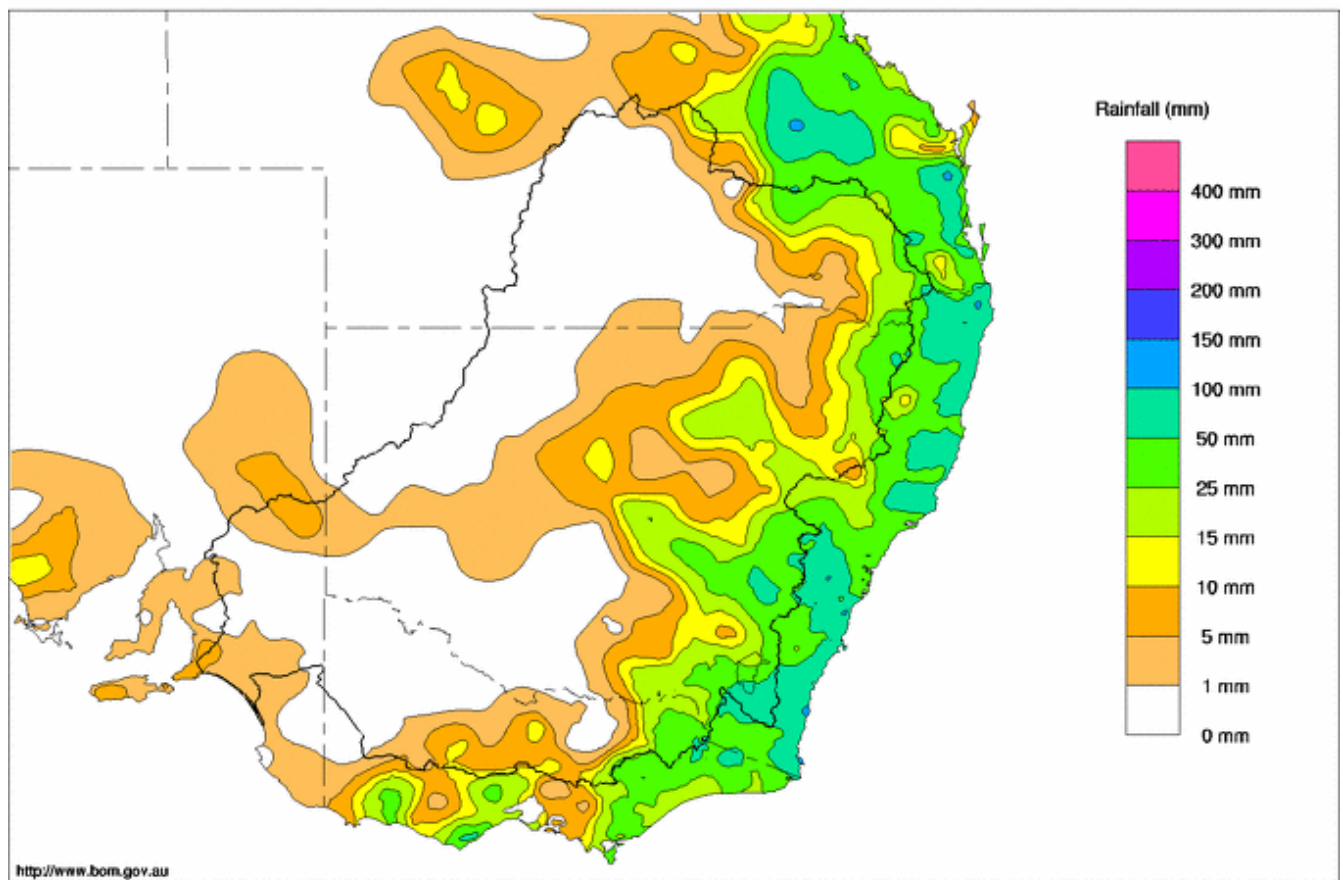
Rainfall and Inflows

Rainfall this week fell along the eastern slopes and ranges of the Murray-Darling Basin as a near-stationary trough was fed by persistent, moist easterly winds. This on-going weather pattern has brought scattered showers and thunderstorms along Australia's east coast and the eastern areas of the Basin for much of February, while by contrast, the south-west of the Basin has remained fairly dry. Areas in the far north and north-west of the Basin experienced their first mostly-dry week for some time (Map 1).

Rainfall totals were quite variable due to the patchy nature of storm activity, with the heaviest rain recorded across the upper Murrumbidgee catchment where there was 86 mm at Cooma Airport, 70 mm at Cooma and 58 mm at Captains Flat. Further north, there was 45 mm at Bathurst Airport and 70 mm at Dubbo Airport. In Victoria there was 44 mm at Lake Dartmouth, 41 mm at Mt Hotham and 36 mm at Castlemaine; while in Queensland there was 62 mm at The Head and 56 mm at Dalby.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 15th February 2012

Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 15 February 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology)

On the Barwon-Darling River, peak flows from the recent rain event passed Walgett during the week where the local gauge reached 13.4 metres (a flow of around 290,000 ML/day), just under the Bureau of Meteorology's forecast of 13.5 metres. As of 16 February, the flow remains above 200,000 ML/day at Walgett and the Bureau is predicting the peak to arrive at Brewarrina next week. Downstream at



Bourke, the Darling River is continuing to rise with flows expected to increase through to the end of the month. The combined flood waters from the Barwon and Culgoa-Balonne Rivers are expected to merge and generate a peak of close to 14 metres, with the exact height depending on the timing of peaks arriving from the two floods. For more information regarding flood warnings, see the Bureau of Meteorology website at <http://www.bom.gov.au/>.

The current flood in the Barwon-Darling is the latest in a series of events that have taken place since late in 2009. The variation in rainfall location, duration and catchment conditions means the nature of Darling River floods differs from event to event and can be difficult to forecast. Satellite images provide a useful indication of flood variability and the images shown below reveal some of the spatial and hydrological differences between the flood of January-February 2011 and February-March 2012. An image taken during dry conditions in 2009 clearly shows the change that occurs in the Australian landscape between times of drought and flood (Figure 1).

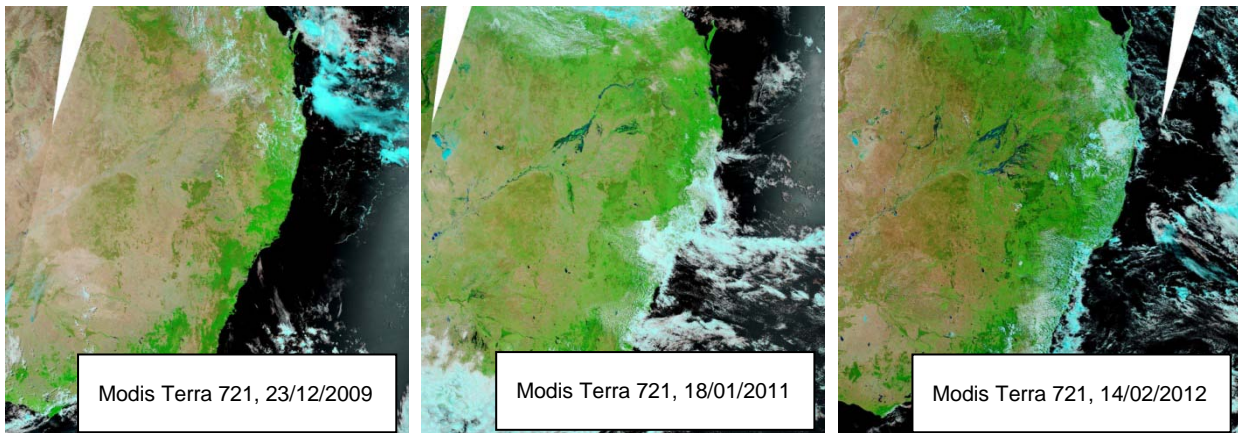


Figure 1 – Modis Terra 721 satellite images of south-eastern Australia showing (from left to right) the Murray-Darling Basin at the end of drought conditions during late 2009, during the flood of January-February 2011 and during the current flood. High flows from both the Barwon River and the Culgoa-Balonne River are expected to make the flood peak on the Darling River at Bourke from the latest event higher than other events in the last two years (Source: NASA).

In the upper tributaries of the Murray system, moderate rainfall in the Mitta Mitta and upper Murray maintained flows during the week without generating any noticeable peaks, while further west, lesser rainfall over the Ovens and Kiewa catchments kept flows relatively steady. On the River Murray, the flow at Jingellic averaged around 2,500 ML/day during the past week, which is slightly less than the previous week, and on the Ovens River the flow at Wangaratta has eased from 870 to 790 ML/day.

River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 160 GL during the week and is currently 6,394 GL (74% capacity).

At Dartmouth Reservoir, the storage has increased by 3 GL and is now 2,966 GL (77% capacity) and the release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, has increased from 200 to 250 ML/day. At Hume Reservoir, the total volume is currently 2,000 GL (67% capacity), which is a decrease of 64 GL since last week. The release from the reservoir was increased from 9,400 to 13,400 ML/day during the week in response to higher demands downstream.

At Yarrowonga Weir, the pool level has remained close to 124.72 m AHD during the week. Diversions at the irrigation offtakes have gradually increased to total about 6,700 ML/day. The release from Yarrowonga Weir has been reduced from 7,000 ML/day at the start of the week to the current release of 6,500 ML/day.

Flow into the Edward River system currently includes about 350 ML/day through the Gulpa Creek offtake and 1,210 ML/day through the Edward River offtake. Downstream at Stevens Weir, the pool is currently 4.89 m on the local gauge and the flow downstream of the weir is around 630 ML/day. The environmental pulse currently flowing through Colligen Creek increased to nearly 800 ML/d during the



week and is now slowly receding. An extended pulse, lasting 3–4 weeks, has recently commenced in the Wakool River with flows of up to 500 ML/day by the weekend. These pulses are aimed at encouraging small bodied fish to spawn.

On the Goulburn River, the flow at McCoys Bridge is currently 1,130 ML/day and is planned to be increased to about 2,000 ML/day by late February. At Torrumbarry Weir, the flow is expected to remain above 4,000 ML/day for the next week, while diversions to the National Channel have fallen from 3,000 to 2,000 ML/day.

Further downstream, the Murrumbidgee River at Balranald peaked during the week at 3,250 ML/day and is now receding. A flow of about 2,000 ML/day is expected to continue for at least the next 3–4 weeks. At Euston Weir, the flow is rising (currently 6,950 ML/day) but is expected to start slowly decreasing by the weekend.

At Menindee Lakes, the storage volume has fallen by 58 GL since last week, as the release, measured at Weir 32, has increased. The release is expected to reach 35,000 ML/day in a few days' time. The storage volume is currently 1,580 GL (91% capacity). High inflows and outflows are expected to be sustained for many months at Menindee Lakes as a result of the recent rainfall and flooding in the northern Basin.

On the lower Darling River, the flow at Burtundy has started to rise as higher releases arrive from Menindee. The flow at Burtundy is expected to reach about 20,000 ML/day by mid-March. For further information on the flood operations at Menindee Lakes, please refer to the NSW Office of Water website (www.water.nsw.gov.au/) and for flood warnings refer to the Bureau of Meteorology (www.bom.gov.au/).

At the confluence of the Murray and Darling Rivers at Wentworth, the flow is currently 17,400 ML/day and this flow is expected to steadily increase during the next three months as flood waters move along the Lower Darling River and into the River Murray. At Lake Victoria, the storage level has been reduced to 25.7 m AHD (522 GL, 77% capacity) by reducing inflows while maintaining high outflows. The flow into South Australia is currently 22,900 ML/day after rising to 25,000 ML/day during the week. At the Lower Lakes, the five day average level rose by 3 cm to 0.65 m AHD and the target release through the barrages remains 5,500 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 15 Feb 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	471.33	2 966	77%	71	2 895	+3
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	186.40	2 000	67%	23	1 977	-64
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	25.70	522	77%	100	422	-42
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		1 580	91%	(480 #)	1 100	-58
Total		9 269		7 068	76%	--	6 394	-160
Total Active MDBA Storage							74% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	763	74%	3	760	-19
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	1 302	80%	24	1 278	-21
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	3 097	93%	100	2 997	-22

* 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 14 Feb 2012

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2011
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 145	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+1	301
Snowy-Murray Component	719	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+2	262
Target Storage	1 460		Net Diversion	-1	39
			Murray 1 Release	+7	630

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)	27.3	890	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	9.7	197
Wakool Sys Allowance	2.1	16	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	17.5	391
Western Murray Irrigation	1.0	17	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	3.3	73
Licensed Pumps	4.7	139	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	1.7	38
Lower Darling	10.6	163	Licensed pumps - LMW	10	201
TOTAL	45.7	1225	TOTAL	42.2	900

* 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 February due to Additional Dilution Flow and unregulated flows.

Entitlement this month	194.0 *
Flow this week	165.2
Flow so far this month	294.7
Flow last month	543.1

(23 600 ML/day)

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

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2011
Swan Hill	110	110	130
Euston	160	150	130
Red Cliffs	150	150	130
Merbein	160	170	140
Burtundy (Darling)	300	320	380
Lock 9	260	260	180
Lake Victoria	230	220	200
Berri	330	330	260
Waikerie	-	-	-
Morgan	310	310	280
Mannum	340	390	300
Murray Bridge	440	450	350
Milang (Lake Alex.)	550	540	510
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	470	490	340
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	5 070	5 040	5 360
Goolwa Barrages	740	1 370	1 300

River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 15 Feb 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	-	-	-	970	F	1 370	1 070
Jingellic	4.0	1.33	207.85	2 030	F	2 560	3 040
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.47	218.36	640	R	630	650
Heywoods	5.5	2.93	156.56	12 960	F	12 100	8 630
Doctors Point	5.5	2.90	151.37	13 590	F	12 870	9 440
Albury	4.3	1.85	149.29	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	2.98	129.00	13 230	R	11 250	9 690
Yarrowonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.18	116.22	6 460	F	6 610	8 390
Tocumwal	6.4	1.83	105.67	6 690	R	6 930	8 510
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	1.60	80.15	4 700	F	4 810	5 650
Swan Hill	4.5	1.00	63.92	3 910	F	4 510	4 930
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.64	51.76	6 480	F	6 640	7 520
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.53	43.37	6 950	R	6 630	5 740
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	6 140	F	6 190	5 600
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.75	28.51	17 440	F	17 090	16 890
Rufus Junction	-	5.41	22.34	21 810	F	22 430	15 640
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	1.52	-	22 160	R	16 970	13 890
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.14	154.37	740	F	820	1 020
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.02	145.70	790	F	830	1 170
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.63	93.05	1 130	S	1 150	1 300
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	0.89	80.66	630	F	630	760
Edward at Liewah	-	1.79	57.17	1 110	S	1 090	1 310
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.57	55.06	670	S	600	440
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	3.05	59.01	3 010	F	2 790	1 040
Barwon at Mungindi	-	6.62	-	10 600	F	13 660	13 820
Darling at Bourke	-	9.09	-	27 700	R	25 450	22 040
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	6.20	-	14 100	R	13 770	13 920

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	3 660	7 370
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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	+0.25	+3.01
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.01	+1.35
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.06	+1.13
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	-0.03	+0.08	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.03	+2.16
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	-0.01	+1.11	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	-0.04	+1.48
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	-0.05	+0.62	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+1.47
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.05	+1.13	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	-0.03	+0.77

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

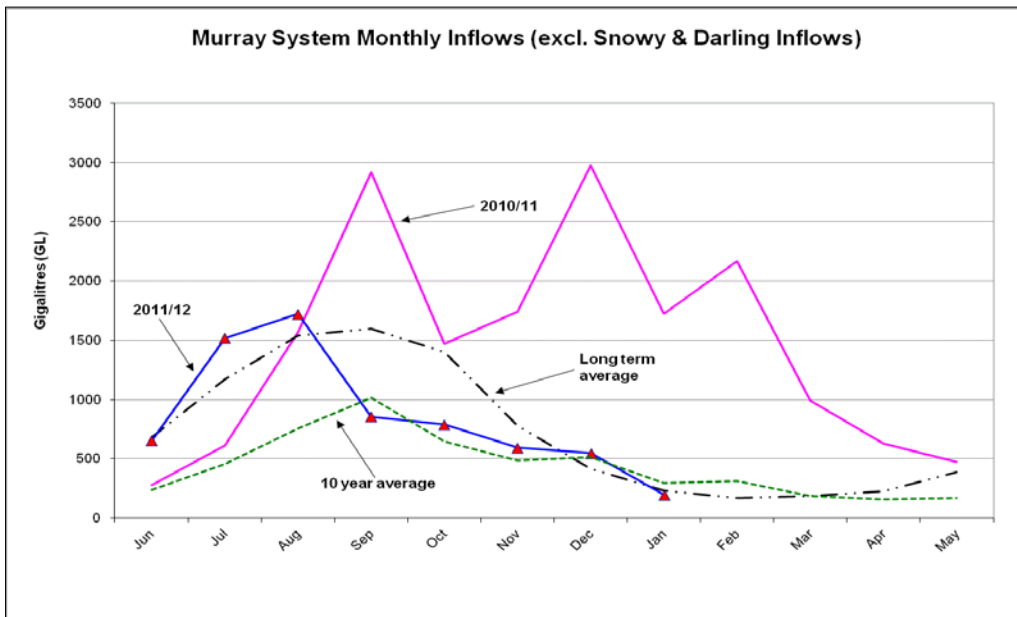
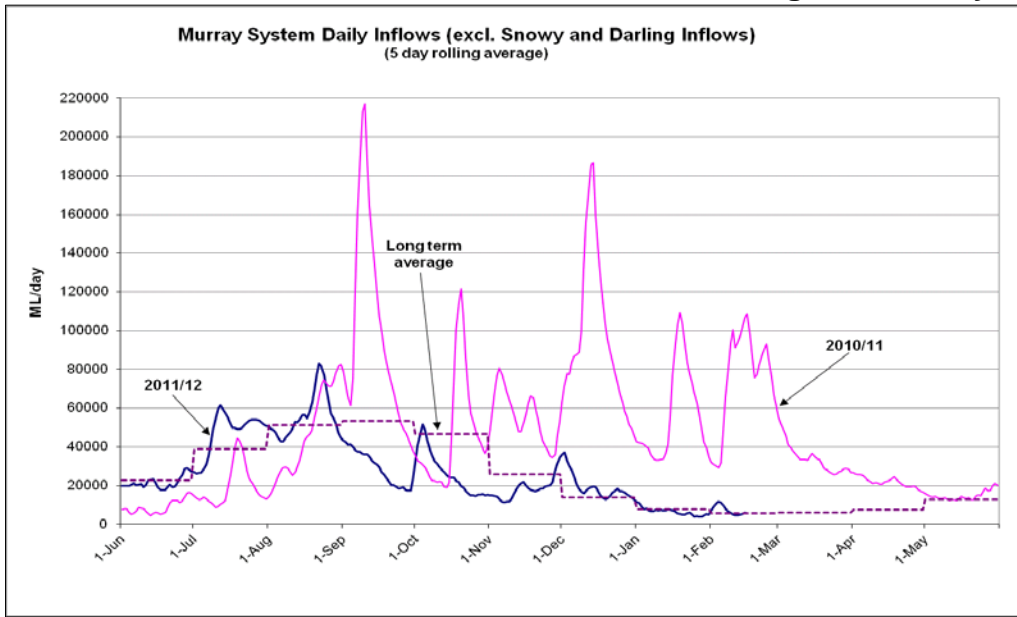
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.65
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Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.69	6	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.63	2	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	3	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	0.68	13	Open	Open

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



State Allocations (as at 15 Feb 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	100%
General security	100%

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/>