



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 25 JULY 2012

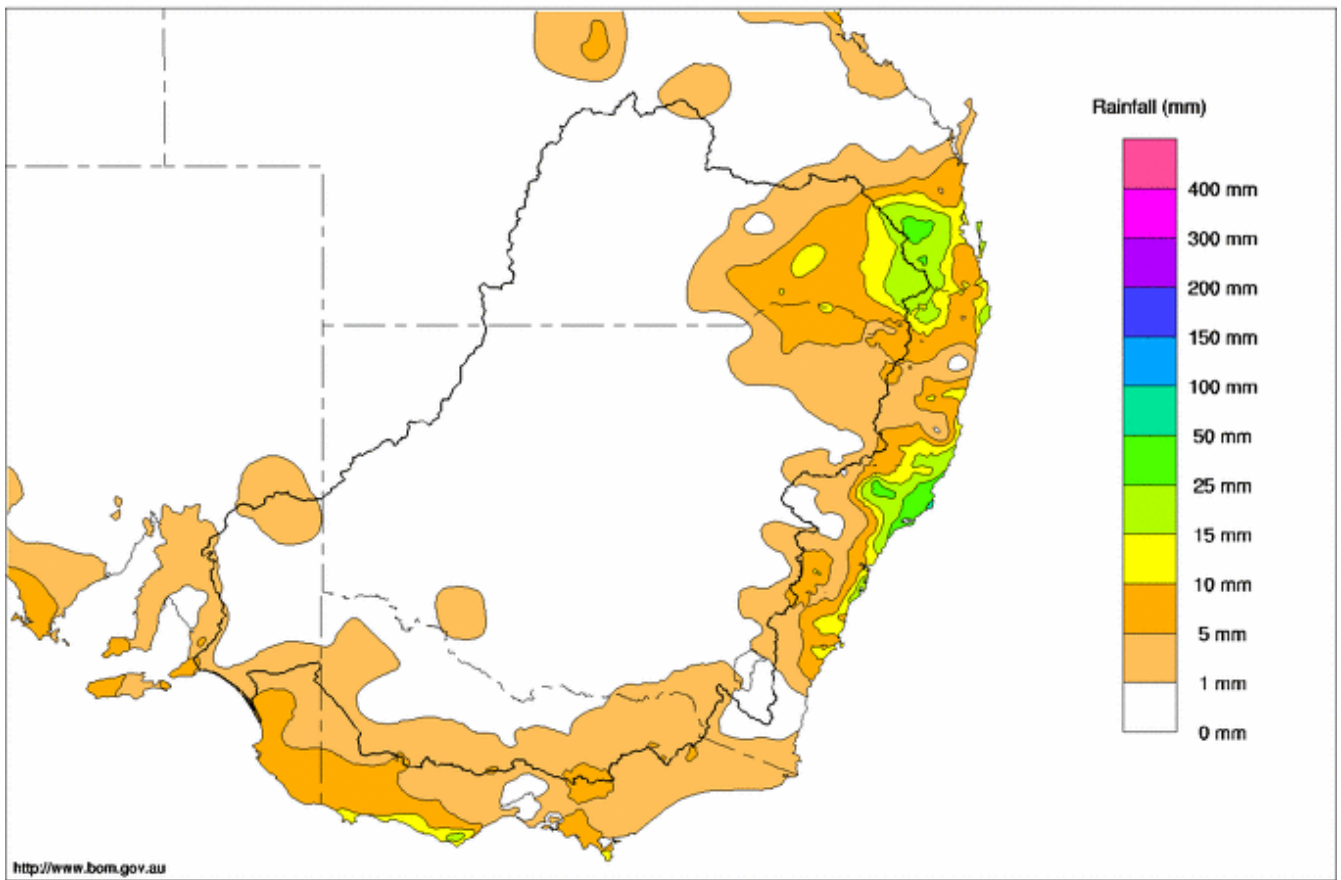
Trim Ref: D12/31278

Rainfall and Inflows

Conditions were mostly fine, mild and dry across the Murray-Darling Basin this week under the influence of high pressure. The only rainfall of any significance fell at the beginning of the week across the upper Condamine and Border Rivers catchments in Queensland where there were falls between 15 and 25 mm (Map 1). Highest totals included 23 mm at Yangan and 20 mm at Pratten.

Flows along upper Murray system tributaries have been receding during the past week following the recent peaks. On the upper River Murray, the flow at Jingellic receded from 20,300 to 12,300 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Rocky Point decreased from 15,200 to 6,300 ML/day and at Wangaratta the flow has fallen below 10,000 ML/day from a peak of over 27,000 ML/day 8 days ago. In the Darling River system, flows are now increasing along the Barwon and Darling Rivers as inflows arrive from the Gwydir and Namoi Rivers. On the Darling, the flow at Bourke has increased from 2,600 to 4,500 ML/day and is expected to reach a flow of 10,000 ML/day by early August.

Murray Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 25th July 2012
Product of the National Climate Centre



Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 25th July 2012 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).



River Operations

MDBA active storage increased by 13 GL this week to 8,142 GL, which is 95% of capacity. At Dartmouth Reservoir, total storage rose by 36 GL to 3,475 GL (90% capacity) with inflows averaging over 5,000 ML/day for the week. Release from Dartmouth, measured at Colemans, was increased on 24 July to 1,000 ML/day due to an entitlement release by AGL Hydro for electricity generation.

At Hume Reservoir, inflows have decreased from around 30,000 to 16,000 ML/day and are now holding steady. Release from Hume Reservoir was reduced to a low of 18,500 ML/day and has been managed to gain a small amount of additional airspace to improve the capacity to mitigate flooding from any future significant rainfall event. The release is expected to increase slightly in the coming days and may be increased further depending on any inflow response to forecast rain. Total storage is now 2,916 GL (97 % capacity), a decrease of 13 GL from last week.

Information on upper State shares within each storage can be found via the MDBA water accounting page at <http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/water-accounting>.

Downstream at Yarrawonga, inflows to Lake Mulwala are now declining from a broad peak of around 56,000 ML/day, with a peak release of 53,000 ML/day held for several days over the weekend. The current release from Yarrawonga Weir is 41,000 ML/day, and further reductions will occur in the coming days. The release is now expected to remain above 30,000 ML/day for at least the next week with further rises possible depending on rain and inflow responses during the days ahead. The pool level is currently 124.75 m AHD and falling slightly. At the offtakes, diversions for channel filling continue at Mulwala Canal ahead of the forthcoming irrigation season. Diversions averaged around 1,200 ML/day during the week and are expected to commence to Yarrawonga Main Channel in the next few days.

Downstream at the Barmah-Millewa forest, water levels continue to rise with increasing flow into the Edward-Wakool system via the Edward and Gulpa offtakes, Bullatale Creek and through the forest. At Toonalook, the Edward River is now flowing at 8,400 ML/day and expected to increase beyond 10,000 ML/day this week. At Stevens Weir, the release has increased from around 4,500 to 8,000 ML/day and the pool level has continued climbing, reaching 4.94 m on the local gauge (26 cm below Full Supply). Diversions through the Wakool River and Yallakool and Colligen Creek offtakes are also increasing with a current total diversion of almost 3,000 ML/day. Further downstream, flows are now increasing at all gauges on the lower Edward-Wakool system. The flow in the Wakool River at Kyalite has risen from 5,100 to 7,000 ML/day over the last 7 days.

On the Goulburn River at McCoys Bridge, the flow peaked at 20,600 ML/day over the weekend and is now receding slowly. Further rises will depend on rainfall in the weeks ahead. At Torrumbarry Weir, the release has increased to 30,300 ML/day and is expected to continue rising towards 33,000 ML/day in the coming week. The pool level at Torrumbarry Weir decreased to 85.33 m AHD during the week following the lifting of gates to enable free flow conditions for fish and to clear debris which had built up with the recent higher flows. The gates have now been returned to the water and the pool level is being increased with the aim of re-gaining Full Supply Level (86.05 m AHD) within the next week.

On the Murrumbidgee River, the flow at Balranald continues to rise slowly with the current flow at 10,500 ML/day. Flows in excess of 10,000 ML/day are expected for several weeks to come. At Euston Weir the flow increased from 30,000 to 33,100 ML/day and is expected to continue rising until at least the middle of August.

At Menindee Lakes, inflows have averaged around 2,000-2,500 ML/day and are now expected to slowly increase as higher flows begin arriving from upstream tributaries in the coming weeks. Total storage is now 1,972 GL (114% capacity), an increase of 6 GL from last week. The release continues to target an average daily release of 500 ML/day. The NSW Office of Water advises that timing for an increase in release to pass the expected higher inflows now in transit is under review, with a possible commencement as early as the next few days. Downstream at Burtundy, the flow has remained steady during the last few days at around 1,650 ML/day.



At Lake Victoria, the level decreased a further 16 GL this week and is now at 453 GL (67% capacity). The flow to South Australia rose from around 31,000 to 35,900 ML/day and is expected to continue gradually increasing in the coming days.

At the Lower Lakes, the 5-day average level at Lake Alexandrina remains at 0.79 m AHD and will be held around this level until the middle of next week before being decreased slowly back towards 0.75 m AHD as tide, weather and inflow conditions permit.

Plots showing short term forecast flows and levels for selected key sites are updated each week and are available on the MDBA website at: http://www.mdba.gov.au/water/river_info/river_flows.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 25 Jul 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 | 480.00 | 3 475 | 90% | 71 | 3 404 | +36 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 005 | 191.55 | 2 916 | 97% | 23 | 2 893 | -13 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 25.05 | 453 | 67% | 100 | 353 | -16 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731* | | 1 972 | 114% | (480 #) | 1 492 | +6 |
| Total | | 9 269 | | 8 816 | 95% | -- | 8 142 | +13 |
| Total Active MDBA Storage | | | | | | | 95% ^ | |

Major State Storages

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-----|-----|-------|-----|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | 982 | 96% | 3 | 979 | -10 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | 1 596 | 98% | 24 | 1 572 | +25 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 334 | 3 075 | 92% | 100 | 2 975 | +3 |

* 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 24 Jul 2012

| Storage | Active Storage (GL) | Weekly Change (GL) | Diversions (GL) | This Week | From 1 May 2012 |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 2 317 | n/a | Snowy-Murray | +24 | 288 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 855 | n/a | Tooma-Tumut | +8 | 60 |
| Target Storage | 1 170 | | Net Diversion | 16 | 228 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +31 | 347 |

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) | 8.7 | 19 | Yarrowonga Main Channel (net) | 0 | 0 |
| Wakool Sys Allowance | 0.0 | 0 | Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 3.2 | 11 |
| Western Murray Irrigation | 0.0 | 0 | Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 0.1 | 1 |
| Licensed Pumps | 0.5 | 2 | Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 0 | 0 |
| Lower Darling | 1.8 | 2 | Licensed pumps - LMW | 1.1 | 4 |
| TOTAL | 11.0 | 23 | TOTAL | 4.4 | 16 |

* 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 | 108.5 * |
| Flow this week | 240.8 |
| Flow so far this month | 694.4 |
| Flow last month | 642.1 |

(34 400 ML/day)

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

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2011 |
|-------------------------|---------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Swan Hill | 100 | 90 | 120 |
| Euston | 110 | 130 | 140 |
| Red Cliffs | 130 | 130 | 170 |
| Merbein | 130 | 130 | 140 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 390 | 390 | 350 |
| Lock 9 | 110 | 110 | 190 |
| Lake Victoria | 240 | 270 | 230 |
| Berri | 210 | 220 | 260 |
| Waikerie | 230 | 250 | 290 |
| Morgan | 240 | 250 | 290 |
| Mannum | 250 | 290 | 300 |
| Murray Bridge | 300 | 330 | 310 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 530 | 490 | 550 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 400 | 430 | 350 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 3 800 | 3 910 | 4 790 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 460 | 570 | 1 910 |



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 25 Jul 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 | - | - | - | 5 160 | F | 5 970 | 6 390 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 2.53 | 209.05 | 12 280 | R | 15 320 | 19 840 |
| Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River) | 4.2 | 2.17 | 219.06 | 2 750 | R | 2 620 | 2 890 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 3.35 | 156.98 | 18 500 | F | 22 000 | 26 400 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 3.59 | 152.06 | 22 100 | F | 26 200 | 32 030 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 2.69 | 150.13 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 3.8 | 4.54 | 130.56 | 26 320 | F | 31 080 | 24 750 |
| Yarrawonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 4.94 | 119.98 | 45 960 | F | 50 950 | 31 790 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 5.84 | 109.68 | 53 650 | R | 47 390 | 25 860 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 6.77 | 85.31 | 30 320 | R | 29 570 | 24 740 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 3.50 | 66.42 | 20 800 | R | 20 420 | 19 040 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 6.43 | 55.55 | 25 340 | R | 24 290 | 21 170 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 4.50 | 46.34 | 33 090 | R | 32 130 | 27 730 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | - | - | - | 32 390 | F | 28 100 | 22 610 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 4.85 | 29.61 | 34 300 | R | 32 840 | 26 710 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 6.35 | 23.28 | 35 930 | R | 34 400 | 29 830 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | 2.28 | - | 33 240 | S | 31 860 | 25 350 |
| Tributaries | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 2.45 | 155.68 | 2 970 | S | 3 730 | 5 470 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 10.46 | 148.14 | 9 380 | F | 15 920 | 20 590 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 7.97 | 99.39 | 18 830 | F | 20 000 | 16 220 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 4.48 | 84.25 | 8 050 | F | 6 050 | 4 450 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 3.43 | 58.81 | 3 260 | S | 3 190 | 2 550 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 2.85 | 56.34 | 3 890 | R | 3 270 | 1 620 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 5.66 | 61.62 | 10 480 | R | 10 360 | 10 070 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.69 | - | 1 590 | R | 640 | 310 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 4.65 | - | 4 480 | R | 3 350 | 2 460 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 1.29 | - | 1 720 | R | 1 720 | 2 180 |

| | | |
|---|--------|--------|
| Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | 21 610 | 35 470 |
|---|--------|--------|

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 |
|--------------------|-------------|-------|-------|-----------------------|-------------|-------|-------|
| Yarrawonga | 124.90 | -0.15 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +1.15 | +4.00 |
| No. 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | -0.47 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.00 | +2.12 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | -0.45 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | +0.02 | +1.84 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.01 | +1.81 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | -0.00 | +2.87 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.00 | +2.21 | No. 3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | -0.02 | +2.29 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.01 | +1.17 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | +0.03 | +2.35 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | -0.27 | +2.18 | No. 1 Blanchetown | 3.20 | -0.00 | +1.53 |

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

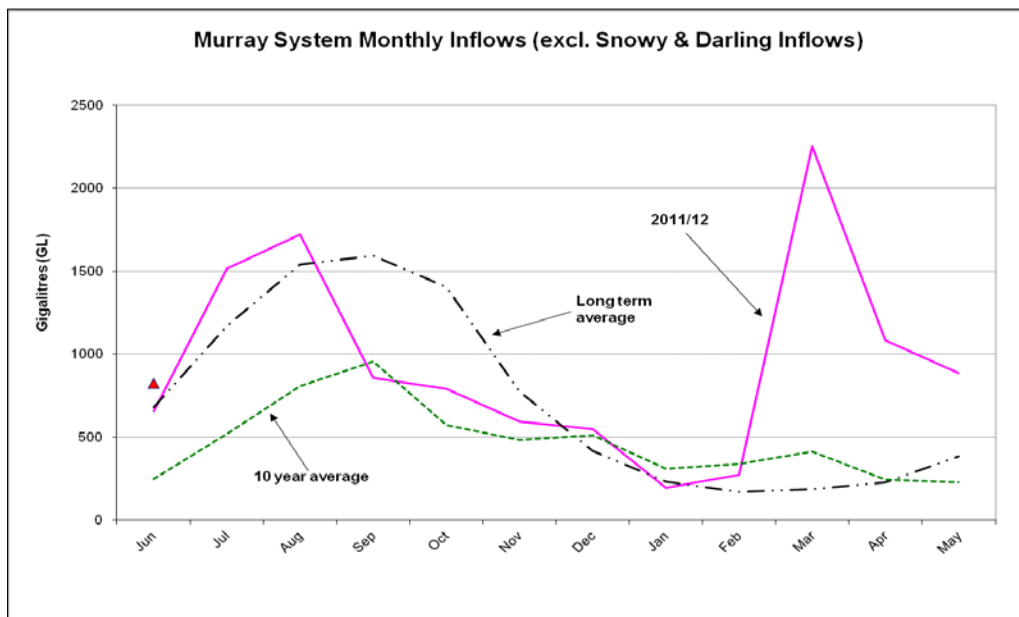
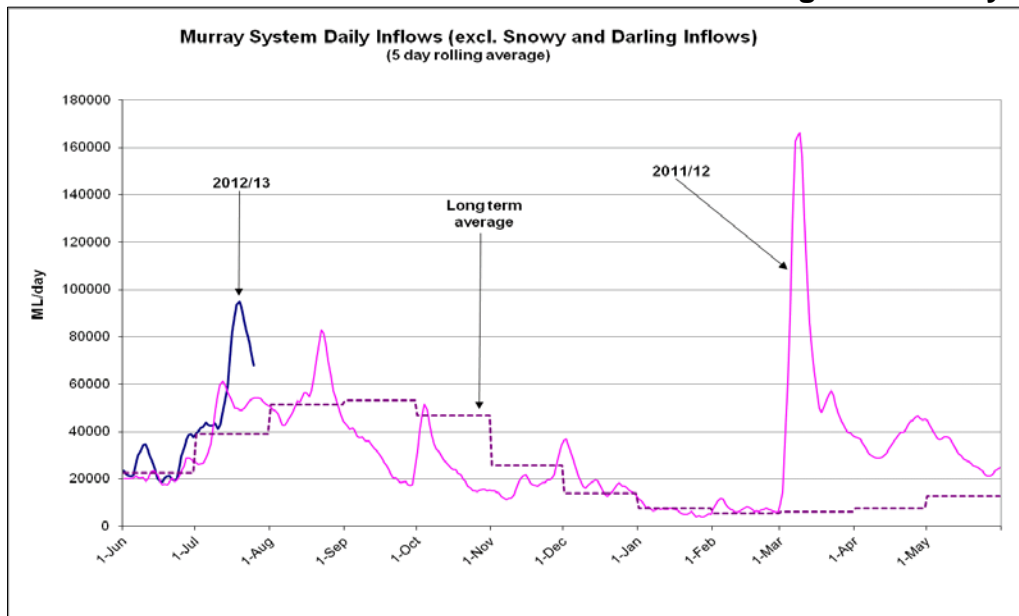
| | |
|--|------|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD) | 0.79 |
|--|------|

Barrages

Fishways at Barrages

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | No. Open | Rock Ramp | Vertical Slot |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.87 | 15 | - | Open |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | 0.86 | 2 | - | - |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | 1 | - | - |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | 30 | - | - |
| Tauwichee | 322 gates | 0.90 | 26 | Open | Open |

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



State Allocations (as at 25 Jul 2012)

NSW - Murray Valley

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

Victorian - Murray Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| High reliability | 34% |
| Low reliability | 0% |

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| High security | 95% |
| General security | 64% |

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| High reliability | 74% |
| 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/>