



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 04 MARCH 2009

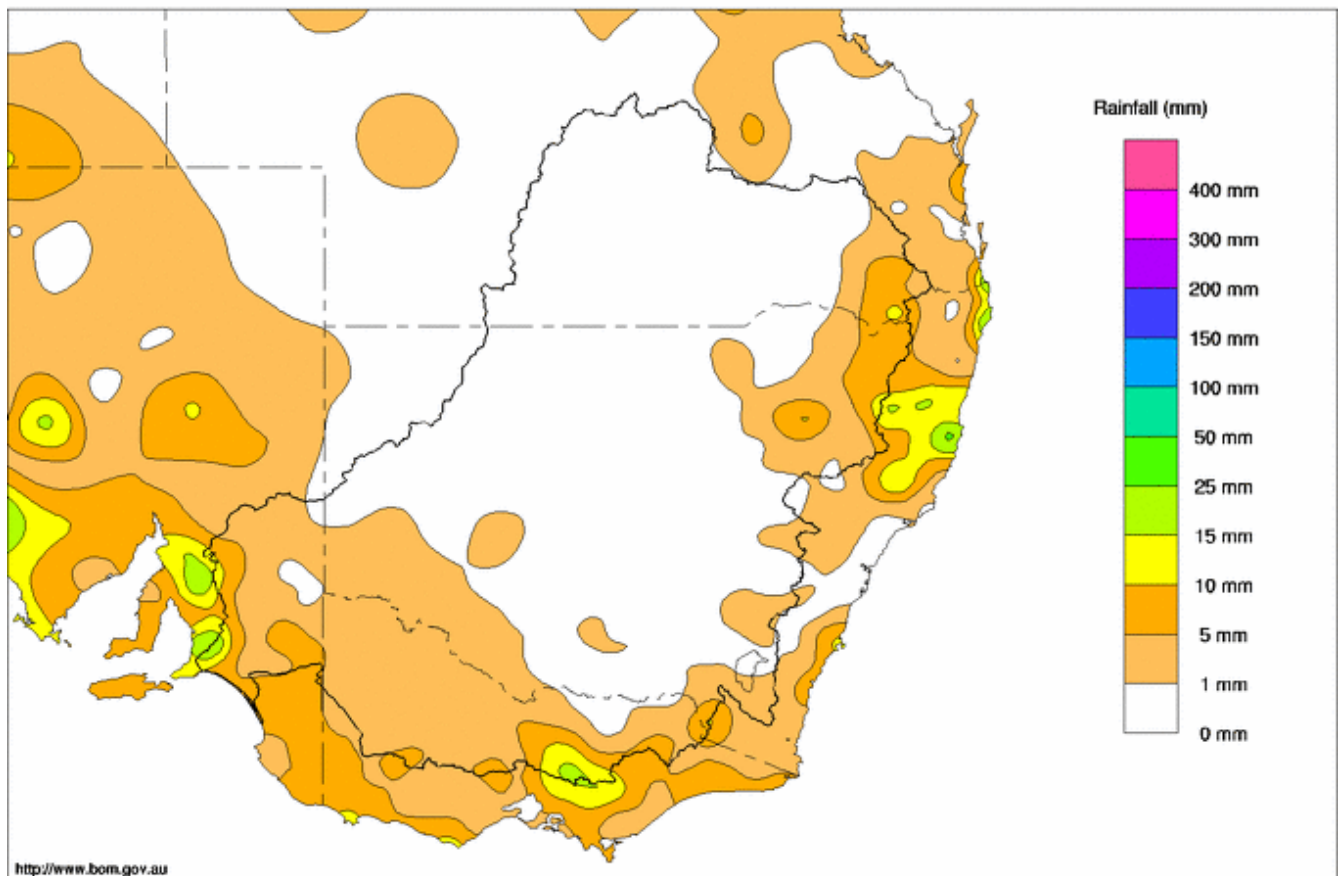
Trim Ref: D09/2498

6 March, 2009

Rainfall and Inflows

The Murray-Darling Basin received almost no rain over the past week, however Victoria received light falls of between 1 to 5 mm. Alexandra in north central Victoria received the greatest falls of 19 mm.

Murray Darling Rainfall Analysis (mm) Week Ending 4th March 2009
Product of the National Climate Centre



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February 2009 summary

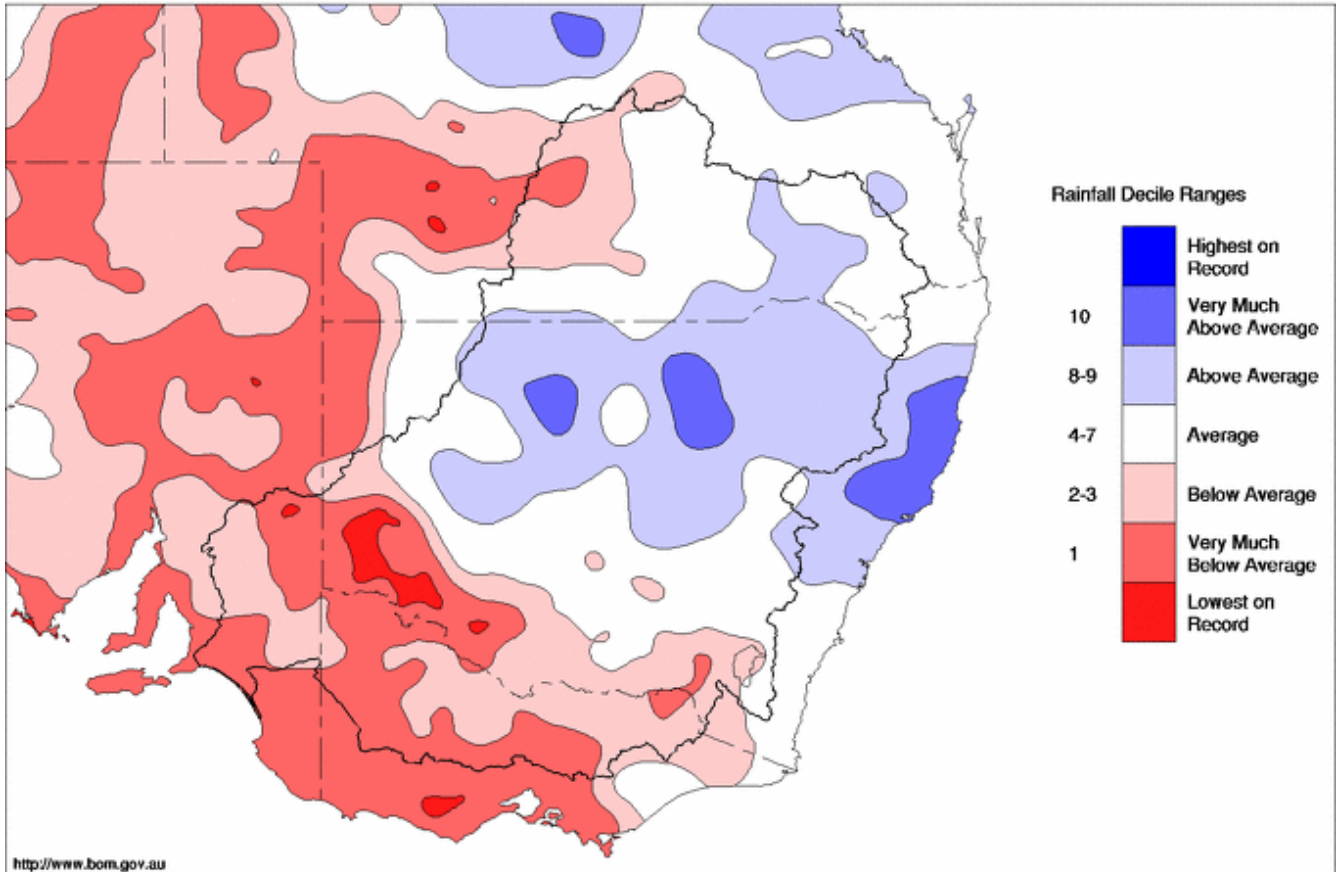
Rain over February was below the long term average across large areas of the southern Basin, particularly along the lower Murray (see decile map). Temperatures throughout the southern Basin were above average with daily maximum temperatures being 1 to 3 °C above the long term average for February (see temperature anomaly maps for February).

The hot and dry weather in February caused system inflows to recede to a total of about 40 GL which is below the previous February historic minimum of 50 GL (in 2007). The MDBA's total active (useable water) storage at the end of February was 1 170 GL (or about 13 % of capacity), slightly less than at the end of February 2008, and well below the February long term average of 4 900 GL.



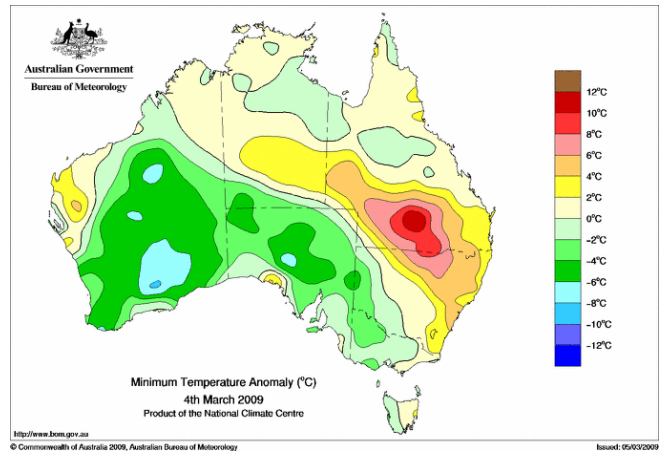
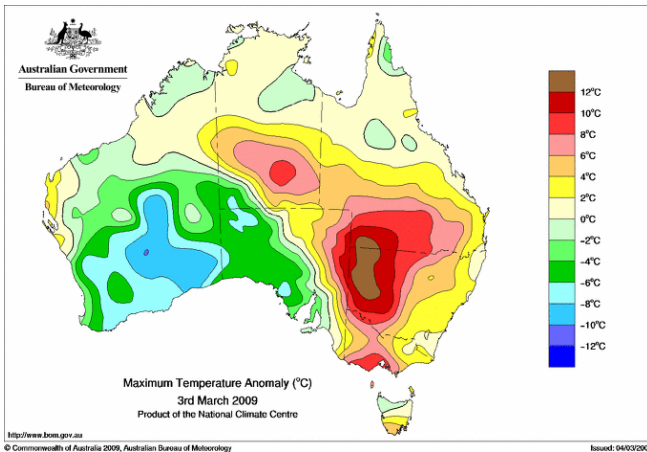
Murray Darling Rainfall Deciles February 2009

Distribution Based on Gridded Data
Product of the National Climate Centre



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River Operations

During the past week, storage in Dartmouth Reservoir decreased by 5 GL to a total of 863 GL (or 22 % capacity). Storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 52 GL to 318 GL (or 10 % capacity).

The flow at Doctors Point (downstream of Hume Dam and the Kiewa River) has been decreased from 11 500 to 9 500 ML/day in order to maintain Lake Mulwala's pool level at 124.7 m AHD. Reduced air temperatures and transmission losses have allowed Yarrawonga release to be reduced from 9 500 ML/day to 8 500 ML/day.

Rainfall in the North West of NSW late last month has increased flows in the Darling River and, together with additional inflows from the Border Rivers and upper Barwon catchment, is expected to result in approximately 200 GL of inflow to the Menindee Lakes.

The Sunraysia Regional Algal Coordinating Committee has today confirmed a Red Level Warning (high alert) for blue-green algae in the Lower Darling river at Burtundy (see www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au for more information).

Lake Victoria storage decreased by 6 GL to 163 GL (or 24 % capacity), a much smaller reduction in storage volume compared to the past few weeks, due primarily to the higher flows along the Murray supplying the majority of the flow to South Australia. The level of Lake Victoria at the end of February 2009 is the lowest for this time of year since the 1920's

Decreasing air temperatures have enabled the flow to South Australia to be reduced from 5 000 to 4 000 ML/day. The weir pools of Locks 1 to 3 are slightly above full supply level and the weir pools of Locks 4 to 6 are slightly below FSL. The level of Lake Alexandrina continues to fall and is currently around -0.9 m AHD.

For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray



Week ending Wednesday 04 Mar 2009

Water in Storage

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level (m AHD)	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level (m AHD)	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	MDBA Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the week (GL)
				(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 906	418.47	863	22%	80	783	-5
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 038	170.74	318	10%	30	288	-52
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	22.08	163	24%	100	63	-6
Menindee Lakes		1 731 *		200	12%	(- -) #	0	+69
Total		9 352		1 543	17%	--	1 133	+6

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL % of Total Active MDBA Storage = 13%

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and

control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	513	50%	3	510	-3
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	517	32%	24	493	-23
Eildon Reservoir	3 390	530	16%	100	430	-22

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 03-Mar-2009

Storage	Active storage (GL)	Weekly change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This week	From 1 May 2008
Lake Eucumbene - Total	556	-20	Snowy-Murray	+14	554
Snowy-Murray Component	254	-12	Tooma-Tumut	+0	214
Target Storage	1 410		Nett Diversion	14.4	340
			Murray 1 Release	+16	751

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales			Victoria		
	This week	From 1 July 2008		This week	From 1 July 2008
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	3.5	95.0	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	2.0	75
Wakool System loss	0.0	27.0	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	9.2	173
Western Murray Irrig.	0.8	21.2	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.7	88
Licensed Pumps	3.5	86.0	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.8	9
Lower Darling	0.2	9.6	Licensed pumps - LMW	6.2	109
TOTAL	8.0	238.7	TOTAL	20.9	454

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

Flow to South Australia (GL)

Entitlement this month	186 *	(4 300 ML/day)
Flow this week	30.0	
Flow so far this month	18	
Flow last month	148	

* Reduced to approx. 124 GL during March drought contingency operations

Salinity (EC)

(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2008
Swan Hill	60	50	70
Euston	120	110	90
Red Cliffs	80	80	130
Merbein	90	90	130
Burtundy (Darling)	630	630	420
Lock 9	140	150	220
Lake Victoria	310	310	260
Berri	370	360	370
Waikerie	-	-	490
Morgan	460	470	520
Mannum	680	700	620
Murray Bridge	820	760	620
Milang (Lake Alex.)	550	4 540	4 210
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	5 300	5 310	3 890
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	9 370	10 490	6 480
Goolwa Barrages	32 810	32 260	20 980



River Levels and Flows

	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)				
River Murray							
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 160	F	1 880	3 980
Jingellic	4.0	1.21	207.73	1 350	F	2 350	4 090
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	1.44	218.33	550	S	550	540
Heywoods	5.5	2.69	156.32	10 180	F	10 870	11 120
Doctors Point	5.5	2.64	151.11	10 600	F	11 190	11 370
Albury	4.3	1.64	149.08	-	-	-	-
Corowa	7.0	2.37	128.39	10 500	R	10 570	10 590
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.45	116.49	8 480	F	9 340	9 510
Tocumwal	6.4	2.08	105.92	9 010	S	8 990	8 990
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	2.17	80.72	6 510	S	6 510	6 530
Swan Hill	4.5	1.22	64.14	6 030	S	6 080	5 860
Wakool Junction	8.8	2.59	51.71	6 530	R	6 360	5 950
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.39	43.23	5 490	R	4 920	4 310
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	4 610	F	4 700	4 120
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.00	27.76	4 120	R	3 700	2 940
Rufus Junction	-	2.93	19.86	3 420	F	3 660	4 530
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	-0.47	-	1 850	F	1 810	1 670
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	0.62	153.85	150	R	120	140
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	7.55	145.23	100	F	120	140
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	1.12	92.54	370	S	360	420
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	1.32	81.09	1 100	S	1 160	1 190
Edward at Liewah	-	1.84	57.22	1 160	S	1 140	1 000
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.12	54.61	40	F	70	70
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	0.45	56.41	210	F	230	210
Barwon at Mungindi	-	3.65	-	1 240	F	980	1 470
Darling at Bourke	-	5.00	-	7 850	F	8 820	4 990
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.72	-	110	F	120	120

Natural Inflow to Hume (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	590
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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
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.16	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	-0.05	+0.70
No 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	-0.04	-0.07
No. 15 Euston	47.60	-0.01	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	-0.06	+0.04
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.03	+0.13	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	-0.07	+0.41
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.04	+0.36	No.3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.02	+0.17
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.10	+0.06	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.07	+0.11
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.07	+0.40	No 1. Blanchetown	3.20	+0.02	-1.22

Murrumbidgee	FSL (m AHD)	relation to FSL	d/s gauge ht.		Flow (ML/day)
			local (m)	(m AHD)	
No. 7 Maude	75.40	-1.83	0.677	70.027	313
No. 5 Redbank	66.90	-4.81	0.1065	61.4065	233

Lower Lakes

FSL = 0.75 m AHD

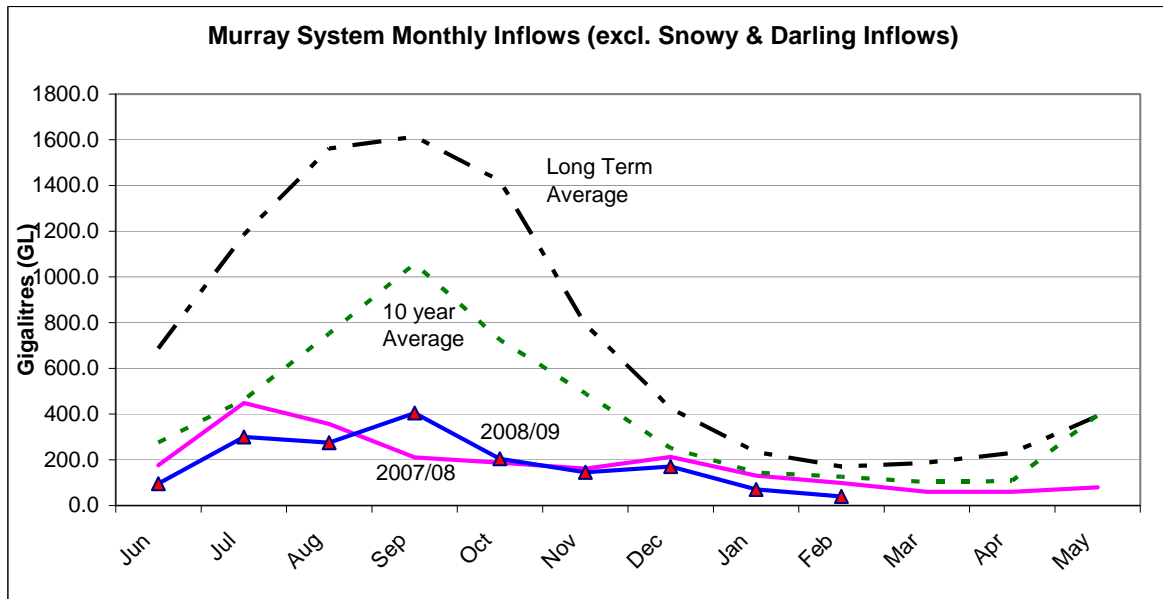
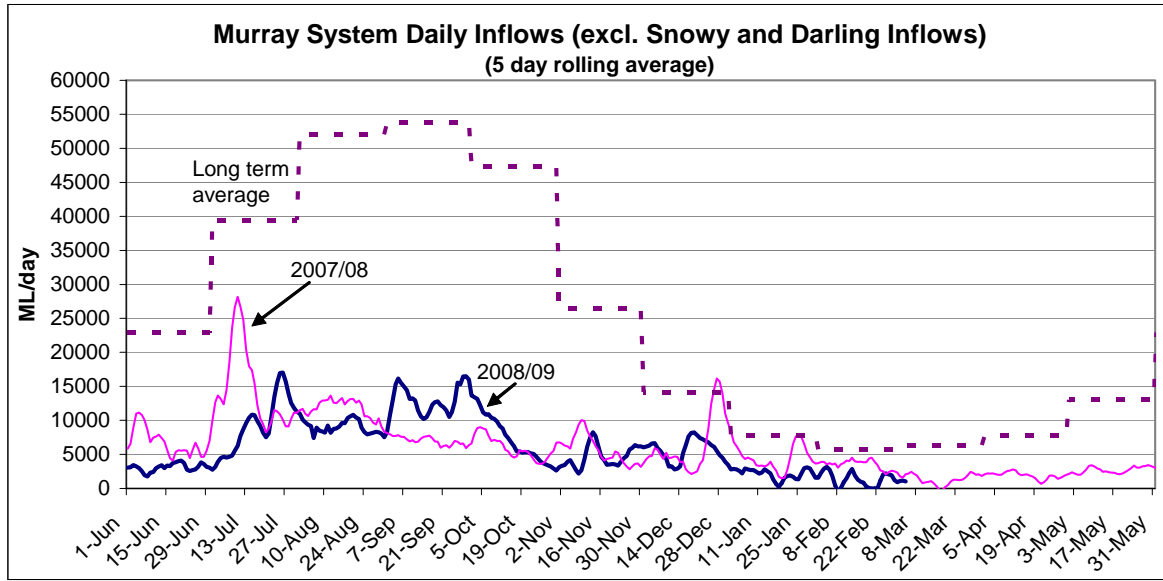
	(m AHD)
Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days	-0.90

Barrages

Fishways @ Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	Status	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	-1.32	All closed	-	Closed
Mundoo	26 openings	-0.82	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	All closed	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwichee	322 gates	-	All closed	Closed	Closed

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



State Allocations (as at 4th March 2009)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	95%
General security	9%

Victoria - Murray Valley

high reliability	35%
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NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	21%

Victoria - Goulburn Valley

high reliability	31%
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NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	50%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	18%
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- NSW : http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au/mediarelnr/mr_toc_currnr.html
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
 SA : <http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html>