

### Issue

The Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan (the 'Guide') was released at 4:00pm on Friday 8 October 2010. The Guide is the first stage of a three stage Basin Plan release process. The actual draft plan is currently slated for release early in 2011. It was supposed to have been released in July 2010.

Volume 1 of the Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan is available here-

[http://download.mdba.gov.au/Guide to the Basin Plan Volume 1 web.pdf](http://download.mdba.gov.au/Guide%20to%20the%20Basin%20Plan%20Volume%201%20web.pdf)

### Overview

- The NSW Farmers' Association was present at the 'lockup' prior to the release of the Guide.
- The overall tone of the 'lockup' was frustration. This frustration was largely the result of the severe lack of detail provided on the day.
- Only volume 1 of the Guide was actually released. Volume 1 is essentially an executive summary of what the Guide will include and did not provide the background data.
- Apparently, Volume 2 of the Guide will contain this data. This volume is due to be released over the coming month, although this is likely to be after the first round of consultation meetings.
- The most important figures in the guide related to recommended environmental water requirements and associated cuts that would be needed to achieve these requirements on a valley by valley basis.
- MDBA Analysis showed that the range of surface water required to meet the environmental objectives of the Water Act is between 22,100GL/yr and 26,700GL/yr (long term average). These figures represent 67% and 81% of the total available surface water respectively.
- To meet these requirements would require an additional 3000-7600GL/yr (long term average). This would need to come out of current water use caps.
- The MDBA has determined that any return to the environment of above 4000GL/yr does not fit within the terms of the Water Act as it would be too damaging to rural Communities. The MDBA therefore recommended that a figure somewhere between 3000 and 4000GL/yr is recovered for the environment.
- Recommended cuts were therefore modeled under three scenarios, 3000, 3500 and 4000GL/yr.
- A summary of proposed cuts on a valley by valley basis can be viewed on the following page (Table 1) and more detailed figures can be found towards the end of this brief (Tables 2-4).
- There were 78 Groundwater Systems outlined in the Plan. Of these, 67 had their SDLs set at current diversion limits. 7 systems received significant cuts and 5 others received minor reductions. Details of groundwater figures can be seen at the end of this brief (Table 5).
- A number of stakeholders present at the meeting questioned the figures in the report, but as no detail was provided it was essentially impossible to qualify these concerns.
- Of particular concern was the job losses that were reported by the MDBA who suggested around 800 jobs would be at risk if proposed cuts were implemented. The MDBA themselves said that these figures were questionable, but they were none the less reported in all major news cycles.
- Stakeholder groups such as NSW Irrigators' Council who had developed an economic impact assessment calculator to analyze the effect of cuts suggested the figure would be closer to 17,000 jobs in NSW alone, and this figure was based on the lowest cut recommended by the MDBA.
- A central concern raised by the Association was the failure to publish the environmental watering plan. The MDBA has outline significant cuts to water available for productive use on the basis that this water is required for environment, yet the MDBA has failed to explain how the water should then be delivered to the environment to achieve the required outcomes.

**Table 1: Summary of proposed surface water cuts across the Murray Darling Basin**

Region	SDL area	Range of reductions in current diversion limit (%)	Reduction in current diversion limit if taken only from watercourse diversions (%)
Barwon–Darling	Barwon–Darling Watercourse	14–18	22–29
	Intersecting Streams	14–18	25–33
Border Rivers	NSW Border Rivers	14–18	21–27
	Queensland Border Rivers	14–18	19–25
Campaspe	Campaspe	26–33	35–45
Condamine–Balonne	Condamine–Balonne	21–28	29–39
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	26–35	–
	Marne Saunders	0	–
Goulburn–Broken	Broken	10–11	40–45
	Goulburn	26–35	28–37
Gwydir	Gwydir	20–27	27–37
Lachlan	Lachlan	7–11	15–23
Loddon	Loddon	21–23	40–45
Lower Darling	Lower Darling	26–35	29–38
Macquarie–Castlereagh	Macquarie–Castlereagh	14–18	24–32
Moonie	Moonie	14–17	37–45
Murray	Kiewa	18–20	40–45
	NSW Murray	26–35	28–37
	SA Murray	26–35	26–35
	SA Non-Prescribed Areas	0	–
	Victorian Murray	26–35	27–36
Murrumbidgee	Australian Capital Territory (Surface Water)	26–34	34–45
	Murrumbidgee	26–35	32–43
Namoi	Namoi	14–18	21–27
Ovens	Ovens	12–13	40–45
Paroo	Paroo	0	0
Warrego	Nebine	8–9	40–45
	Warrego	14–16	40–45
Wimmera–Avoca	Wimmera–Mallee (Surface Water)	0	0
	Australian Capital Territory	26–34	34–45
	New South Wales	21–28	27–37
	Queensland	18–24	27–36
	South Australia	26–35	26–35
	Victoria	24–32	27–36
	<b>Basin total</b>	<b>22–29</b>	<b>27–37</b>

\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

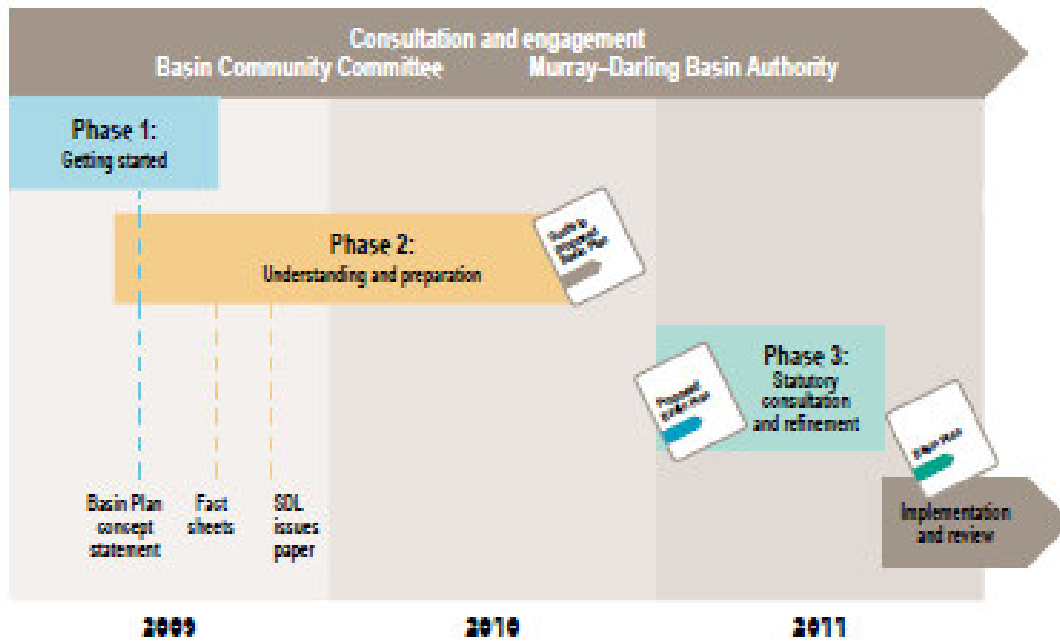
**Key Points from the Guide**

The Guide to the Proposed Basin Plan included a number of key findings and recommendations including:

**Timeframes**

The Guide document outlines the timeframes for release of the Basin Plan. These timeframes continue to be pushed and you will note that the below diagram would suggest that the Proposed Basin Plan is likely to be released in early 2011.

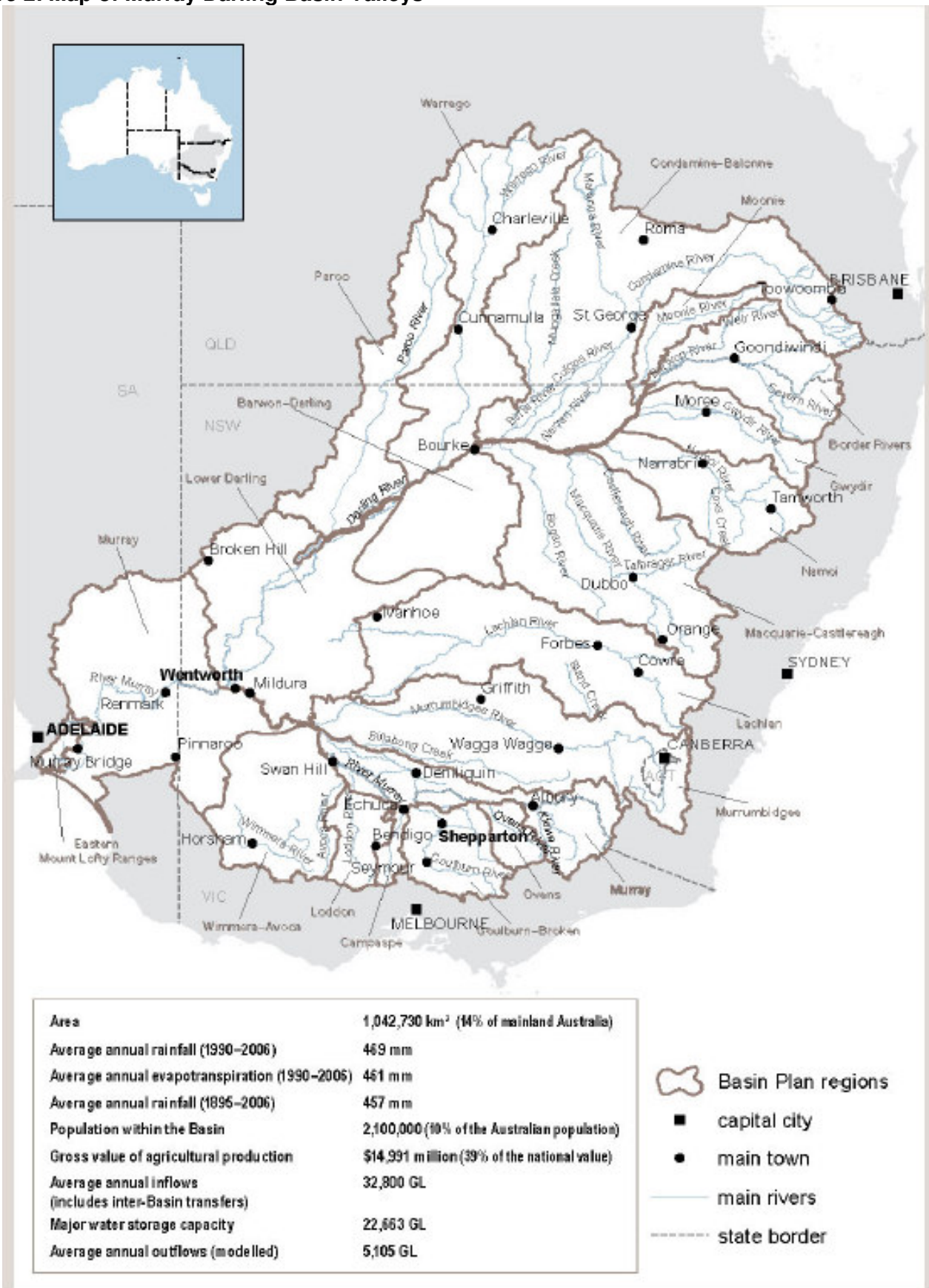
**Figure 1: Proposed Consultation and Engagement Timeframes**



\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

These timeframes have been significantly stretched, with the Proposed Basin Plan originally being scheduled for release in mid 2010. It is important to note that the release of the actual Basin Plan due for 2011 and this is currently a legislative requirement. Any further stretching of timelines will make it very hard for the MDBA to meet the required timeframes.

Figure 2: Map of Murray Darling Basin Valleys

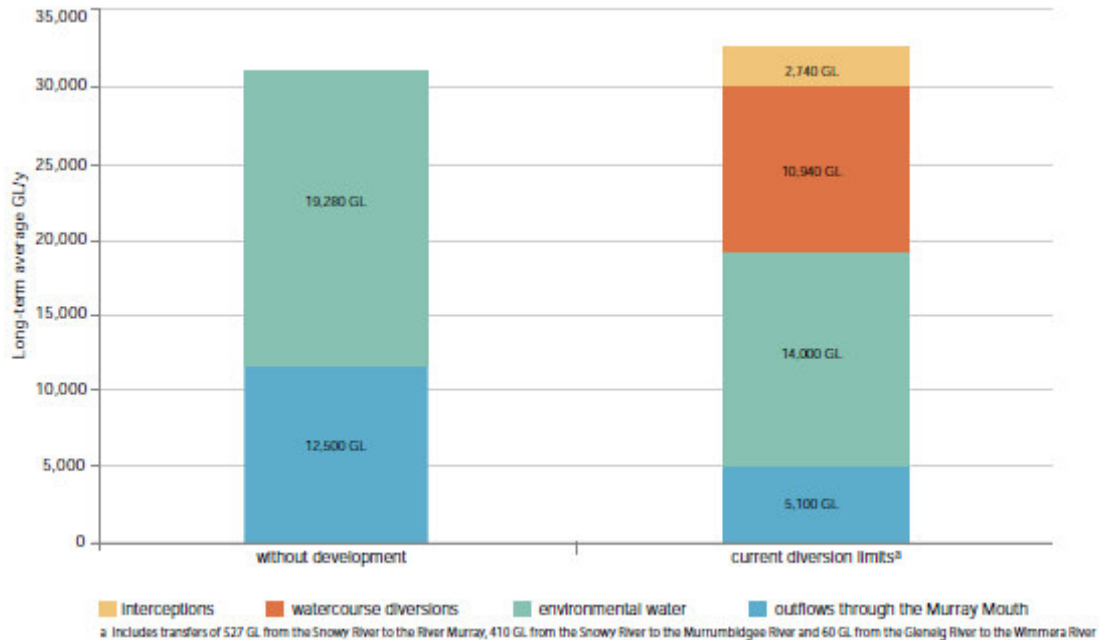


\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

**Basin Hydrology**

The document estimates that Basin Inflows have ranged from a peak of 117,907GL in 1956 to less than 6,740GL in 2006. The Authority estimates that 31,800GL/yr would flow into the MDB system if it was undeveloped (representing 6% of annual rainfall). The MDBA estimates that an additional 1000GL/yr flows into the MDB from the Snowy Hydro system and transfers from the Glenelg River.

**Figure 3: Long term average surface water inflows in the MDB**



\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

• **Current Diversion Limits**

Current Diversion limits are defined in the Guide as all water pumped, diverted or intercepted for consumptive purposes. This includes irrigation, urban supplies, stock water, domestic supplies and industry. Water losses that occur in delivering water via irrigation channels (conveyance losses) are also included.

• **Interception Activities**

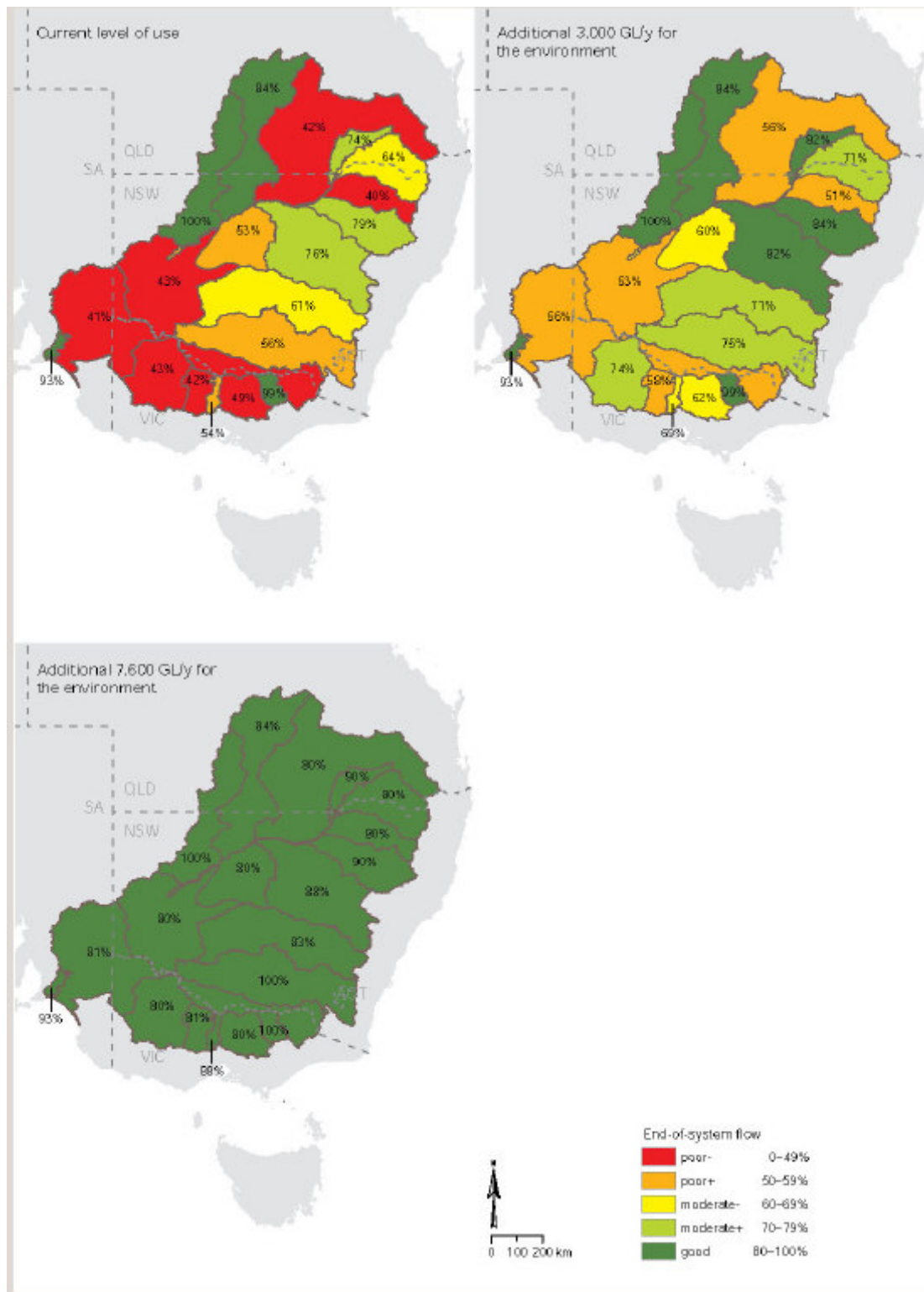
Interception activities are all other activities that result in losses to the system. Generally speaking, interception activities are very hard to reduce; therefore, where reductions in current water use caps are required under a proposed new Sustainable Diversion Limit these reductions must come from Current Diversion Limits.

**Environmental Requirements of the MDB**

- The MDBA modeled the Environmental requirements of the Basin according to a complex set of criteria aimed at determining an environmentally sustainable level of take.
- MDBA Analysis showed that the range of surface water required to meet the environmental objectives of the Water Act is between 22,100GL/yr and 26,700GL/yr (long term average).
- These figures represent 67% and 81% of the total available surface water respectively.
- To meet these requirements would require an additional 3000-7600GL/yr (long term average). This would need to come out of current water use caps.

The following diagrams represent estimates of system health (in terms of end of system flows) at current caps, under an additional 3000GL scenario and under a 7,600GL scenario.

Figure 4: Environmental flow outcomes based on end of system flow



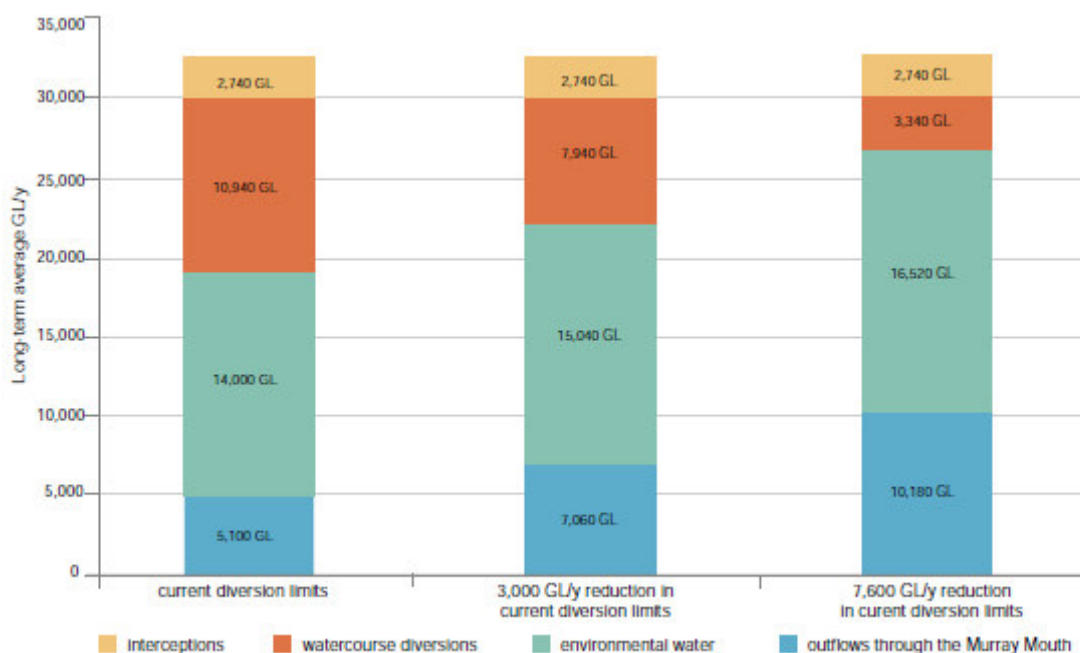
\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

Each catchment was assigned a rating depending upon how different it was from the without-development (long-term average) flow regime used. The ratings are:

- 'good' — 80–100% of without-development flow
- 'moderate' — 60–80% of without-development flow

- ‘poor’— less than 60% of without development flow

**Figure 5: Comparison of different water outcomes under current diversions, low end and high end MDBA determined environmental requirements**



\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

### Social and Economic Requirements of the MDB

Although very poorly explained in the Guide, the MDBA has determined that any return to the environment of above 4000GL/yr does not fit within the terms of the Water Act. They base this claim on the premise that returning over 4000GL would cause too much damage in the regions to allow social, economic and environmental outcomes to be achieved.

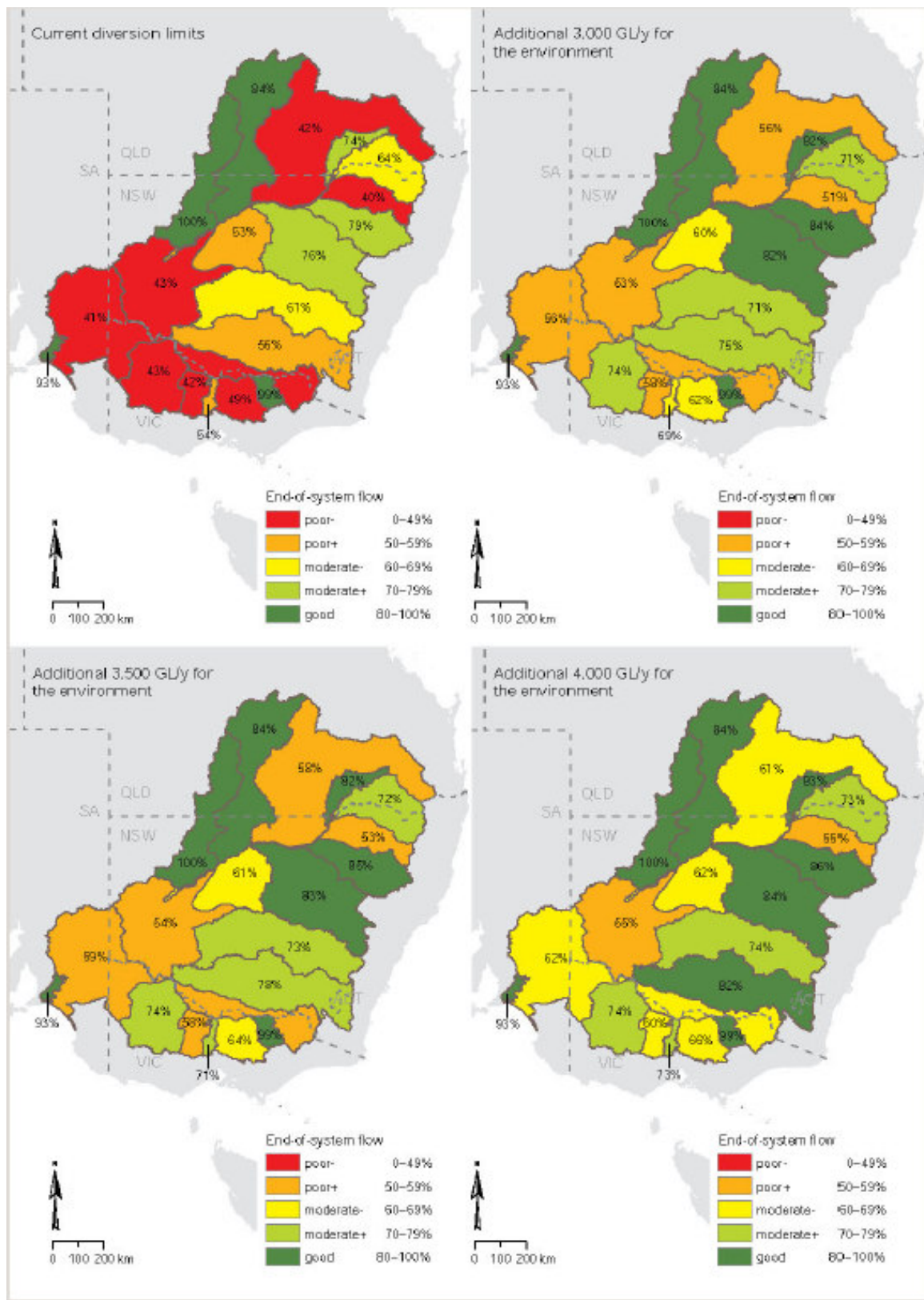
- The MDBA therefore recommended that the quantity of water that must be removed from current use caps and returned to the environment falls between 3000-4000GL/yr.
- The MDBA make somewhat unsubstantiated claims that this reduction would represent a reduction in the gross value of irrigated agricultural production of around 13-17% or \$0.8-\$1.1Billion/year.
- Although not mentioned in the document, the MDBA announced following the lockup that this level of reduction would likely lead to around 800 job losses.
- These figures have been universally condemned by stakeholder groups as being “laughable” and misleading. NSW Irrigators’ Council have estimated that 17,000 jobs could be lost in NSW alone, while NFF suggested the MDBA figures were out by at least a factor of 10.

### Long Term Average Sustainable Diversion Limits

These are the figures the MDBA determined would be available for consumptive uses on a sustainable basis. Three scenarios were modeled based on environmental water requirements of 3000, 3500 and 4000GL/yr.

The diagrams on the following page detail the predicted environmental flow outcomes of the current cap and the three scenarios. You can see that the MDBA has indicated that even under the high end (4000GL/yr) figure there are still two valleys that would be considered poor.

Figure 6: Environmental flow outcomes under current diversions and three modeled scenarios



\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

Table 2: Overview of SDLs for surface water under Scenario 1- 3000GL

Region	Code <sup>2</sup>	SDL area	Surface water <sup>c</sup>								
			Current diversion limit components (GLy) <sup>b</sup>			SDL components (GLy) <sup>b</sup>			Reductions in current diversion limits		Proposed reduction in water-course diversion <sup>d</sup>
			Inter-ception <sup>e</sup>	Water-course diversions	Total	Inter-ception <sup>e</sup>	Water-course diversions	Total	GLy	%	%
Paroo	5529	Paroo	9.7	0.2	9.9	9.7	0.2	9.9	0	0	0
Warrego	5528	Warrego	83	45	128	83	27	110	18	14	40
Condamine-Balonne	5526	Condamine-Balonne	265	706	971	265	503	768	203	21	29
	5527	Nebine	25	6	31.3	25	3.6	28.9	2.4	8	40
Moonie	5525	Moonie	51	32	83	51	20	71	12	14	37
Border Rivers	5524	Queensland Border Rivers	78	223	301	78	180	259	43	14	19
	5523	NSW Border Rivers	95	210	305	95	167	262	43	14	21
Gwydir	5522	Gwydir	125	326	451	125	237	361	89	20	27
Namoi	5521	Namoi	165	343	508	165	271	437	72	14	21
Macquarie-Castlereagh	5520	Macquarie-Castlereagh	310	425	735	310	321	631	104	14	24
	5519	Barwon-Darling	108	197	305	108	154	262	43	14	22
Lower Darling	5518	Lower Darling	6	55	61	6	39	45	16	26	29
	5516	Lachlan	316	302	618	316	258	574	44	7	15
Wimmera-Avoca	5509	Wimmera-Mallee (surface water)	62	74	136	62	74	136	0	0	0
Ovens	5504	Ovens	58	25	83	58	15	73	10	12	40
Goulburn-Broken	5506	Goulburn	109	1,593	1,702	109	1,151	1,260	442	26	28
	5505	Broken	43	14	57	43	8	51.4	5.6	10	40
Loddon	5508	Loddon	90	95	185	90	57	147	38	21	40
Campaspe	5507	Campaspe	40	115	155	40	75	115	40	26	35
Murrumbidgee	5515	Murrumbidgee (NSW)	501	2,061	2,562	501	1,396	1,897	665	26	32
	5501	Australian Capital Territory (surface water)	12	39	51	12	26	38	13	26	34
Murray	5514	Murray NSW	104	1,721	1,825	104	1,247	1,351	474	26	28
	5502	Murray VIC	45	1,656	1,701	45	1,214	1,259	442	26	27
	5503	Kiewa	14	11	24.7	14	7	20.3	4.4	18	40
	5511	Murray SA	0	665	665	0	492	492	173	26	26
	5510	SA Non Prescribed Areas	3.5	0	3.5	3.5	0	3.5	0	0	-
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	5513	Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	10.7	included in interception	10.7	7.9	included in interception	7.9	2.8	26	-
	5512	Marne Saunders	1.8	included in interception	1.8	1.8	included in interception	1.8	0	0	-
		New South Wales	1,732	5,643	7,375	1,732	4,092	5,824	1,551	21	27
		Victoria	462	3,583	4,045	462	2,601	3,063	982	24	27
		South Australia	16	665	681	13	492	506	175	26	26
		Queensland	513	1,012	1,525	513	734	1,247	278	18	27
		Australian Capital Territory	12	39	51	12	26	38	13	26	34
		<b>Total Basin</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>10,942</b>	<b>13,677</b>	<b>2,732</b>	<b>7,945</b>	<b>10,677</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>27</b>

a This code relates to each SDL area in Figure 8.2

b SDL represents long-term average sustainable diversion limits

c Interception includes impact of farm dams and forestry plantations

d Percentage reduction if only applied to watercourse diversion component

e The Authority is aware of the limitations in the accuracy of the data in this table but has not rounded at this stage to allow clear reference to the source analysis

\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

Table 3: Overview of SDLs for surface water under Scenario 2- 3500GL

Region	Code <sup>a</sup>	SDL area	Surface water <sup>e</sup>								
			Current diversion limit components (GL/y) <sup>b</sup>			SDL components (GL/y) <sup>b</sup>			Reductions in current diversion limits		Proposed reduction in water-course diversion <sup>d</sup>
			Inter-ception <sup>c</sup>	Water-course diversions	Total	Inter-ception <sup>c</sup>	Water-course diversions	Total	GL/y	%	
Paroo	SS29	Paroo	9.7	0.2	9.9	9.7	0.2	9.9	0	0	0
Warrego	SS28	Warrego	83	45	128	83	27	110	18	14	40
Condamine-Balonne	SS26	Condamine-Balonne	265	706	971	265	468	734	238	24	34
	SS27	Nebine	25	6.0	31.3	25	3.6	28.9	2.4	8	40
Moonie	SS25	Moonie	51	32	83	51	19	70	12.8	15	40
Border Rivers	SS24	Queensland Border Rivers	78	223	301	78	174	252	49	16	22
	SS23	NSW Border Rivers	95	210	305	95	160	255	50	16	24
Gwydir	SS22	Gwydir	125	326	451	125	221	346	105	23	32
Namoi	SS21	Namoi	165	343	508	165	260	426	83	16	24
Macquarie-Castlereagh	SS20	Macquarie-Castlereagh	310	425	735	310	305	615	120	16	28
Barwon-Darling	SS19	Barwon-Darling	108	197	305	108	147	256	50	16	25
	SS17	Intersecting Streams	2.4	3.0	5.4	2.4	2.1	4.5	0.9	16	29
Lower Darling	SS18	Lower Darling	6	55	61	6	37	42	18	30	33
Lachlan	SS16	Lachlan	316	302	618	316	245	561	57	9	19
Wimmera-Avoca (surface water)	SS09	Wimmera-Mallee	62	74	136	62	74	136	0	0	0
Ovens	SS04	Ovens	58	25	83	58	15	73	10	12	40
Goulburn-Broken	SS06	Goulburn	109	1,593	1,702	109	1,075	1,184	518	30	33
	SS05	Broken	43	14	57	43	8	51	5.6	10	40
Loddon	SS08	Loddon	90	95	185	90	57	147	38	21	40
Campaspe	SS07	Campaspe	40	115	155	40	69	109	46	30	40
Murrumbidgee	SS15	Murrumbidgee (NSW)	501	2,061	2,562	501	1,281	1,782	780	30	38
	SS01	Australian Capital Territory (surface water)	12	39	51	12	23	36	16	30	40
Murray	SS14	Murray NSW	104	1,721	1,825	104	1,165	1,269	556	30	32
	SS02	Murray VIC	45	1,656	1,701	45	1,138	1,183	518	30	31
	SS03	Kiewa	14	11	25	14	6.6	20	4.4	18	40
	SS11	Murray SA	0	665	665	0	462	462	203	30	30
	SS10	SA Non Prescribed Areas	3.5	0	3.5	3.5	0	3.5	0	0	-
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	SS13	Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	11	included in interception	11	7.4	included in interception	7.4	3.3	30	-
	SS12	Marne Saunders	1.8	included in interception	1.8	1.8	included in interception	1.8	0	0	-
		New South Wales	1,732	5,643	7,375	1,732	3,824	5,557	1,819	25	32
		Victoria	462	3,583	4,045	462	2,443	2,904	1,140	28	32
		South Australia	16	665	681	13	462	475	206	30	31
		Queensland	513	1,012	1,525	513	692	1,205	320	21	32
		Australian Capital Territory	12	39	51	12	23	36	16	30	40
		<b>Basin total</b>	<b>2,735</b>	<b>10,942</b>	<b>13,677</b>	<b>2,731</b>	<b>7,445</b>	<b>10,177</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>

a This code relates to each SDL area in Figure 8.2  
b SDL represents long-term average sustainable diversion limits  
c Interception includes impact of farm dams and forestry plantations  
d Percentage reduction if only applied to watercourse diversion component  
e The Authority is aware of the limitations in the accuracy of the data in this table but has not rounded at this stage to allow clear reference to the source analysis

\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

Table 4: Overview of SDLs for surface water under Scenario 3- 4000GL

Region	Code <sup>a</sup>	SDL area	Surface water <sup>c</sup>								
			Current diversion limit components (GLy) <sup>b</sup>			SDL components (GLy) <sup>b</sup>			Reductions in current diversion limits		Proposed reduction in water-course diversion <sup>d</sup>
			Inter-captio <sup>e</sup>	Water-course diversions	Total	Inter-captio <sup>e</sup>	Water-course diversions	Total	GLy	%	%
Paroo	SS29	Paroo	9.7	0.2	9.9	9.7	0.2	9.9	0	0	0
Warrego	SS28	Warrego	83	45	128	83	25	108	20	16	45
Condamine-Balonne	SS26	Condamine-Balonne	265	706	971	265	434	699	272	28	39
	SS27	Nebine	25	6	31.3	25	3.3	28.6	2.7	9	45
Moonie	SS25	Moonie	51	32	83	51	18	69	14	17	45
Border Rivers	SS24	Queensland Border Rivers	78	223	301	78	168	246	55	18	25
	SS23	NSW Border Rivers	95	210	305	95	154	249	56	18	27
Gwydir	SS22	Gwydir	125	326	451	125	205	330	121	27	37
Namoi	SS21	Namoi	165	343	508	165	249	415	94	18	27
Macquarie-Castlereagh	SS20	Macquarie-Castlereagh	310	425	735	310	290	600	135	18	32
	SS19	Barwon-Darling	108	197	305	108	141	249	56	18	29
	SS17	Intersecting Streams	2.4	3	5.4	2.4	2	4.4	1	18	33
Lower Darling	SS18	Lower Darling	6	55	61	6	34	39	21	35	38
Lachlan	SS16	Lachlan	316	302	618	316	233	549	69	11	23
Wimmera-Avoca	SS09	Wimmera-Mallee (surface water)	62	74	136	62	74	136	0	0	0
Ovens	SS04	Ovens	58	25	83	58	14	72	11	13	45
Goulburn-Broken	SS06	Goulburn	109	1,593	1,702	109	1,000	1,109	593	35	37
	SS05	Broken	43	14	57	43	8	50.7	6.3	11	45
Loddon	SS08	Loddon	90	95	185	90	52	142	43	23	45
Campaspe	SS07	Campaspe	40	115	155	40	63	103	52	33	45
Murrumbidgee	SS15	Murrumbidgee (NSW)	501	2,061	2,562	501	1,169	1,670	892	35	43
	SS01	Australian Capital Territory (surface water)	12	39	51	12	21	34	18	34	45
Murray	SS14	Murray NSW	104	1,721	1,825	104	1,086	1,190	635	35	37
	SS02	Murray VIC	45	1,656	1,701	45	1,064	1,109	592	35	36
	SS03	Kiewa	14	11	24.7	14	6.1	19.8	4.9	20	45
	SS11	Murray SA	0	665	665	0	433	433	232	35	35
	SS10	SA Non Prescribed Areas	3.5	0	3.5	3.5	0	3.5	0	0	-
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	SS13	Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	10.7	included in interception	10.7	7	included in interception	7	3.7	35	-
	SS12	Marne Saunders	1.8	included in interception	1.8	1.8	included in interception	1.8	0	0	-
		New South Wales	1,732	5,643	7,375	1,732	3,562	5,295	2,081	28	37
		Victoria	462	3,583	4,045	462	2,281	2,743	1,302	32	36
		South Australia	16	665	681	12	433	446	235	35	35
		Queensland	513	1,012	1,525	513	647	1,160	365	24	36
		Australian Capital Territory	12	39	51	12	21	34	18	34	45
		Total Basin	2,735	10,942	13,677	2,731	6,946	9,677	4,000	29	37

<sup>a</sup> This code relates to each SDL area in Figure 8.2  
<sup>b</sup> SDL represents long-term average sustainable diversion limits  
<sup>c</sup> Interception includes impact of farm dams and forestry plantations  
<sup>d</sup> Percentage reduction if only applied to watercourse diversion component  
<sup>e</sup> The Authority is aware of the limitations in the accuracy of the data in this table but has not rounded at this stage to allow clear reference to the source analysis

\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

**SDLs for groundwater**

There were 78 Groundwater Systems outlined in the Plan. Of these, 67 had their SDLs set at current diversion limits. 7 systems received significant cuts and 5 others received minor reductions.

**Table 5: Overview of Groundwater SDLs**

Main region	Code <sup>2</sup>	SDL area	Groundwater						
			Current diversion limit <sup>b</sup> (GLy)	Current use <sup>c</sup> (GLy)	SDL <sup>d</sup> (GLy)	Reduction in current diversion limit		Reduction from current use (GLy)	
						GLy	%	GLy	%
Reduction in current diversion limit and use required (7 SDL areas)									
Lachlan	GS39	Lower Lachlan Alluvium	108	117.9	64.8	43.2	40	53.1	45
Namoi	GS43	Lower Namoi Alluvium	86	99.4	75	11	13	24.4	25
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	GS1	Angas Bremer	6.5	6.7	4	2.5	38	2.7	40
Condamine-Balonne	GS76	Upper Condamine Alluvium	117.1	117.1	76.8	40.3	34	40.3	34
Condamine-Balonne	GS77	Upper Condamine Basalts	76.1	76.1	61.1	15	20	15	20
Lachlan	GS57	Upper Lachlan Alluvium	77.1	77.1	63	14.1	18	14.1	18
Murrumbidgee	GS35	Lake George Alluvium	1.1	1.1	0.75	0.35	32	0.35	32
Reductions in current diversion limit but not in use (4 SDL areas)									
Namoi	GS60	Upper Namoi Alluvium	122.1	95	95	27.1	22	-	-
Macquarie-Castlereagh	GS40	Lower Macquarie Alluvium	69.3	41.9	41.9	27.4	40	-	-
Namoi	GS54	Peel Valley Alluvium	9.3	7.3	7.3	2	22	-	-
Murrumbidgee	GS65	Australian Capital Territory (Groundwater)	7.25	0.5	4.4	2.85	39	-	-
Cap at current diversion limit (7 SDL areas)									
Murrumbidgee	GS42	Lower Murrumbidgee Alluvium	280	303.7	280	-	-	23.7	8
Murray	GS41	Lower Murray Alluvium (deep; Renmark Group and Calivil Formation)	83.7	86.3	83.7	-	-	-	-
		Lower Murray Alluvium (shallow; Shepparton Formation)	40	40	40	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS3	Mallee	41.2	24.4	41.2	-	-	-	-
Gwydir	GS38	Lower Gwydir Alluvium	32.3	32.3	32.3	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS4	Mallee Border Zone	22.2	16.4	22.2	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS6	Peake-Roby-Sherlock	5.2	1.7	5.2	-	-	-	-
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	GS5	Mame Saunders	4.7	2.5	4.7	-	-	-	-
Cap at current use (18 SDL areas)									
Murrumbidgee	GS45	Mid-Murrumbidgee Alluvium	44	44	44	-	-	-	-
Ovens	GS13	Ovens-Kiewa Sedimentary Plain	14.7	14.7	14.7	-	-	-	-
Macquarie-Castlereagh	GS58	Upper Macquarie Alluvium	13.7	13.7	13.7	-	-	-	-
Border Rivers	GS67	Queensland Border Rivers Alluvium	13.4	13.4	13.4	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS59	Upper Murray Alluvium	11	11	11	-	-	-	-
Namoi	GS27	Eastern Porous Rock: Namoi-Gwydir	10.3	10.3	10.3	-	-	-	-
Loddon	GS10	Loddon-Campaspe Highlands	9.4	9.4	9.4	-	-	-	-
Border Rivers	GS47	NSW Border Rivers Alluvium	6.6	6.6	6.6	-	-	-	-
Lachlan	GS64	Young Granite	4.3	4.3	4.3	-	-	-	-
Macquarie-Castlereagh	GS24	Collaburragundy-Talbragar Alluvium	3.7	3.7	3.7	-	-	-	-
Macquarie-Castlereagh	GS20	Bell Valley Alluvium	2.2	2.2	2.2	-	-	-	-
Namoi	GS61	Upper Namoi Tributary Alluvium	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Lachlan	GS21	Belubula Alluvium	1.9	1.9	1.9	-	-	-	-

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d Groundwater SDL figures exclude unassigned groundwater  
e Totals are provided to allow assessment at the state and whole-of-Basin levels but this does not suggest that discrete SDL areas can be aggregated

\*Source: Murray Darling Basin Authority- Guide to the Basin Plan- Volume 1

Table 5 continued: Overview of Groundwater SDLs

Main region	Code <sup>a</sup>	SDL area	Groundwater						
			Current diversion limit <sup>b</sup> (GLy)	Current use <sup>c</sup> (GLy)	SDL <sup>d</sup> (GLy)	Reduction in current diversion limit		Reduction from current use (GLy)	
						GLy	%	GLy	%
Namoi	GS44	Manilla Alluvium	1.9	1.9	1.9	-	-	-	-
Macquarie–Castlereagh	GS25	Cudgegong Alluvium	1.6	1.6	1.6	-	-	-	-
Gwydir	GS56	Upper Gwydir Alluvium	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	-
Border Rivers	GS48	NSW Border Rivers Tributary Alluvium	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-
Macquarie–Castlereagh	GS23	Castlereagh Alluvium	0.4	0.4	0.4	-	-	-	-
Cap at current use with trade offset (16 SDL areas)									
Macquarie–Castlereagh	GS31	Lachlan Fold Belt: Macquarie–Castlereagh	47.7	47.7	47.7	-	-	-	-
Murrumbidgee	GS33	Lachlan Fold Belt: Murrumbidgee	30.9	30.9	30.9	-	-	-	-
Lachlan	GS30	Lachlan Fold Belt: Lachlan	23.1	23.1	23.1	-	-	-	-
Namoi	GS52	New England Fold Belt: Namoi	15.6	15.6	15.6	-	-	-	-
Goulburn–Broken	GS9	Goulburn–Broken Highlands	9.8	9.8	9.8	-	-	-	-
Border Rivers	GS68	Queensland Border Rivers Fractured Rock	6.8	6.8	6.8	-	-	-	-
Macquarie–Castlereagh	GS26	Eastern Porous Rock: Macquarie–Castlereagh	5.2	5.2	5.2	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS32	Lachlan Fold Belt: Murray	5.1	5.1	5.1	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS11	Murray Highlands	4.4	4.4	4.4	-	-	-	-
Gwydir	GS51	New England Fold Belt: Gwydir	4.1	4.1	4.1	-	-	-	-
Border Rivers	GS50	New England Fold Belt: Border Rivers	3.4	3.4	3.4	-	-	-	-
Ovens	GS12	Ovens Highlands	3.2	3.2	3.2	-	-	-	-
Border Rivers	GS28	Inverell Basalt	2.9	2.9	2.9	-	-	-	-
Namoi	GS36	Liverpool Ranges Basalt	2.7	2.7	2.7	-	-	-	-
Condamine–Balonne	GS66	Condamine Fractured Rock	2.1	2.1	2.1	-	-	-	-
Wimmera–Avoca	GS16	Wimmera–Avoca Highlands	0.2	0.2	0.2	-	-	-	-
Unassigned Water (26 SDL areas) <sup>d</sup>									
Goulburn–Broken	GS14	Victorian Riverine Sedimentary Plain (deep; Renmark Group and Calivil Formation)	89.6	89.6	89.6	-	-	-	-
		Victorian Riverine Sedimentary Plain (shallow; Shepparton Formation)	83.3	83.3	83.3	-	-	-	-
Lower Darling	GS63	Western Porous Rock	29.3	29.3	29.3	-	-	-	-
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	GS2	Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	19.3	19.3	19.3	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS8	SA Murray Salt Interception Schemes	11.1	11.1	11.1	-	-	-	-
Condamine–Balonne	GS73	St George Alluvium: Condamine–Balonne (deep)	7.5	7.5	7.5	-	-	-	-
Condamine–Balonne		St George Alluvium: Condamine–Balonne (shallow)	2.5	2.5	2.5	-	-	-	-
Murray	GS17	Wimmera–Mallee Border Zone (Loxton Parilla Sands)	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
		Wimmera–Mallee Border Zone (Murray Group Limestone)	8.8	8.8	8.8	-	-	-	-
		Wimmera–Mallee Border Zone (Tertiary Confined Sand Aquifer)				-	-	-	-

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Table 5 continued: Overview of Groundwater SDLs

Main region	Code <sup>a</sup>	SDL area	Groundwater						
			Current diversion limit <sup>b</sup> (GLJy)	Current use <sup>c</sup> (GLJy)	SDL <sup>d</sup> (GLJy)	Reduction in current diversion limit		Reduction from current use (GLJy)	
						GLJy	%	GLJy	%
Lower Darling	G529	Kanmantoo Fold Belt	8.2	8.2	8.2	-	-	-	-
Lachlan	G553	Orange Basalt	6.9	6.9	6.9	-	-	-	-
Wimmera-Avoca	G515	West Wimmera (Loxton Parilla Sands)	0	0	0	-	-	-	-
		West Wimmera (Murray Group Limestone)	1.9	1.9	1.9	-	-	-	-
		West Wimmera (Tertiary Confined Sand Aquifer)	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	-	-	-
Paroo	G555	Upper Darling Alluvium	2.4	2.4	2.4	-	-	-	-
Murrumbidgee	G522	Billabong Creek Alluvium	2	2	2	-	-	-	-
Murray	G57	SA Murray (Groundwater)	1.8	1.8	1.8	-	-	-	-
Lower Darling	G519	Adelaide Fold Belt	3	3	3	-	-	-	-
Lower Darling	G537	Lower Darling Alluvium	1.4	1.4	1.4	-	-	-	-
Macquarie-Castlereagh	G546	NSW Alluvium above the Great Artesian Basin	1.2	1.2	1.2	-	-	-	-
Barwon-Darling	G534	Lachlan Fold Belt: Western	1.2	1.2	1.2	-	-	-	-
Warrego	G572	Sediments above the Great Artesian Basin: Warrego-Paroo-Nebine	1.1	1.1	1.1	-	-	-	-
Paroo	G549	NSW Sediments above the Great Artesian Basin	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
Warrego	G578	Warrego Alluvium	0.7	0.7	0.7	-	-	-	-
Wimmera-Avoca	G518	Wimmera-Mallee Sedimentary Plain	0.6	0.6	0.6	-	-	-	-
Moonie	G571	Sediments above the Great Artesian Basin: Moonie	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-
Moonie	G574	St George Alluvium: Moonie	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-
Macquarie-Castlereagh	G562	Warrumbungle Basalt	0.5	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	-
Condamine-Balonne	G575	St George Alluvium: Warrego-Paroo-Nebine	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-
Condamine-Balonne	G570	Sediments above the Great Artesian Basin: Condamine-Balonne	0.3	0.3	0.3	-	-	-	-
Border Rivers	G569	Sediments above the Great Artesian Basin: Border Rivers	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	-	-
		Queensland <sup>e</sup>	229	229	174	55.3	24	55.3	24
		New South Wales	1,211	1,204	1,086	125.15	10	115.65	10
		Australian Capital Territory	7	0.5	4	2.85	39	0	0
		Victoria	227	226.7	227	-	-	0	0
		South Australia	112	83.9	110	2.5	2	2.7	3
		<b>Basin total<sup>e</sup></b>	<b>1,786</b>	<b>1,744</b>	<b>1,601</b>	<b>185.65</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>10</b>

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