



Save the Murray

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Water Use



Without water used from the rivers of the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia would be a very different country. Australia relies on the Murray-Darling Basin to produce a large part of the country's food supply. Water from the river is used for many uses including;

- Irrigation
- Urban and industrial supplies
- Stock and domestic supplies
- Environmental maintenance
- Recreation
- Navigation
- Hydro - electric power

Storages

There are 84 major dams and reservoirs in the Murray-Darling Basin. During high flows, water is diverted into these dams and reservoirs to supply water for the uses stated above. There are 40 major storages in NSW, 27 in Victoria, 7 in Queensland, 7 in SA and 3 in the ACT.

Pipelines

There are six major pipelines through which water is pumped to parts of South Australia. As a result, about 90 per cent of the state's population is wholly or partly dependent on the Murray River for everyday water supplies.

Irrigation

In the Murray-Darling Basin most water use is dominated by irrigation. Irrigation in the Basin accounts for 52.4 % of all water used in Australia, and 75.0% of all irrigation water is used in the Murray-Darling Basin. The table on the next page shows water use in the Murray-Darling Basin: average actual diversions, 1988-89 to 1992-93



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Water Use Continued

Key Points to Note from this Table:

Annual diversion averaged 10,676 GL/year

Over 95% of diversions were for irrigation

It should be noted that the figures only cover the actual measured and/or estimated consumptive or off-stream uses of water. No data are available for non-consumptive or instream uses, such as hydro-electricity generation, fishing, recreation or water required for aquatic and environmental purposes, that is, the health of the river environments.

* Excludes water harvesting diversions

Content: sourced from Murray Darling Basin Commission, 1995

Water Use in the Murray-Darling Basin: average actual diversions, 1988-89 to 1992-93

River System	Diversion for Irrigation (GL)	Domestic, Industrial, Stock & Town Use (GL)	Total Water Diversion (GL)	Diversion as a % of Total Basin Diversion
NSW				
Border Rivers	221	1	222	2.1
Gwydir	299	1	300	2.8
Namoi	244	4	248	2.3
Macquarie/Castlereagh/Bogan	465	6	471	4.4
Upper Darling	188	1	189	1.8
Lower Darling	128	85	213	2.0
Murrumbidgee	2,424	19	2,443	22.9
Murray	2,024	29	2,053	19.2
Total NSW	5,993	146	6,139	57.4
Victoria				
Upper Murray/Ovens/Kiewa	1,531	36	1,567	14.7
Lower Murray	264	20	284	2.7
Goulburn/Broken/Loddon	1,656	54	1,710	16.0
Campaspe	79	22	101	0.9
Total Victoria	3,530	132	3,662	34.3
South Australia				
Private Pumped Diversion	235	4	239	2.2
Government Pumped Diversion	129	100	229	2.1
Reclaimed Swamps	106	0	106	1.0
Total South Australia	470	104	574	5.4
Queensland				
Border Rivers	72	2	74	0.7
Macintyre Brook	10	0	10	0.1
Condamine/Balonne*	157	5	162	1.5
Total Queensland*	239	7	246	2.3
ACT	0	63	63	0.6
Total for Basin	10,232	452	10,684	100.0