



Australian Government



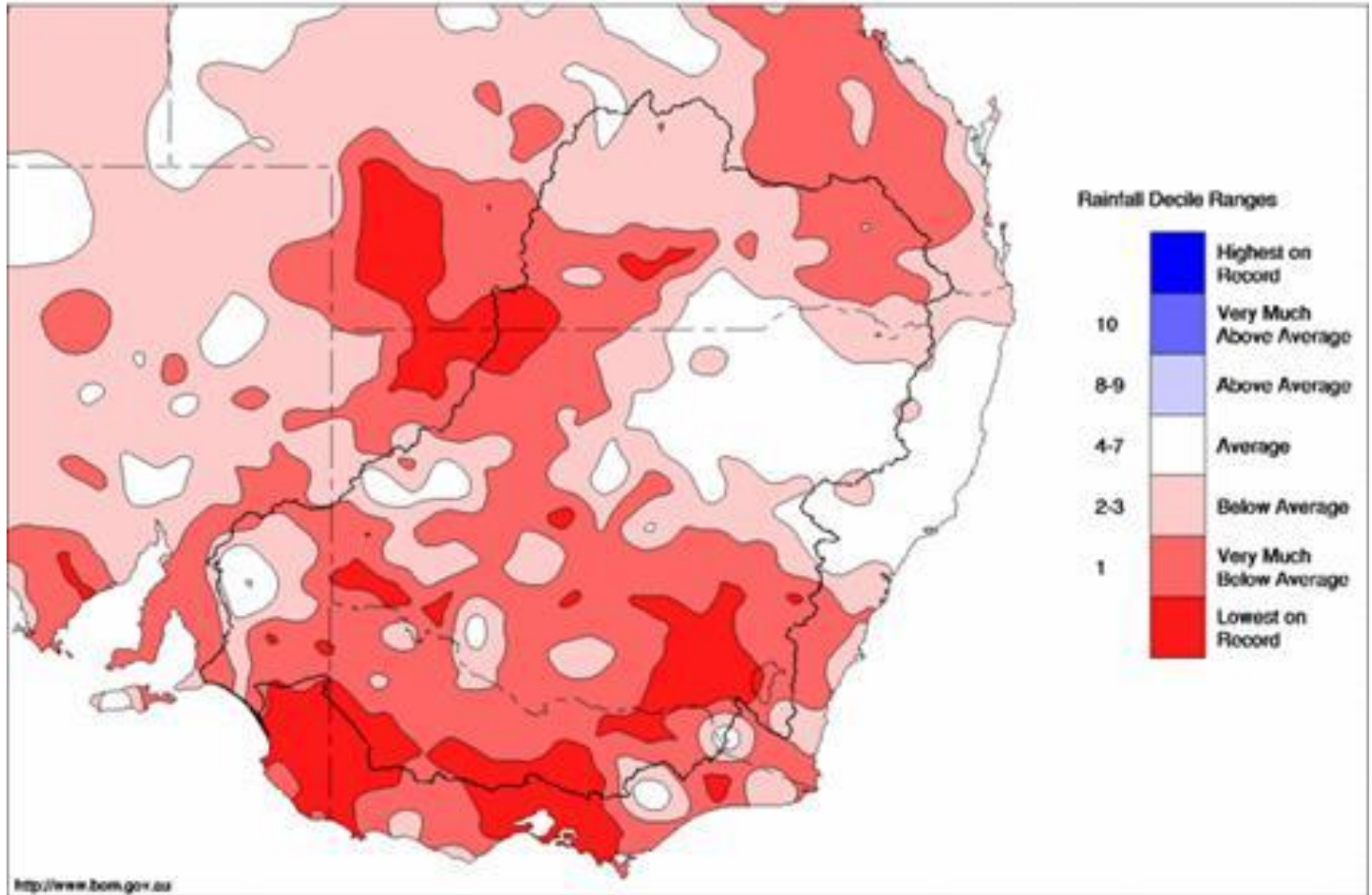
# Murray-Darling Basin Authority Basin Plan

Rob Freeman, Chief Executive

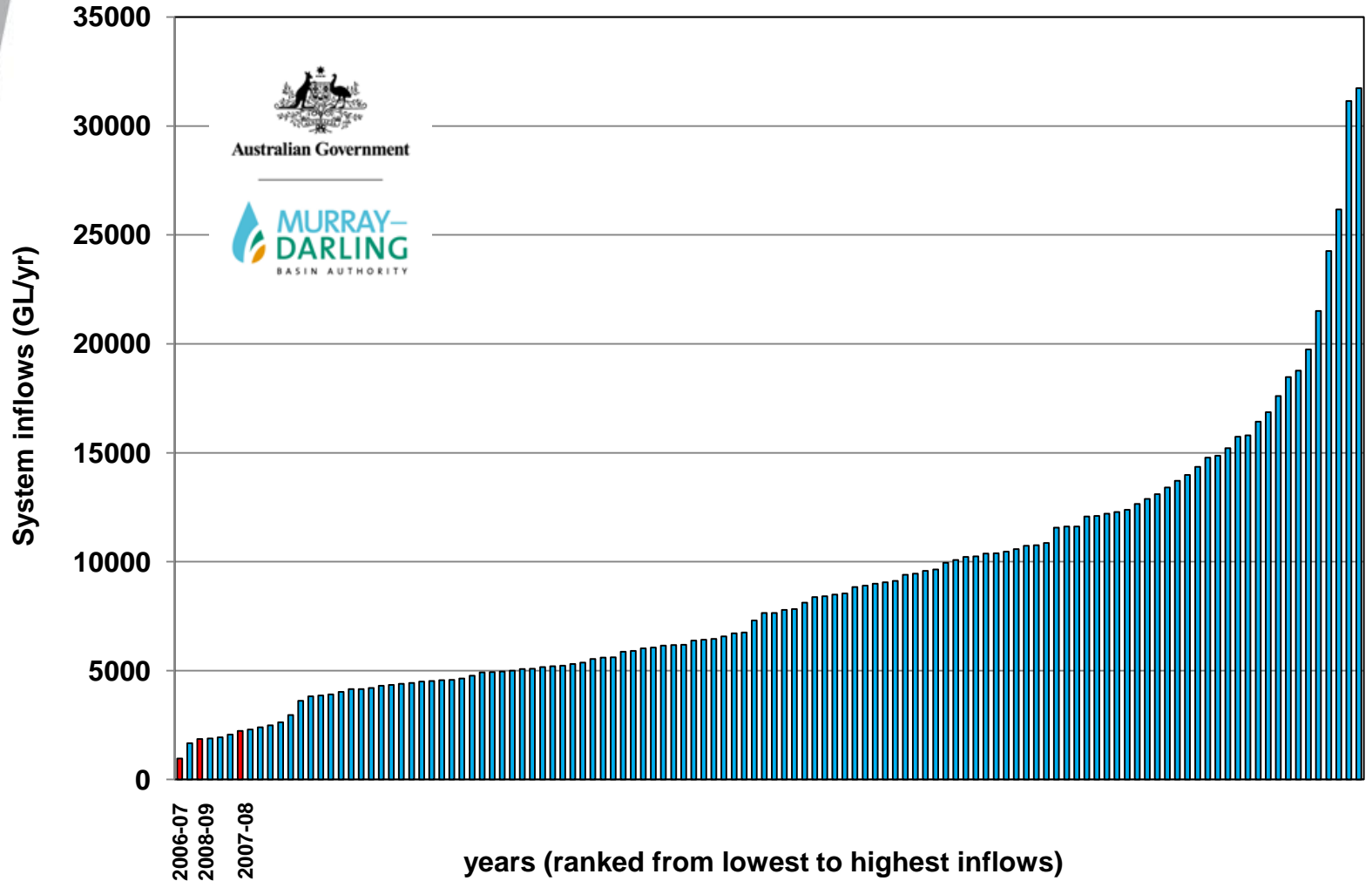
# Outline

- What is the problem?
- Why bother?
- The Solution.

# Current Rainfall



# Murray System Inflows



# Current Planning

	Total Water	Water Use
Historical Climate	23,417	11,327 (48%)
2030 Median Climate	20,936	10,876 (52%)
2030 Dry Extreme	15,524	8,962 (58%)

(CSIRO Water Availability – 2008)

# Current Condition

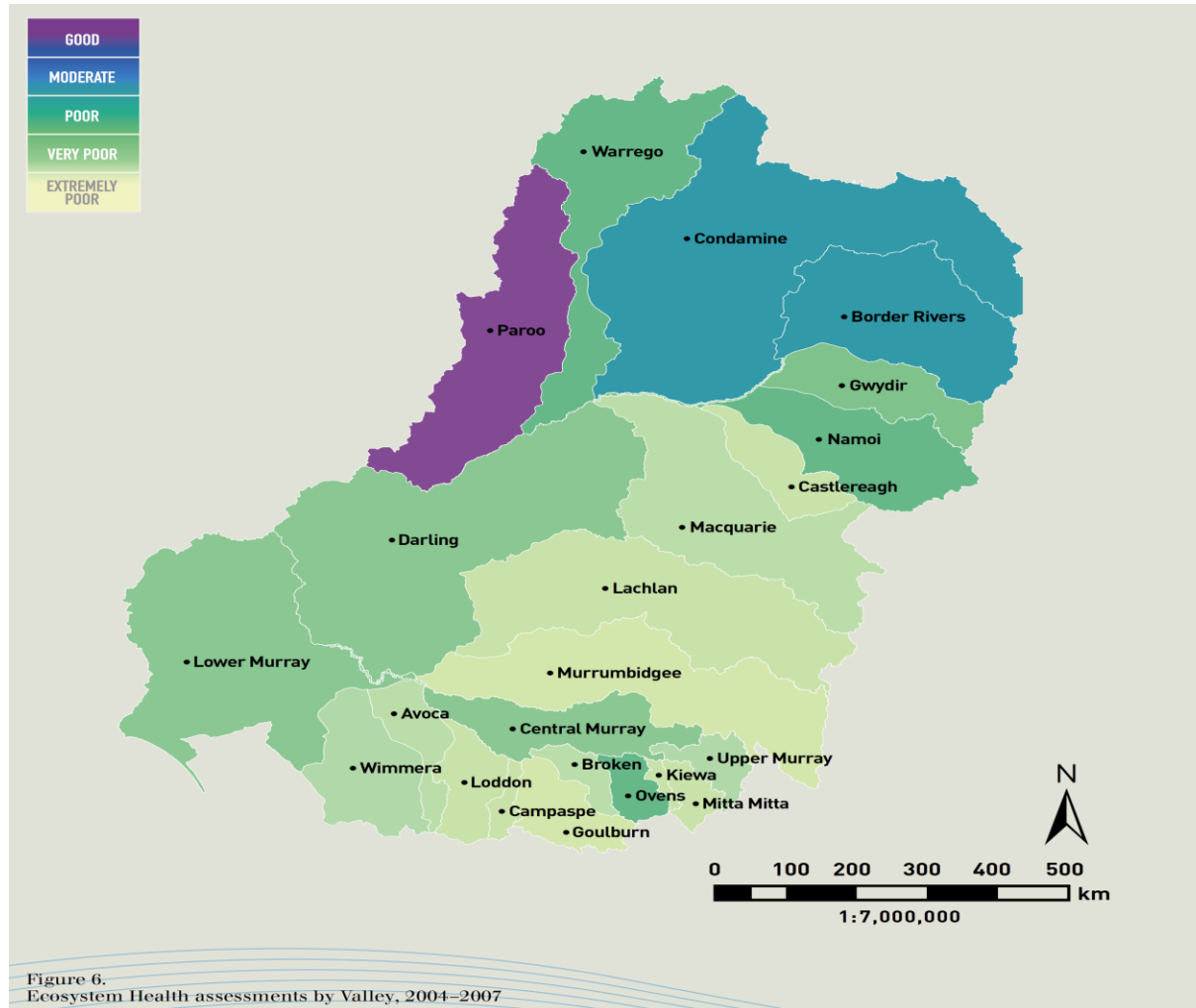
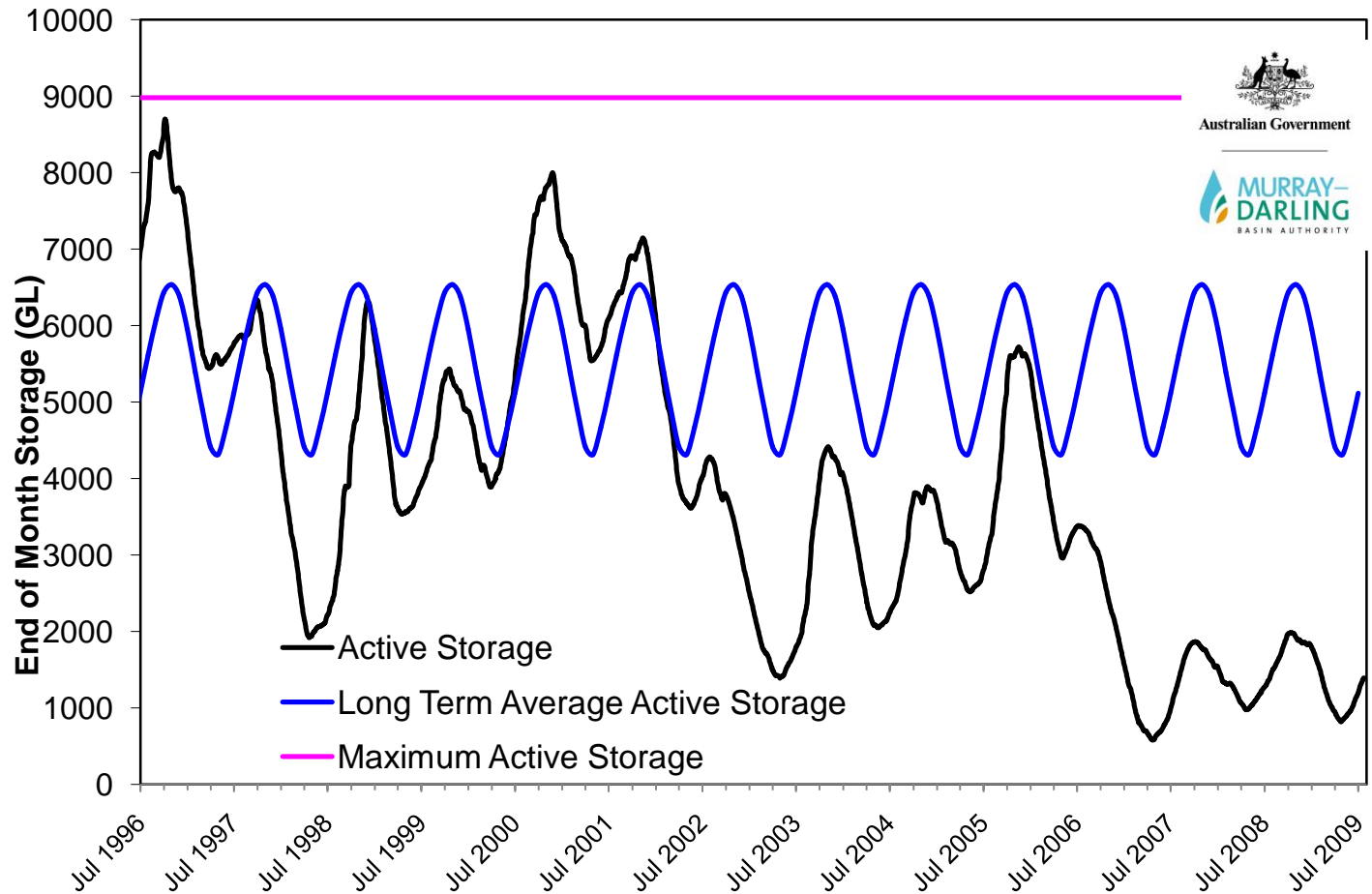


Figure 6.  
Ecosystem Health assessments by Valley, 2004–2007



# Current Operation



# Why bother?

- Directly supports 3 million people
- Feeds approximately 20 million people
- Significant environmental values
- 14% of Australia
- Australia's three longest rivers
- 40% Australia's farmers
- Exports earn \$9 bil/year



# The Solution

- A strategic plan for the Basin
  - The Basin Plan
- Greater enforcement powers
- An effective water market
- More accessible information

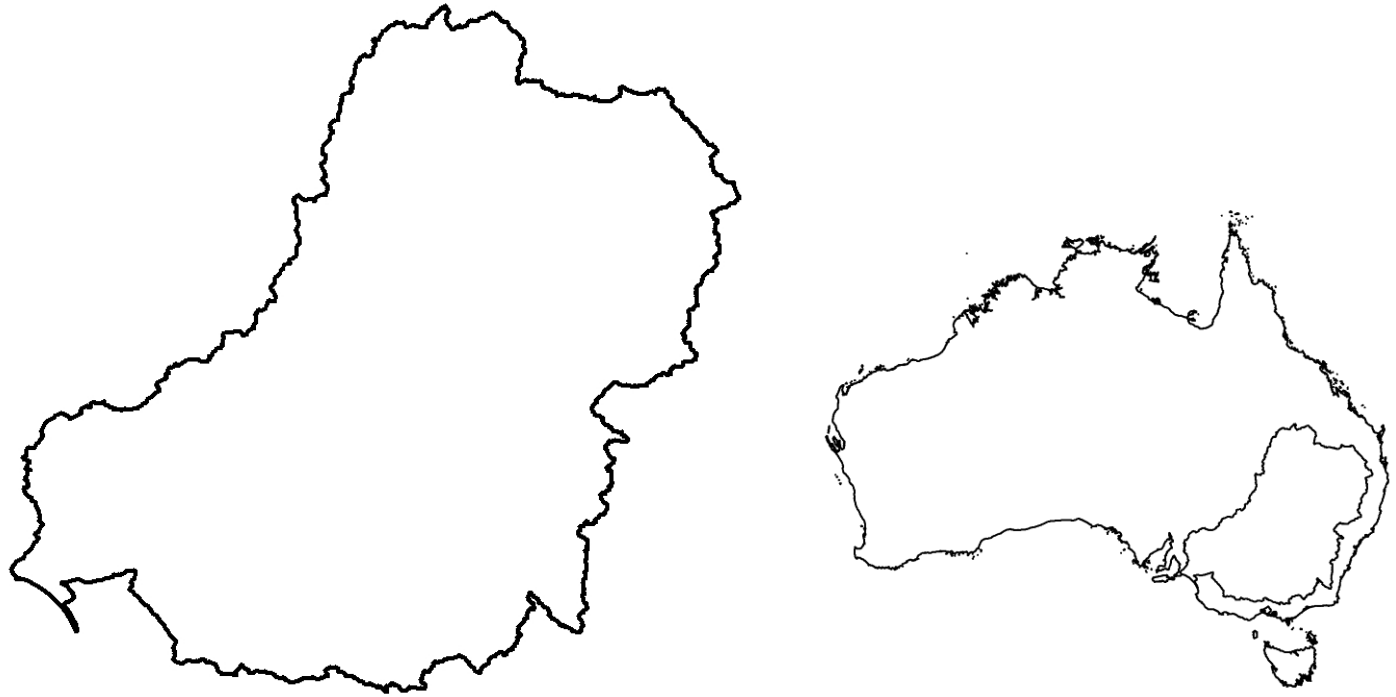
# Murray-Darling Basin Authority

- Water Act establishes the MDBA
  - ‘... an independent Murray-Darling Basin Authority with the functions and powers, including enforcement powers, needed to ensure that Basin water resources are managed in an integrated and sustainable way’.

# Functions of the MDBA

- Prepare a strategic plan for the integrated and sustainable management of water resources in the Murray-Darling Basin for adoption by the Minister (Basin Plan)
- Advise the Minister on accreditation of state water resource plans
- Develop a water rights information service
- Measure and monitor water resources
- Gather information and undertake research
- Engage the community
- Undertake former MDBC functions

# New Perspective



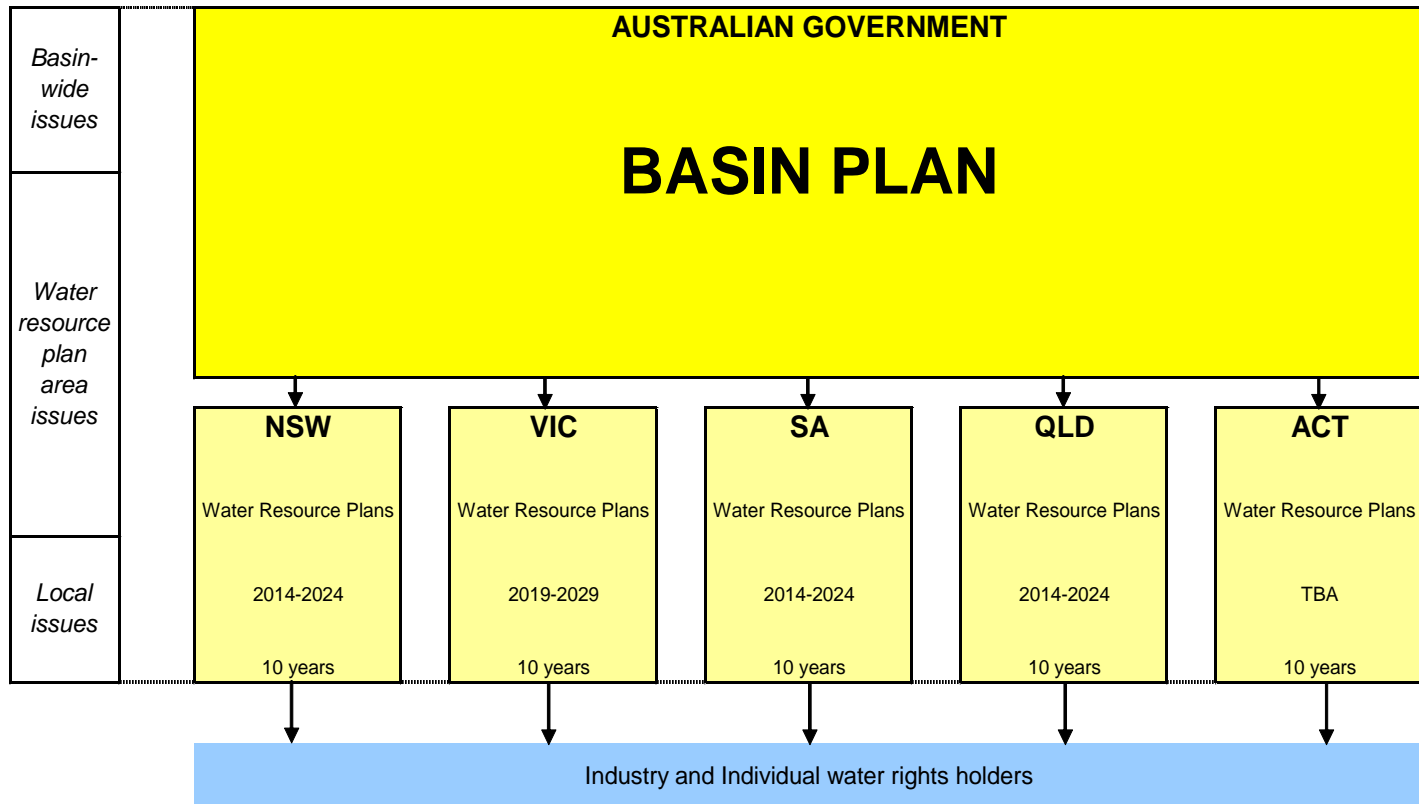
“to enable the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the Basin States, to manage the Basin water resources in the national interest”

– 3(a) Water Act 2007

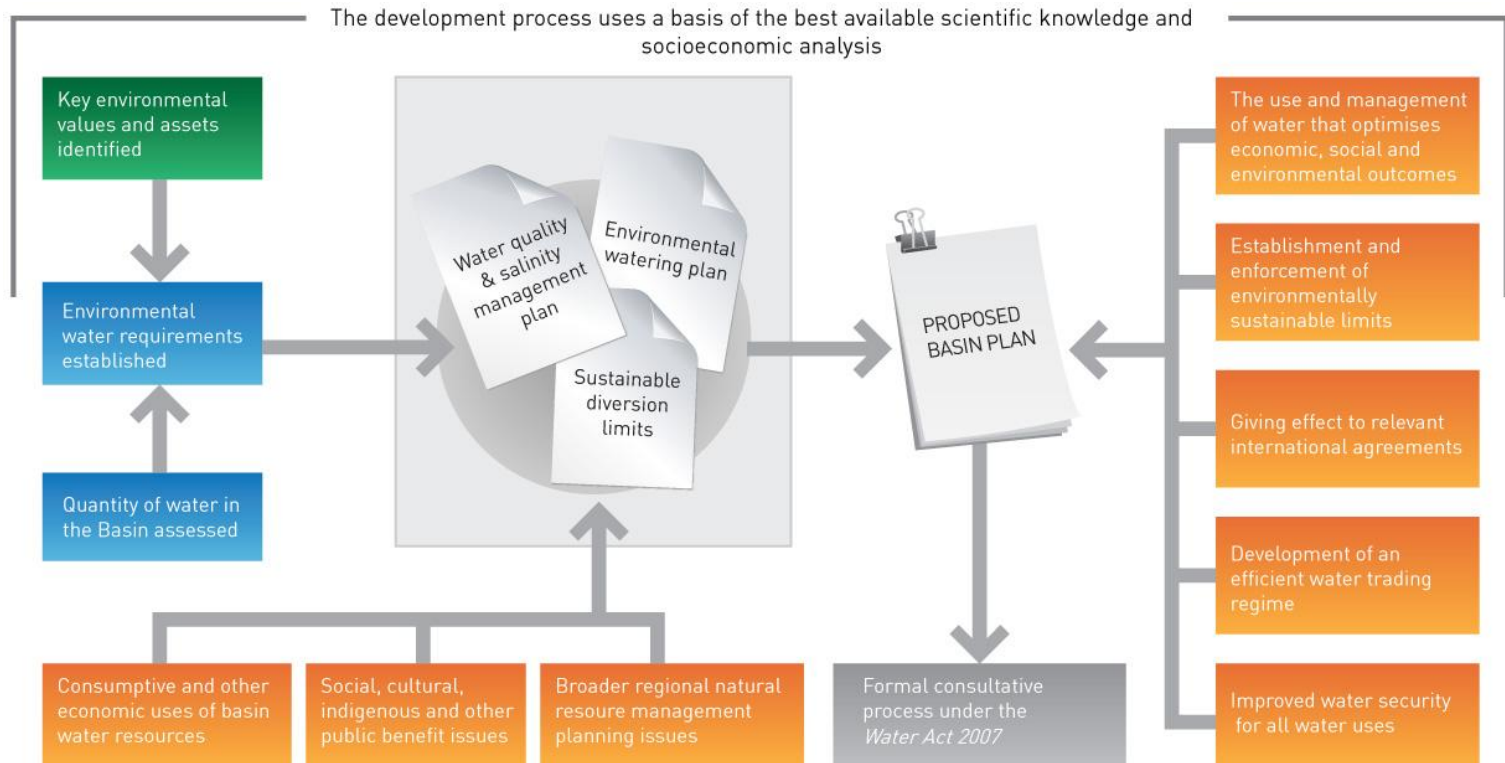
# Post Basin Plan

**AFTER**

THE BASIN PLAN IS MADE



# Key Elements of the Basin Plan



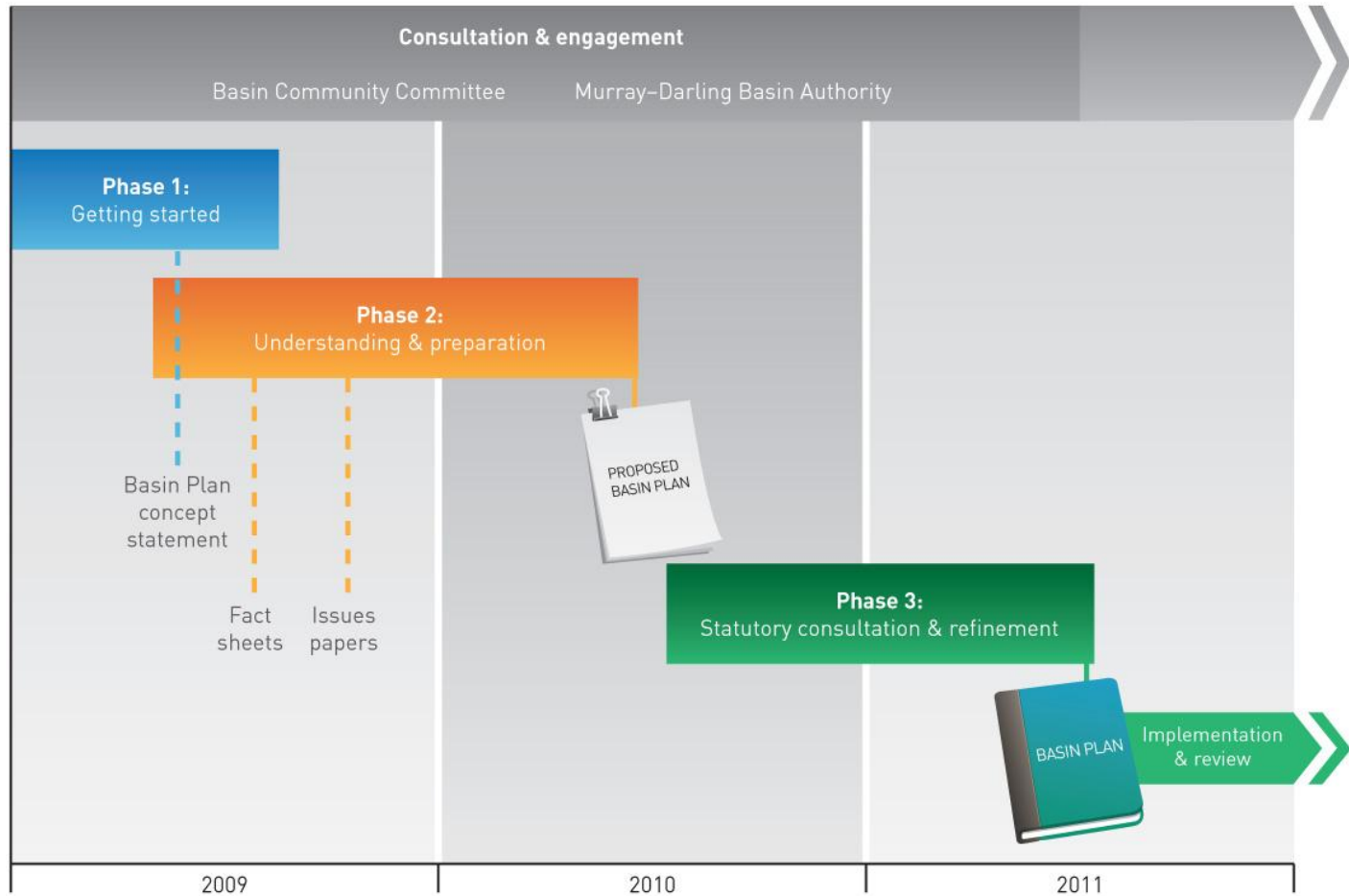
# Key Environmental Values and Assets

1. Define the environmental objectives
2. Identify the ecosystem 'assets'
3. Develop models that relate ecosystem functions to water regimes
4. Prioritise against the environmental objectives

Possible criteria: Biodiversity, Connectivity, Ecosystem resilience, protection of rare / threatened species, water quality management



# Phases and Timelines



# Cap v Sustainable Diversion Limits

## CAP

- Surface water only
- Based on historic levels of water use
- Weak enforcement powers

MDBMC 1995

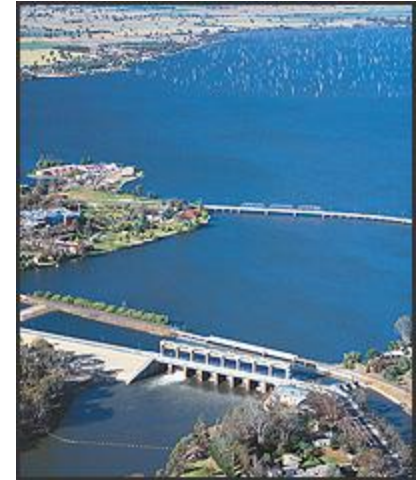
## SDL

- Surface water and groundwater
- Set at sustainable levels of water use – based on science
- Binding by law

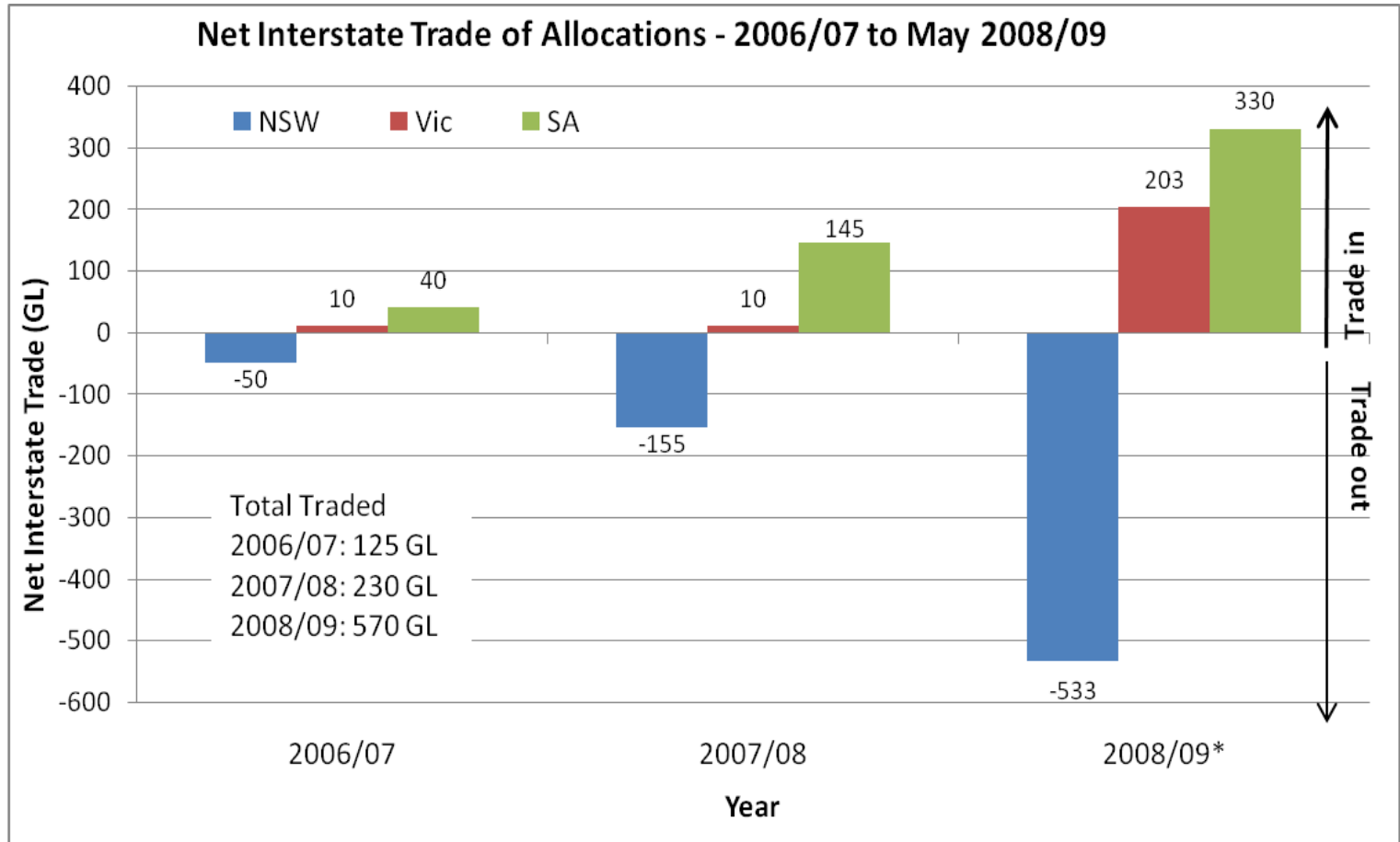
*Water Act 2007*

# Greater Enforcement Powers

- Basin Plan
  - Binds:
    - Basin State agencies
    - operating authorities
    - infrastructure operators
    - holders of water access entitlements (to the extent possible under Constitution)
  - Enforced by Authority
- Water resource plans (WRPs)
  - Prepared by States, consistent with Basin Plan
  - Accredited by Federal Minister, with advice of Authority
  - Enforced by States/Authority



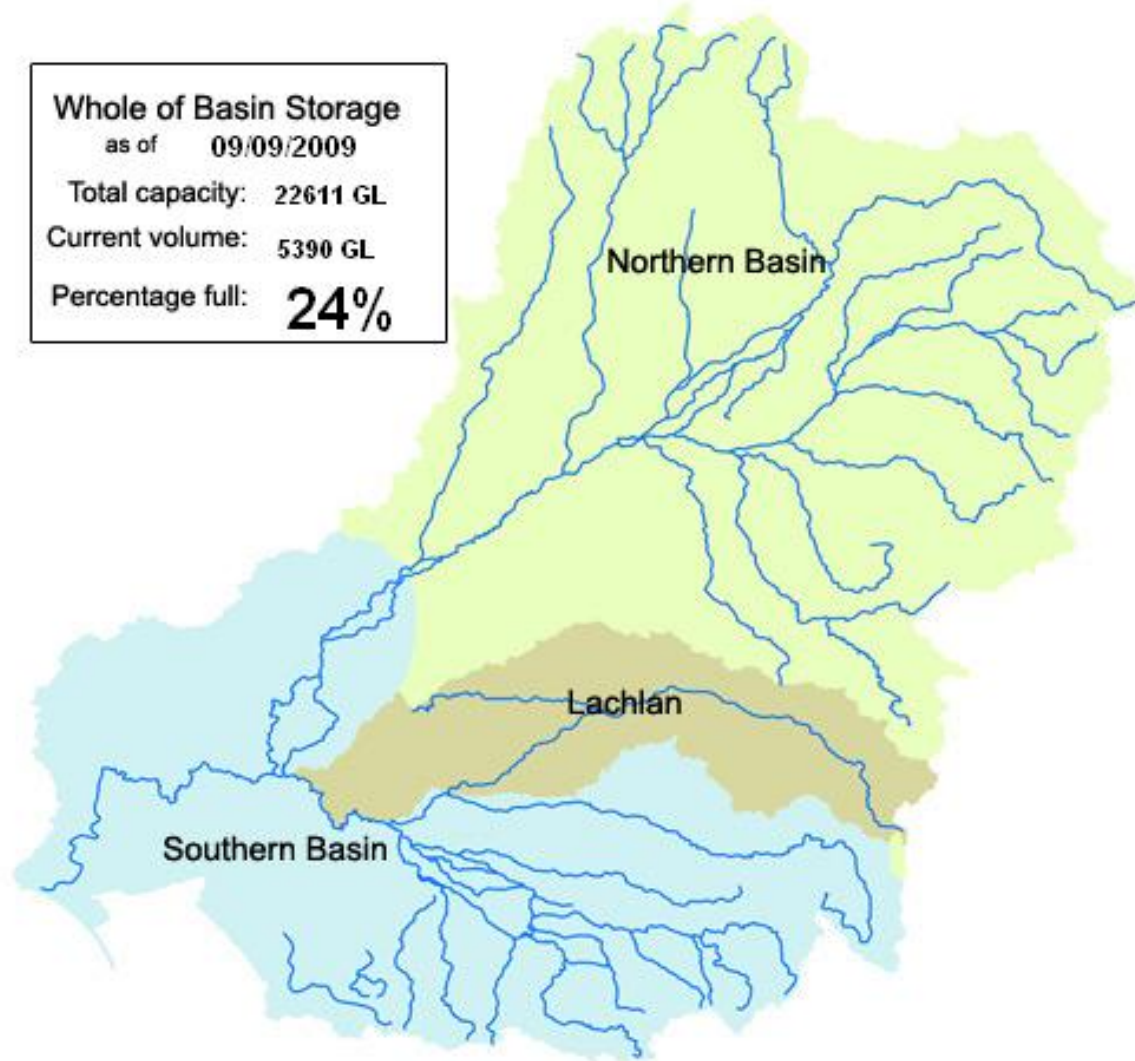
# Water Markets and Trading



# Water Resource Information

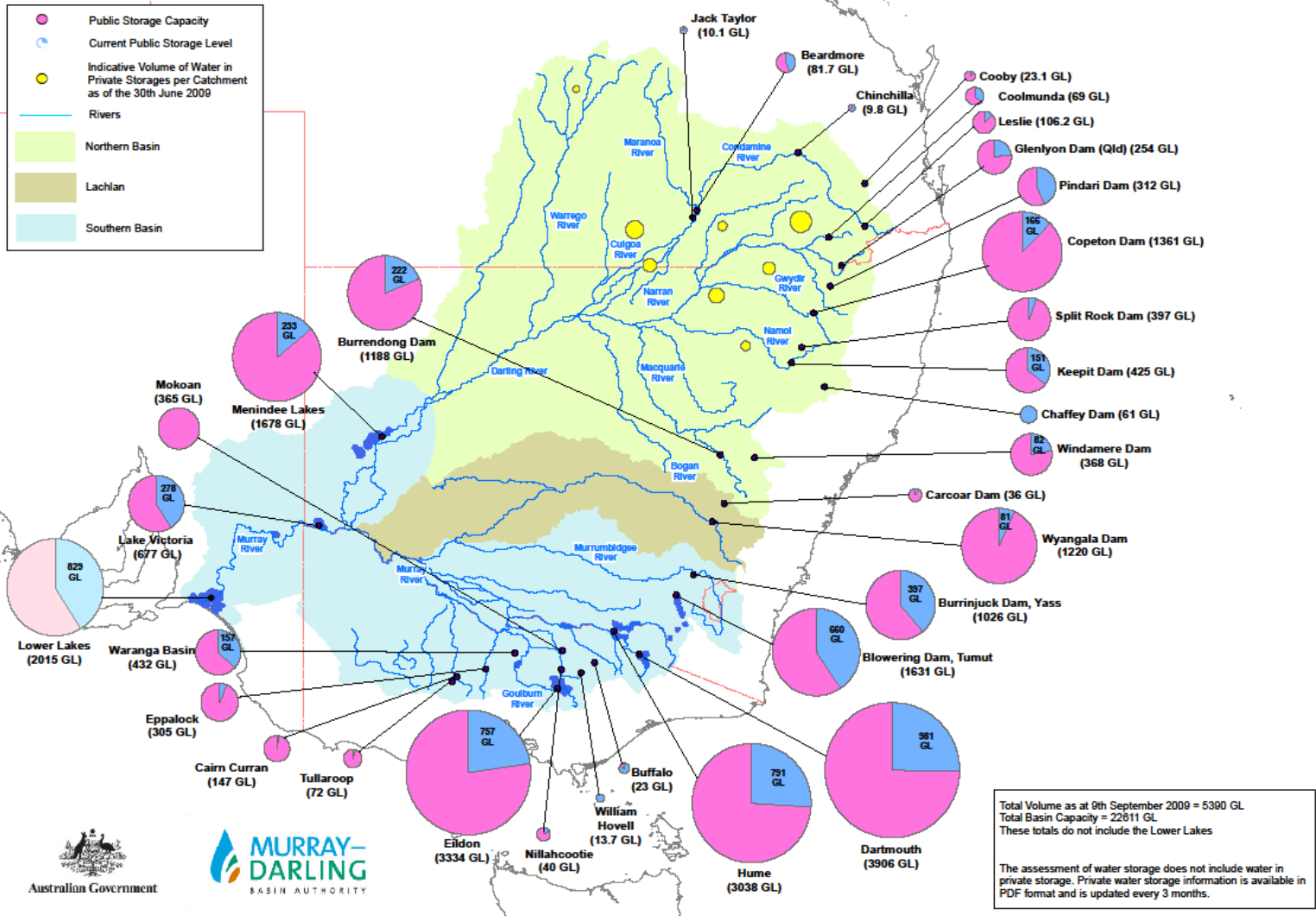
Whole of Basin Storage  
as of 09/09/2009

Total capacity:	22611 GL
Current volume:	5390 GL
Percentage full:	<b>24%</b>



# Water Resource Information

Murray-Darling Basin Government Irrigation Storages – 9th September 2009





Australian Government



# The End

[www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)