



River Murray System

Sharing the water resources of the River Murray



www.mdba.gov.au

About the River Murray

The River Murray flows for 2,530 km from the Australian Alps through New South Wales along the Victorian border and into South Australia before reaching the Murray Mouth and flowing into the Southern Ocean.

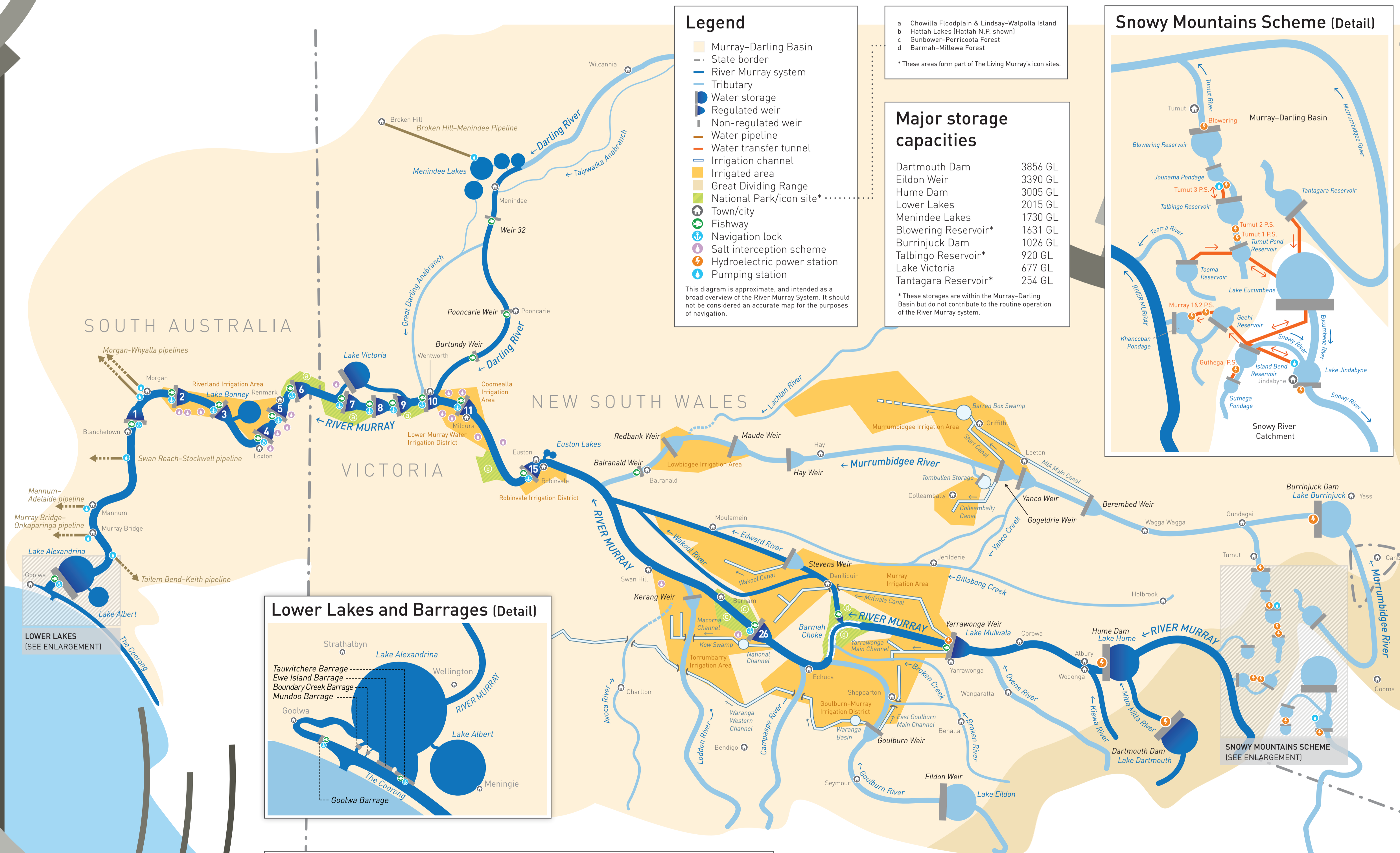
The Murray's water flow is low and highly variable when compared to rivers in other countries with similar catchment areas. To deal with the Murray's variable flows, water storages and weirs have been built along the river's length to provide reliable water supplies.

The MDBA operates four major storages — Dartmouth Dam, Hume Dam, Lake Victoria and the Menindee Lakes (which are leased from New South Wales) — 14 weirs (13 with locks); and five barrages, barriers built at the Murray Mouth to stop sea water entering the river system.

To operate the river, MDBA staff coordinate and direct releases from the storages to meet the demand for water along the river system. The MDBA works cooperatively with state authorities responsible for river infrastructure to adjust water flows as necessary.

The River Murray must serve multiple, and often competing, demands for water. These demands include water conservation and supply (including for critical human water needs), irrigation, environmental protection and enhancement, protection of cultural heritage, protection of water quality, river navigation, recreation and tourism, hydro-power generation and flood mitigation.

For more information on the River Murray system visit our website: www.mdba.gov.au



Legend

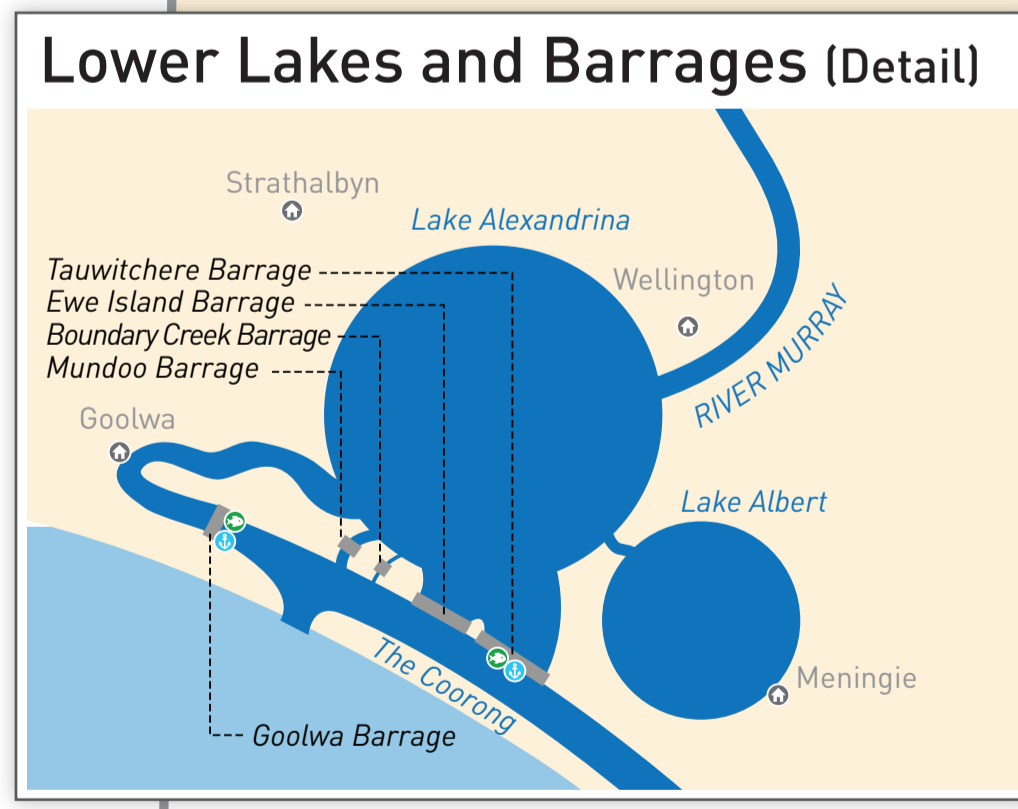
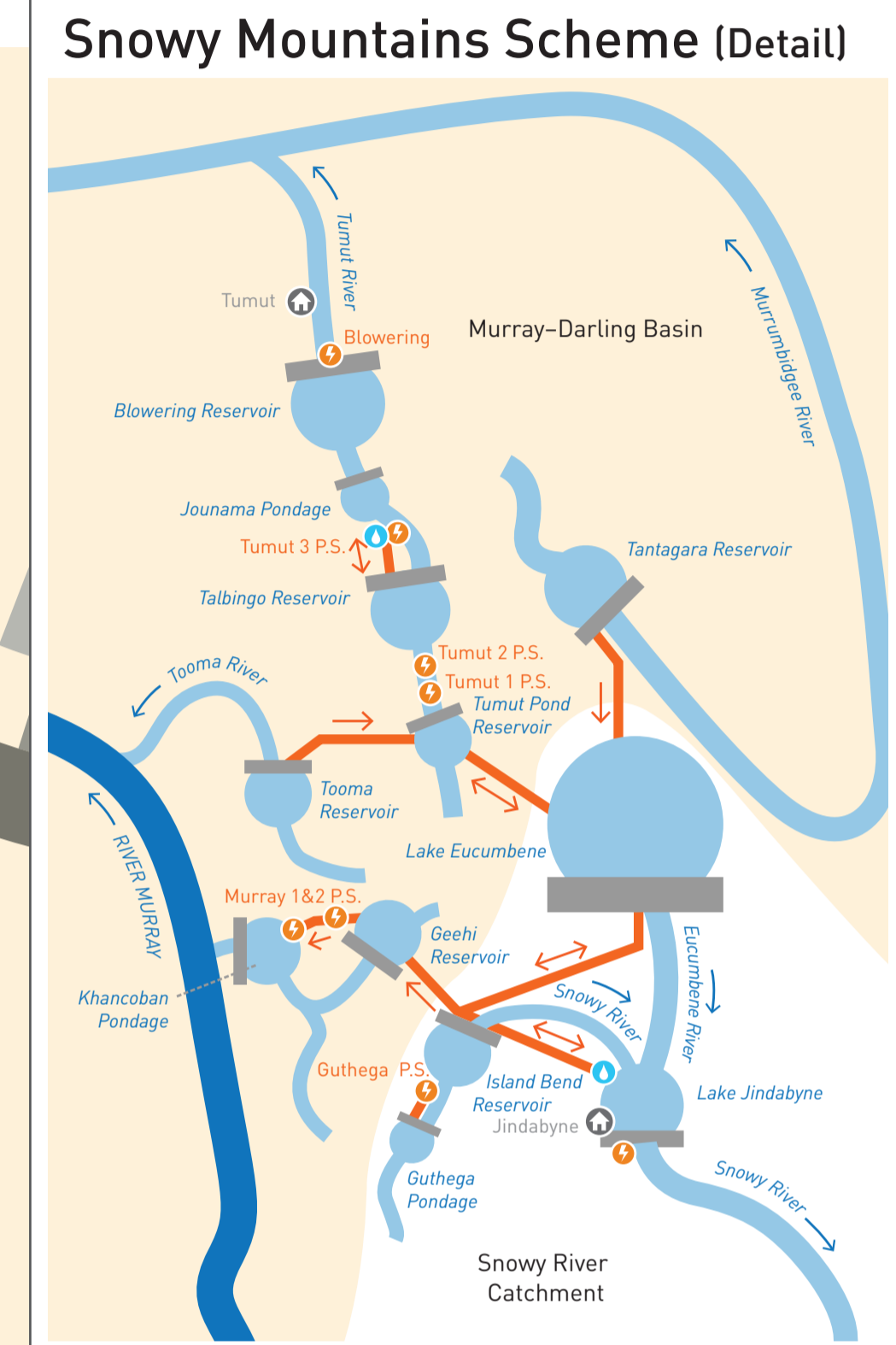
- Murray-Darling Basin
- State border
- River Murray system
- Tributary
- Water storage
- Regulated weir
- Non-regulated weir
- Water pipeline
- Water transfer tunnel
- Irrigation channel
- Irrigated area
- Great Dividing Range
- National Park/icon site*
- Town/city
- Fishway
- Navigation lock
- Salt interception scheme
- Hydroelectric power station
- Pumping station

This diagram is approximate, and intended as a broad overview of the River Murray System. It should not be considered an accurate map for the purposes of navigation.

Major storage capacities

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Dartmouth Dam | 3856 GL |
| Eildon Weir | 3390 GL |
| Hume Dam | 3005 GL |
| Lower Lakes | 2015 GL |
| Menindee Lakes | 1730 GL |
| Blowering Reservoir* | 1631 GL |
| Burrinjuck Dam | 1026 GL |
| Talbingo Reservoir* | 920 GL |
| Lake Victoria | 677 GL |
| Tantagora Reservoir* | 254 GL |

* These storages are within the Murray-Darling Basin but do not contribute to the routine operation of the River Murray system.



Constructing and maintaining assets

River Murray operations assets are owned by a joint venture of Australian, New South Wales, Victorian and South Australian Governments. Assets are designed, constructed, operated and maintained by three state constructing authorities under the direction of the Murray-Darling Basin Authority.

The three state constructing authorities are:

- NSW: State Water Corporation
- Victoria: Goulburn-Murray Water
- SA: SA Water (as agent of the Minister for Water)