

# BASIN FACTS

THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN SEEMS A CONSTANT SOURCE OF CONTROVERSY. BUT A LOOK AT THE KEY DATES AND STATISTICS ILLUSTRATES WHY.



## MONITORING AND EVALUATING THE BASIN

The River Murray Waters Agreement is reached, setting out the shares of water available to each state.



1917  
The River Murray Commission is established to oversee the agreement.

1992  
The Murray-Darling Basin Agreement is established, superseding the River Murray Commission and taking a broader scope.

The Millennium Drought begins.

1997



2004



The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agrees to the National Water Initiative, elevating the importance of sustainable use of water resources. The National Water Commission is established to implement it.

2008

The Murray-Darling Basin Authority is formed, replacing the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

2012

The Murray-Darling Basin Plan is signed into law, aiming to redress the over-allocation of water licences and return more water to the environment.

2016

Northern Basin review is released, specifically assessing the existing Basin Plan recovery target of 390GL of water for the river systems of the Northern Basin. It details what a healthy river system needs and the effects of water recovery on communities and river health.



1914

2015

Long-term state environmental watering plans are established to complement the Basin watering strategy.

2014

The Basin environmental watering strategy is published, building on the Basin Plan, advising stakeholders of ways to plan and manage environmental watering at a Basin scale.



2013

New water trading rules are announced, aiming to reduce restrictions on trade, improve transparency and access to information and improve market confidence.



2017

The adjustment of sustainable diversion limit (SDL) is determined, setting constraints on how much water is used in the Basin so as to leave enough water for the environment. To provide flexibility, it includes a mechanism to adjust SDL if outcomes can be reached with less water.



2019

All state water resource plans to be revised to support the development of their water resource plans and ensure they can be accredited on time.

2020

In addition to releasing a five-yearly report on the effectiveness of the Basin Plan, the MDBA expects to conduct a five-yearly review of the environmental watering plan, water quality and salinity targets.



2024

The proposed time for the completion of agreed constraints measures and the completion of supply and efficiency measures for the SDL adjustment outlined in 2017.



IT COVERS MORE THAN 1 MILLION SQUARE KILOMETRES, OR **14%** OF AUSTRALIA

PRODUCES:

\$19 BN

agricultural output annually

50 %

of Australia's irrigated produce

33 %

of Australia's total produce

HOME TO:

62 %

of Australia's pigs

45 %

of Australia's sheep

28 %

of Australia's cattle

300 GL

Amount of water estimated to have been over-drawn by farmers.

\$13 BN

Amount the Federal Government has invested in the Basin since 2007-08 to implement water reforms.

\$8 BN

Proportion of that money spent on irrigation infrastructure and efficiency programs.

\$4 BN

Amount the Federal Government subsidises the coal, oil and gas sector annually, in comparison.