



Updated 8th December 2015

USEFUL ACRONYMS

AAR	Average Annual Recharge – Volume of water added to the groundwater source (aquifer) naturally, by infiltration from rainfall and river flows, assessed on a long-term average basis.
ABC	Australian Broadcasting Corporation – National TV and Radio
ABARES	Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences – Research organisation within DAFF. Providing independent, economic and scientific analysis on issues facing Australia's primary industries.
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics – Government agency which collects statistical data for publication. Also conducts a census every 5 years which every person in Australia needs to fill in.
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission – Australian government organisation responsible for ensuring compliance with the Trade Practices Act 1974.
AEMA	Australian Energy Market Agreement – sets out the legislative and regulatory framework for Australia's energy markets. It provides for national legislation that is implemented in each participating state and territory.
AEMC	Australian Energy Market Commission – is an independent, national body responsible to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) through the Standing Council on Energy and Resources (SCER). Has two roles, as statutory rule maker for the energy market and expert adviser for federal, state and territory governments.
AEMO	Australian Energy Market Operator – Commencing operations on 1 July 2009, superseding several organisations including NEMMCO, VENCORP, ESIPC, REMCO (South Australian operations only), GMC and GRMO. Delivers a range of gas and electricity market, operational, development and planning functions. It manages the national Electricity market (NEM) and the Victorian gas transmission network. Facilitates electricity and gas full retail contestability, overseeing these retail markets in eastern and southern Australia. It is additionally responsible for national transmission planning for electricity and the establishment of a Short Term Trading Market (STTM) for gas.
AER	Australian Energy Regulator - Regulates energy markets and networks under national energy market legislation and rules. Its functions, mostly relate to energy markets in eastern and southern Australia.
AIP	Aquifer Interference Policy – NSW policy on the protection of underground water resources and use requirements of towns, farmers, industry and the environment.
APR	Access and Pricing Regulator – is a suggestion by the Competition Policy Review. There are discussions that this organisation will be formed in the future as an amalgamation between the ACCC and the AER.

ASGE	Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlement – Announced June 2005 to help groundwater users manage their reduction in entitlements.
AWD	Available Water Determination – Made under section 59 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i> . Made at the start of the water year (01 July) and expressed as a volume per unit share.
BLR	Basic Landholder Right – Three basic rights to access water for rural landholders' in NSW. Licences are not required for: domestic & stock rights; native title rights; harvestable rights.
BP	Basin Plan – See MDBP for details.
CEWH	Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder – Commonwealth department responsible for managing the water entitlements acquired under the Restoring the Balance in the MDB program and the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program.
CEWO	Commonwealth Environmental Water Office – Office for the CEWH.
CHN	Critical Human Needs – Water required for human consumption and use. The first water allocated in an AWD process.
CMA's	Catchment Management Authorities – State bodies responsible for catchment management programs. To be merged with LHPA to form LLS.
COAG Energy Council	Council of Australian Governments Energy Council – COAG is the peak intergovernmental forum in Australia, comprising the Prime Minister, State Premiers, Territory Chief Ministers & President of the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA).
COAG MoU	Council of Australian Government – Memorandum of Understanding – Document describing agreement between parties.
CRC's	Co-operative Research Centres – Administered by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. Supports research collaborations to address major challenges facing Australia.
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation – Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world.
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Commonwealth department developing policies that ensure agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable.
DE	Delivery Entitlement – A right of access to a delivery system within an Irrigation Infrastructure Operator area.
DECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change – NSW department formed April 2007 to encompass challenges presented by climate change and progress reforms for sustainable management of land and water.
DEWHA	Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts – Now called SEWPaC . Was charged with protecting and enhancing Australia's environment, heritage and culture.
DNSP	Distribution Network Service Provider – This is the most appropriate arrangement for customers who do not intend to operate the necessary electrical infrastructure. In this situation the relevant network service provider (NSP) will own and operate the infrastructure and is responsible for obtaining all planning approvals, and for the ongoing operation and maintenance of the assets. The customer pays for the construction of the asset and is charged an ongoing operations and maintenance fee.

DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment – Leads the Victorian Government’s efforts to sustainably manage water resources and catchments, climate change, bushfires, parks and other public land, forests, biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.
DWLBC	Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (SA)
ECA	Energy Consumers Australia - ECA was established on 30 January 2015 as an initiative of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Energy Council, in order to advocate on national energy market matters of strategic importance and material consequence for energy consumers, in particular household and small business consumers. ECA assumed the granting functions previously undertaken by the Consumer Advocacy Panel (CAP).
ESAA	Energy Supply Association of Australia - The Energy Supply Association of Australia (ESAA) seeks to positively influence government policy decisions to ensure that Australia enjoys the benefits of a safe, secure, reliable, sustainable and competitively priced electricity and natural gas supply.
EWP	Environmental Watering Plan – A framework for planning and coordinating the watering of environmental sites, including objectives, standards and priorities.
EWA	Environmental Water Account
FPH	Floodplain Harvesting – The capture and use of water that flows across a floodplain.
GAB	Great Artesian Basin – Located under most of QLD, northern NSW, south-east NT and north-east SA, it stretches over 26,000km and is estimated to hold 64,900 cubic km of water. The only source of reliable fresh water in inland Australia. It is the largest and deepest artesian basin in the world.
GL	Gigalitre – volume of water 1,000,000,000 litres (one billion) 1 Gigalitre = 1,000 Megalitres
HOE	History-of-Extraction – Amount of water extracted over a defined period of time.
HOU	History-of-Use – Established use of water over a defined period of time.
IGA	Inter-Governmental Agreement – An agreement between the Commonwealth and one or multiple States.
IIO’s	Irrigation Infrastructure Operators – Organisations that manage an irrigation area. The delivery infrastructure, delivery of water and management of the scheme.
IPART	Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal – Independent economic regulator for NSW (electricity, coastal water, gas and transport)
LHPA	Livestock Health and Pest Authority -
LLS	Local Land Services -
LTAAEL	Long-term Average Annual Extraction Limit – Self explanatory

LWAP	Land and Water Advisory Panel (nsw) – Established to coordinate stakeholder and community advice on current natural resource management and water issues in NSW.
MDB	Murray-Darling Basin – Geographical area covering 1,059,000 km ² over four states (QLD, NSW, VIC and SA) and one territory (ACT). Named after two of Australia’s longest rivers running through it, the Murray and the Darling Rivers. Australia’s most important agricultural area, producing over one third of Australia’s food supply.
MDBA	Murray-Darling Basin Authority – Formed by the Commonwealth Water Act to ensure “whole of basin” management. Responsible for cross border river operations and Basin Planning.
MDBC	Murray-Darling Basin Commission – No Longer Operating . Was the executive arm of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council. Now replaced by the MDBA.
MDBP	Murray-Darling Basin Plan – A requirement under the Water Act 2007, the plan came into effect on 24 November 2012. Created by the MDBA for the integrated and sustainable management of water resources in the Murray-Darling Basin.
MIA	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area – A diverse and productive region of the Murray-Darling Basin. Established in 1912 after the commissioning of Burrinjuck Dam and expanded in the 1970’s with the construction of Blowering Dam.
ML	Megalitre – volume of water 1,000,000 litres (one million) – an Olympic sized pool holds approximately 2.5 ML
MPF	Maximum Probable Flood
NEM	National Electricity Market - began operating as a wholesale market for the supply of electricity to retailers and end-users in Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and South Australia in December 1998. Tasmania joined the NEM in 2005 and operations today are based in five interconnected regions that largely follow state boundaries.
NER	National Electricity Rules - The National Electricity Rules govern the operation of the National Electricity Market. The Rules have the force of law, and are made under the National Electricity Law.
NEO	National Electricity Objectives
NOW	NSW Office of Water – Delivers the NSW Government's policy and reform agenda for the water sector in the state. Previously named: WRC (Water Resources Commission) then DLWC (Department of Land and Water Conservation) then DNR (Department of Natural Resources) then DIPNR (Department of Infrastructure Planning and Natural Resources) and then DWE (Department of Water and Energy).
NRAC	Natural Resources Advisory Council – No Longer Operating – Was an independent body advising NSW Government on sustainable natural resource management.
NRC	Natural Resources Commission – Independent advice to NSW Government on a range of natural resource management issues.

NRM	Natural Resource Management – Taking care of land, water, soil, plants and animals to ensure sustainability for social, economic and environmental benefits.
NWC	National Water Commission – Responsible for driving national water reform under the NWI by assessing, auditing and monitoring water reform progress.
NWI	National Water Initiative – signed by Commonwealth and all states and territories 25 June 2004 (TAS June 2005 / WA April 2006) – represents the shared commitment to water reform.
OFIEP	On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program – Part of the Commonwealths \$5.8 billion Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program under Water For The Future.
PM	Prime Minister – Head of the Australian Government
SCO	Senior Committee of Officials - The Senior Committee of Officials (SCO) is in place to advise the COAG Energy Council and develop issues for its consideration in the context of the Council's Terms of Reference and other issues as identified and agreed by Ministers.
SEWPaC	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities – Responsible for implementing the Australian Government’s policies to protect our environment and heritage, and to promote a sustainable way of life.
SDL	Sustainable Diversion Limit – Environmentally sustainable limits on the amount of water that can be taken from the Basin’s water resources. Crux to the Basin Plan.
SHL - DISV - RAR	Snowy Hydro Limited – Provides a complex array of financial hedge and insurance products to participants in the electricity market. Provider of electricity to the National Electricity Market. Dry Inflow Sequence Volume – Low inflow requirement to reduce releases Required Annual Release – Volume of water calculated to be released Annually.
SWC	State Water Corporation (State Water) – NSW rural bulk water delivery corporation. Managing and operating infrastructure to deliver more than 5,500 GL of bulk water annually to 6,300 licensed users on the state’s regulated rivers.
TPUT	Two-Part Unregulated Tariff – option for those pumping from an unregulated river source to install a meter and change their billing structure issued by NOW.
WALs	Water Access Licences – Entitle holders to a share in the available water within a particular water management area and to take water at specified times, rates or circumstances from specific locations.
WE	Water Entitlement – Licence to a share in an available resource.
WFTF	Water For The Future – Commonwealth Government \$12.9 billion water reform program.
WMA	Water Management Act 2000 – Governs the issue of new water licences and the trade of water licences and allocations for those water sources (rivers, lakes and groundwater) in NSW where

	water sharing plans have commenced.
WSP	Water Sharing Plan – Rules for sharing water between the environmental needs of the river or aquifer and water users. Water users being town supply, rural domestic supply, stock watering, industry and irrigation.

USEFUL COMPARISONS

1 Megalitre (ML) = One million litres (1,000,000)

- If an Olympic pool is 50m x 25m x 2m = 2500 cubic meters
- One cubic meter is one thousand litres (one kilolitre)
- Therefore it would take 2.5 Megalitres to fill an Olympic swimming pool
- One ML is enough water to cover 1 hectare (100m x 100m) to a depth of 10cm

1 Gigalitre (GL) = One thousand million litres (one Billion – 1,000,000,000)
(approx. 400 Olympic swimming pools)

HOW MANY SYDNEY HARBOUR'S?

Port Jackson, containing **Sydney Harbour**, is a drowned river valley and is considered a natural harbour. It is 19 km long with an area of 55 km².

One *Sydney Harbour (Sydharb)*, (the amount of water in Sydney Harbour) is **approximately 500 gigalitres or 200,000 Olympic sized pools.**