



USEFUL ACRONYMS

Average Annual Recharge

AAR

Volume of water added to the groundwater source (aquifer) naturally, by infiltration from rainfall and river flows, assessed on a long-term average basis.

Australian Broadcasting Corporation

ABC

National TV and Radio

Australian Bureau of Agriculture and Resource Economics and Sciences

ABARES

Research organisation within DAFF. Providing independent, economic and scientific analysis on issues facing Australia's primary industries.

Australian Bureau of Statistics

ABS

Government agency which collects statistical data for publication. Also conducts a census every five years which every person in Australia needs to fill in.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

ACCC

Australian government organisation responsible for ensuring compliance with the Trade Practices Act 1974.

Australian Energy Market Agreement

AEMA

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.

Australian Energy Market Commission

AEMC

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.

Australian Energy Market Operator

AEMO

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.

Australian Competition and Consumer Commission

ACCC

Promotes competition and fair trade in markets to benefit consumers, businesses, and the community. Also regulates national infrastructure services and is responsible for ensuring that individuals and businesses comply with Australian competition, fair trading, and consumer protection laws.

Australian Energy Regulator

AER

Regulates energy markets and networks under national energy market legislation and rules. Its functions, mostly relate to energy markets in eastern and southern Australia.

Aquifer Interference Policy

AIP

NSW policy on the protection of underground water resources and use requirements of towns, farmers, industry and the environment.

Access and Pricing Regulator

APR

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.

Achieving Sustainable Groundwater Entitlement

ASGE

Announced June 2005 to help groundwater users manage their reduction in entitlements.

Available Water Determination

AWD

Made under section 59 of the *Water Management Act 2000*. Made at the start of the water year (01 July) and expressed as a volume per unit share.

Basic Landholder Right

BLR

Three basic rights to access water for rural landholders' in NSW. Licences are not required for: domestic & stock rights; native title rights; harvestable rights.

Basin Plan

BP

See MDBP for details.

Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder

CEWH

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.

Commonwealth Environmental Water Office

CEWO

Office for the CEWH.

Critical Human Needs

CHN

Water required for human consumption and use. The first water allocated in an AWD process.

Catchment Management Authorities

CMA's

State bodies responsible for catchment management programs. To be merged with LHPA to form LLS.

Council of Australian Governments Energy Council

COAG 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).

Council of Australian Government – Memorandum of Understanding

COAG MoU

Document describing agreement between parties.

Co-operative Research Centres

CRC's

Administered by the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. Supports research collaborations to address major challenges facing Australia.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

CSIRO

Australia's national science agency and one of the largest and most diverse research agencies in the world.

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

DAFF

Commonwealth department developing policies that ensure agriculture, fisheries, food and forestry industries remain competitive, profitable and sustainable.

Delivery Entitlement

DE

A right of access to a delivery system within an Irrigation Infrastructure Operator area.

Department of Environment and Climate Change

DECC

NSW department formed April 2007 to encompass challenges presented by climate change and progress reforms for sustainable management of land and water.

Department of Environment and Primary Industries (VIC)

DEPI

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. *(previously Department of Sustainability and Environment)*

Distribution Network Service Provider

DNSP

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.

Department of Industry – Water

Dol – Water

The Department is responsible for surface and groundwater management including ensuring water security for NSW.

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

DSEWPC

Was charged with protecting and enhancing Australia's environment, heritage and culture. (*Previously Department of Environment Water Heritage and the Arts*)

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (SA)

DWLBC

An authority on the state's environment and natural resources to help decision-making of governments, businesses and individuals. Facilitates community involvement in and taking responsibility for the environment. A steward of the state's natural resources to enable sustainable development.

Energy Consumers Australia

ECA

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).

Energy Supply Association of Australia

ESAA

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.

Environmental Water Account

EWA

Presents information on the physical and monetary supply and use of water in the Australian economy.

Environmental Watering Plan

EWP

A framework for planning and coordinating the watering of environmental sites, including objectives, standards and priorities.

Floodplain Harvesting

FPH

The capture and use of water that flows across a floodplain.

Great Artesian Basin

GAB

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.

Gigalitre

GL

Volume of water 1,000,000,000 litres (one billion)
1 Gigalitre = 1,000 Megalitres

History-of-Extraction

HOE

Amount of water extracted over a defined period of time.

History-of-Use

HOU

Established use of water over a defined period of time.

Inter-Governmental Agreement

IGA

An agreement between the Commonwealth and one or multiple States.

Irrigation Infrastructure Operators

IIO's

Organisations that manage an irrigation area. The delivery infrastructure, delivery of water and management of the scheme.

Independent Pricing And Regulatory Tribunal

IPART

Independent economic regulator for NSW (electricity, coastal water, gas and transport)

Livestock Health and Pest Authority

LHPA

Part of LLS (see below)

Local Land Services

LLS

Provides services to farmers, landholders and the community with issues in agricultural production, biosecurity, natural resource management and during emergencies.

Long-term Average Annual Extraction Limit

LTAAEL

Land and Water Advisory Panel (NSW)

LWAP

Established to coordinate stakeholder and community advice on current natural resource management and water issues in NSW.

Murray-Darling Basin

MDB

Geographical area covering 1,059,000 km² 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.

Murray-Darling Basin Authority

MDBA

Formed by the Commonwealth Water Act to ensure "whole of basin" management. Responsible for cross border river operations and Basin Planning.

Murray-Darling Basin Commission

MDBC

No Longer Operating. Was the executive arm of the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council. Now replaced by the MDBA.

Murray-Darling Basin Plan

MDBP

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.

Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area

MIA

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.

Megalitre

ML

Volume of water 1,000,000 litres (one million) – an Olympic sized pool holds approximately 2.5 ML

Maximum Probable Flood

MPF

The largest flood that may reasonably be expected to occur at a given point in time.

National Electricity Market

NEM

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.

National Electricity Rules

NER

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.

National Electricity Objectives

NEO

Promote efficient investment in, and efficient operation and use of, electricity services for the long-term interests of consumers; and the reliability, safety and security of the national electricity system.

Natural Resources Advisory Council

NRAC

No Longer Operating. Was an independent body advising NSW Government on sustainable natural resource management.

Natural Resources Access Regulator

NRAR

The NRAR is an independent regulator established under the Natural Resources Access Regulator Act 2017. The current regulatory focus for the NRAR is water regulation.

The principal objectives of the NRAR are to ensure effective, efficient, transparent and accountable compliance and enforcement measures for the natural resources management legislation and to maintain public confidence in the enforcement of the natural resources management legislation.

Natural Resources Commission

NRC

Independent advice to NSW Government on a range of natural resource management issues.

Natural Resource Management

NRM

Taking care of land, water, soil, plants and animals to ensure sustainability for social, economic and environmental benefits.

National Water Commission

NWC

Responsible for driving national water reform under the NWI by assessing, auditing and monitoring water reform progress.

National Water Initiative

NWI

Signed by Commonwealth and all states and territories 25 June 2004 (TAS June 2005 / WA April 2006) – represents the shared commitment to water reform.

On-Farm Irrigation Efficiency Program

OFIEP

Part of the Commonwealths \$5.8 billion Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program under Water For The Future.

Prime Minister

PM

Head of the Australian Government

Senior Committee of Officials

SCO

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.

Sustainable Diversion Limit

SDL

Environmentally sustainable limits on the amount of water that can be taken from the Basin's water resources.
Crux to the Basin Plan.

Snowy Hydro Limited

SHL

Provides a complex array of financial hedge and insurance products to participants in the electricity market. Provider of electricity to the National Electricity Market.

- **DISV** – Dry Inflow Sequence Volume (Low inflow requirement to reduce releases)
- **RAR** – Required Annual Release (Volume of water calculated to be released annually.)

State Water Corporation (State Water)

SWC

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.

Two-Part Unregulated Tariff

TPUT

Option for those pumping from an unregulated river source to install a meter and change their billing structure issued by NOW.

Water Access Licences

WALs

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.

Water Entitlement

WE

Licence to a share in an available resource.

Water For The Future

WFTF

Commonwealth Government \$12.9 billion water reform program.

Water Management Act

WMA

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

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**.