

## 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 Planning, Industry & Environment – Water

### DPIE – 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 km<sup>2</sup> 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 km<sup>2</sup>.

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