



# THIRD ROSENBERG INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON WATER POLICY

Tuesday 8 October 2002

**Don Blackmore**  
Chief Executive



# Murray-Darling Basin

## A Snapshot

- The Basin covers 1 million sq. km (equivalent to the size of South Africa)
- Major river system by world standards
  - River Murray 2530 km
  - River Darling 2740 km
  - Longest river distance 3750 km
  - Comprises 24 major rivers

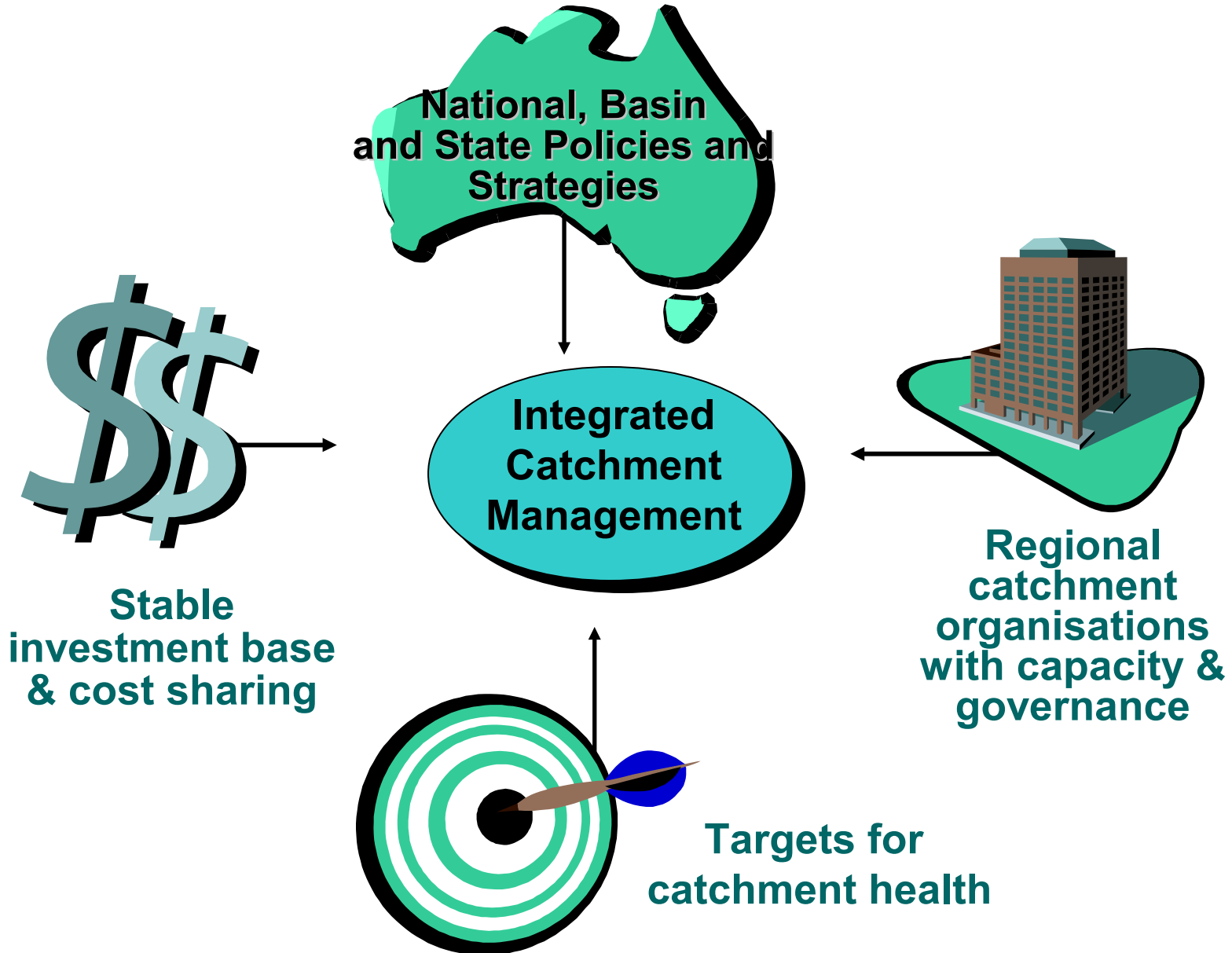


# Evolution of Basin Management

- Pioneering Phase 1900 – 1920
- Delivery Phase 1920 – 1967
- Management Phase 1968 - Present

# Integrated Catchment Management

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## SIX GOVERNMENTS

C'wealth NSW Vic SA Qld ACT

## MURRAY-DARLING BASIN MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

Up to 3 Ministers from each Government  
representing land, water and environment

### Community Advisory Committee

21 Regional & special interest  
representatives

## MURRAY-DARLING BASIN COMMISSION

1 Independent President  
2 Commissioners from each Government

### Commission Office

Technical and administrative secretariat



# Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council

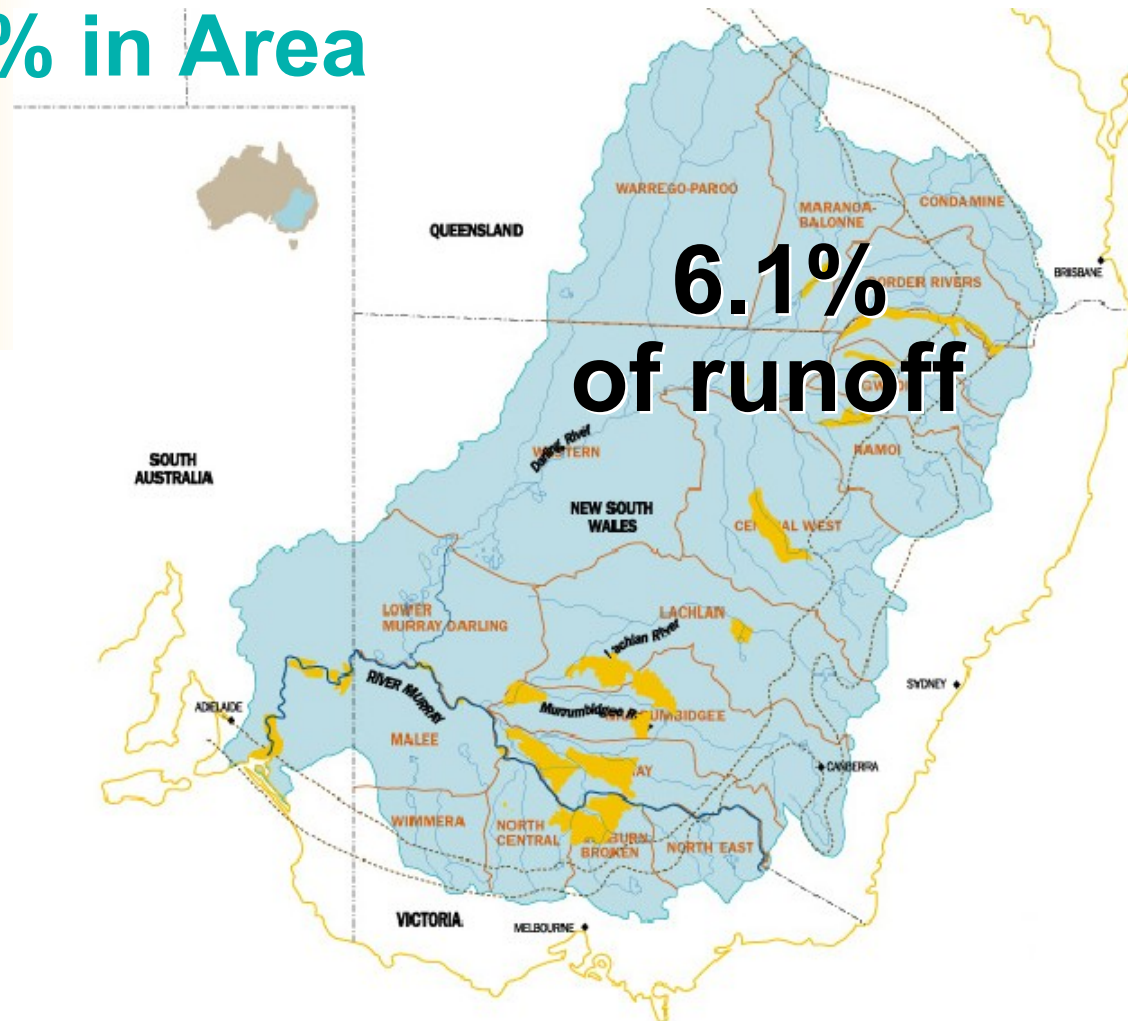
## Charter

*“to promote and coordinate effective planning and management for equitable, efficient and sustainable use of land, water and other environmental resources”*



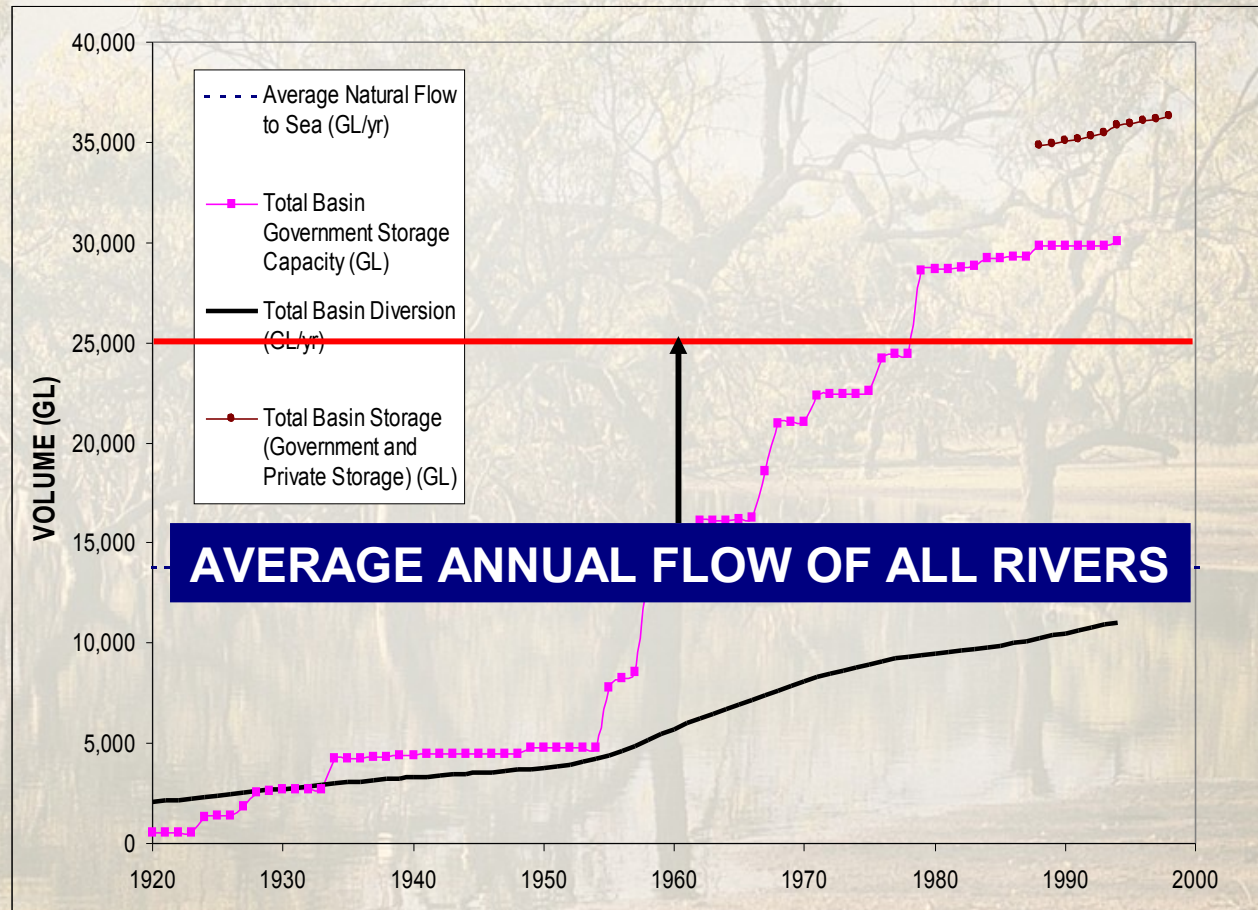
# Distribution of Surface Runoff in Australia

15% in Area

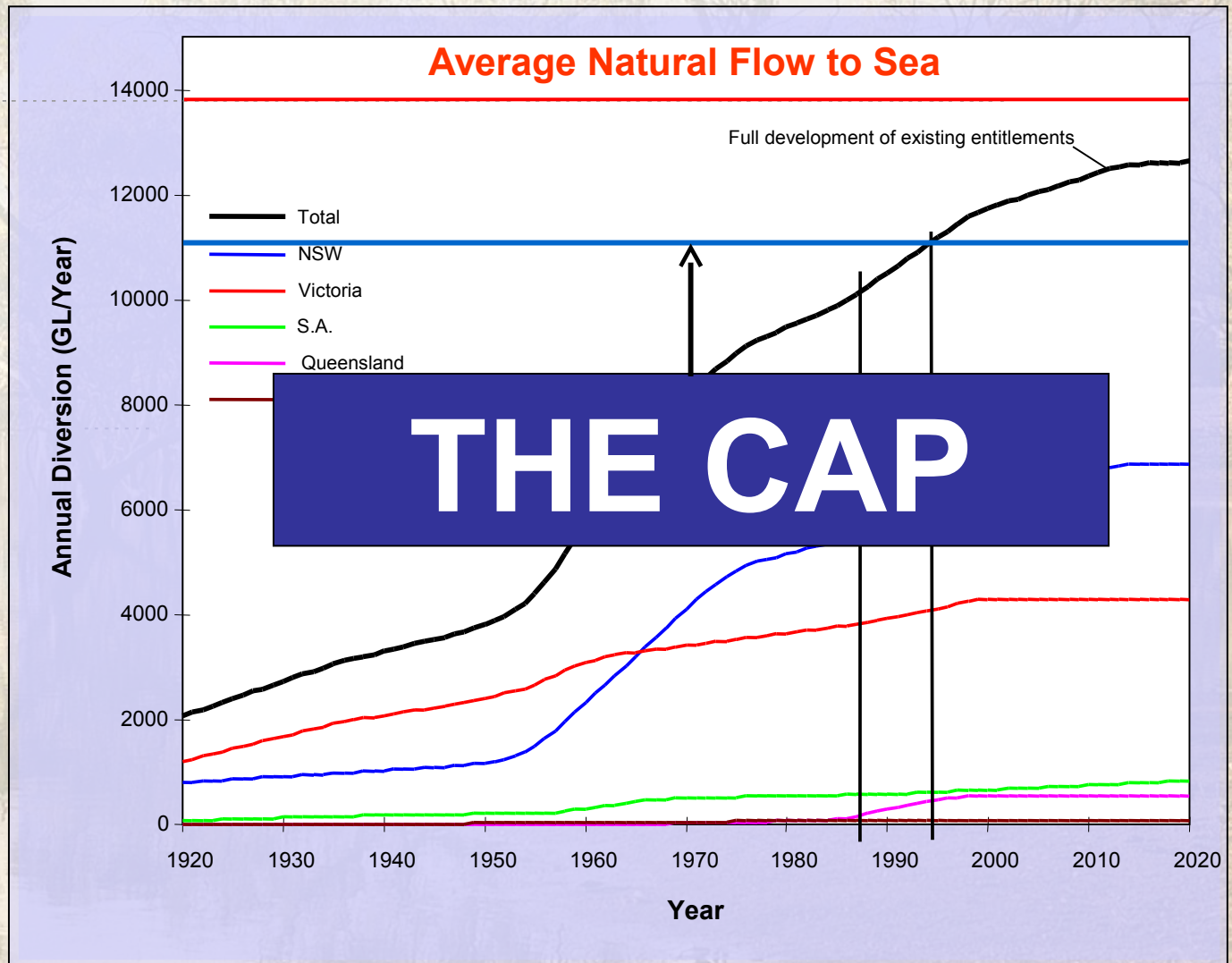




# Storage Capacity and Diversions in the Murray-Darling Basin vs Time



# Growth in Water Use in Murray-Darling Basin

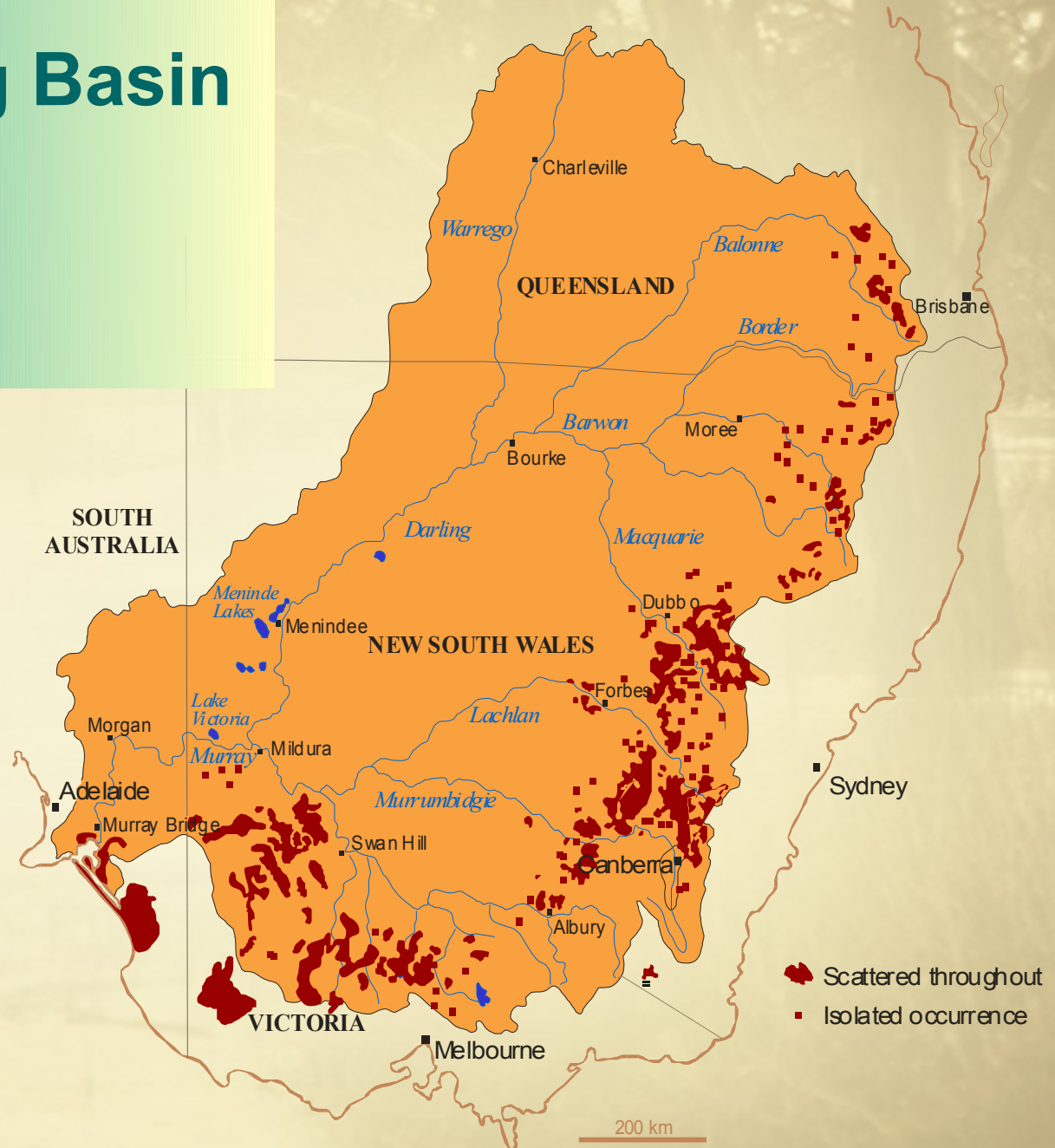




# Murray-Darling Basin

## Dryland salinity occurrences

1996



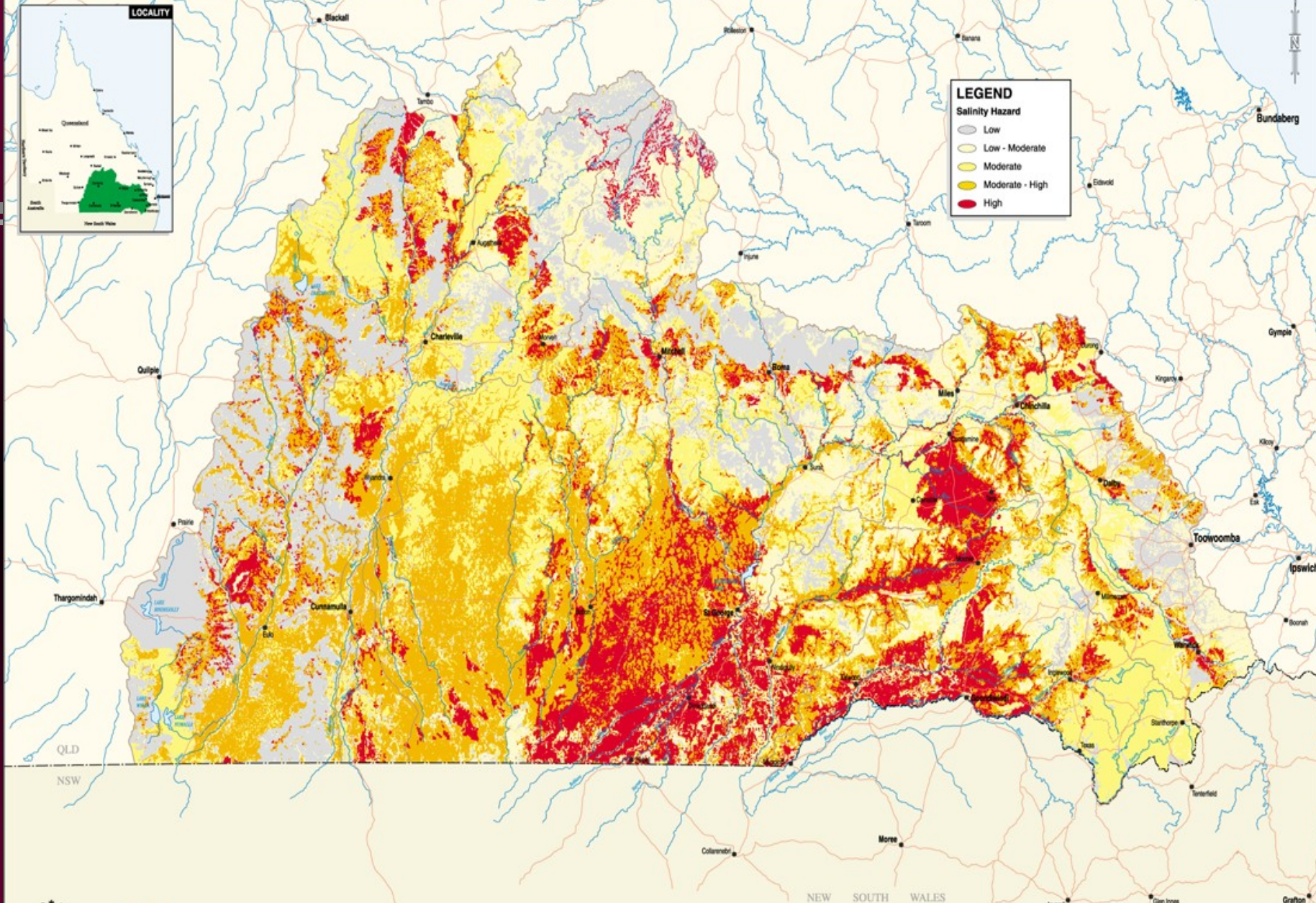


LOCALITY

**LEGEND**

**Salinity Hazard**

- Low
- Low - Moderate
- Moderate
- Moderate - High
- High



National Action Plan on Salinity and Water Quality

Murray - Darling Basin

Salinity Hazard

Salinity hazard is not risk assessment, it is an indication of potential for salinity.

This Salinity Hazard Map provides an assessment of the potential for salinity problems to arise in the landscape shown on the map. It is an indication of the vulnerability of the landscape to salinity due to the inherent characteristics of the landscape. However, this map is not intended to replace on the ground, local and site specific environmental impact assessments and should not be used in relation to an individual property.

© State of Queensland (Department of Natural Resources and Mines)



1:1 288 000 before reduction  
Projection - Single GCS Queensland  
Datum - GDA84



Drainage, localities, town and road data supplied courtesy of Australian Surveying and Land Information Group, Canberra, ACT.

# Future Dryland Salinity

**Land area with high potential to develop dryland salinity in Australia.**

**Land Area (ha)**

<b>State/Territory*</b>	<b>1998/2000</b>	<b>2050</b>
<b>NSW</b>	181 000	1 300 000
<b>Vic</b>	670 000	3 110 000
<b>Qld</b>	Not assessed	3 100 000
<b>SA</b>	390 000	600 000
<b>Sub Total</b>	1 241 000	8 110 000
<b>WA</b>	4 363 000	8 800 000
<b>Tas</b>	54 000	90 000
<b>Total</b>	<b>5 658 000</b>	<b>17 000 000</b>

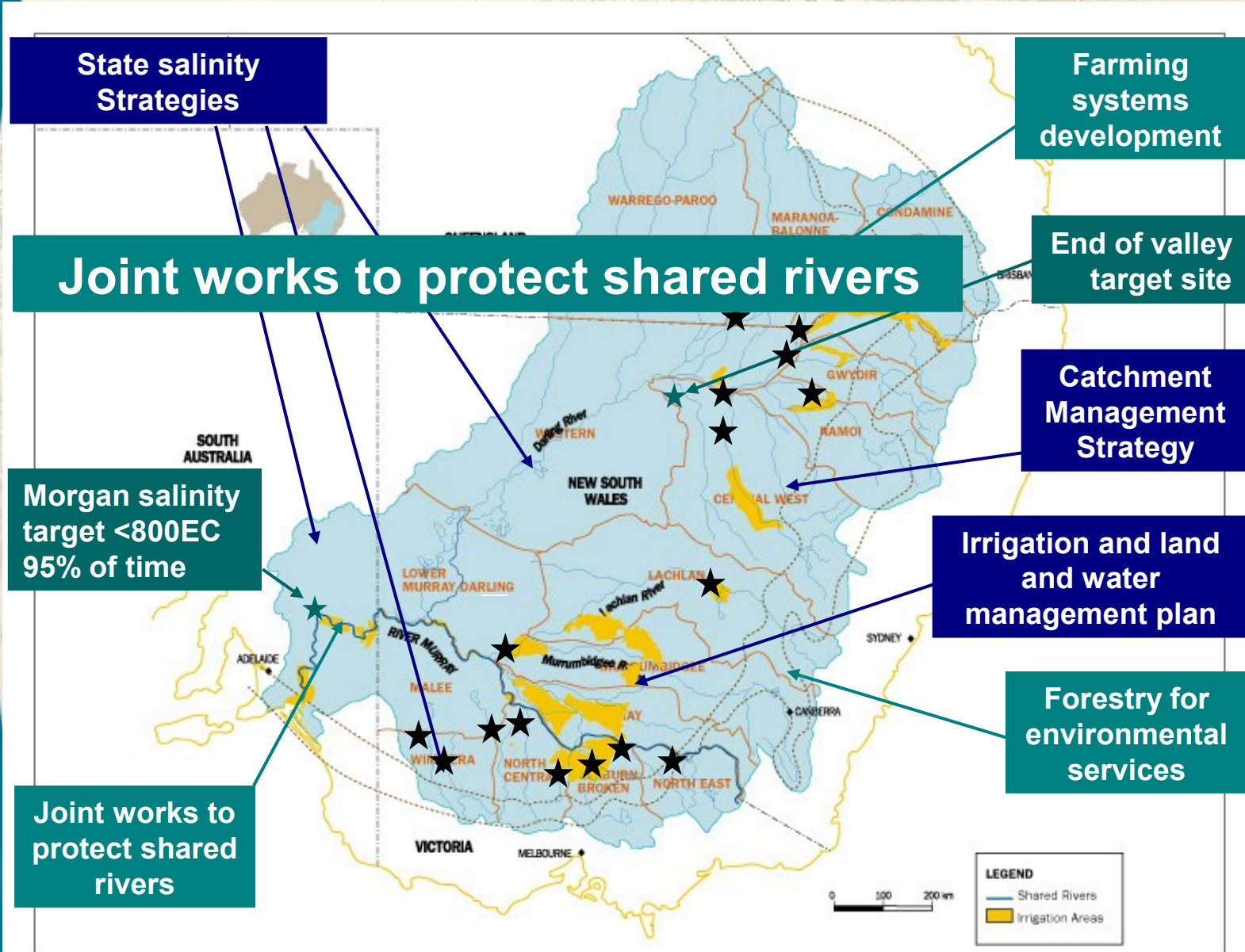
*Source: National Land and Water Resources Audit*

# River Salinities - New South Wales

## Average River Salinity (EC)

River Valley	Average River Salinity (EC)			
	Current	2020	2050	2100
Murrumbidgee	250	320	350	400
Lachlan				
Forbes	530	780	1150	1460
Darling				
Menindee	360	430	490	530
Bogan	730	1500	1950	2320
Macquarie	620	1280	1730	2110
Castlereagh	640	760	1100	1230
Namoi	680	1050	1280	1550
Gwydir	560	600	700	740
Macintyre	450	450	450	450

# Salinity Strategy in Summary



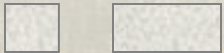


# River Basin Check List

**Stable Treaty /  
Agreement**

**Transparent Governance /  
Community Participation**

**Transparent  
Governance /  
Community  
Participation**





OUR ULTIMATE CHALLENGE  
IS TO MAKE OUR RIVERS AND LAKES  
THE 'REPORT CARD' OF  
OUR CIVILISATION