

# Water Trading Tool Kit - Fact Sheet 5

## Who owns what?

### Introduction

The Murray Darling Basin Plan (MDBP) provides a coordinated approach to water management across the Basin's four States and the ACT. A critical component is to achieve an environmentally sustainable level of water use within Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDLs) across the Basin.

The Australian Government is recovering water to reach those SDLs through a combination of investments in water-saving infrastructure (on-farm and irrigation delivery systems) and direct purchases from irrigators. A significant volume of water entitlements has been secured for the environment, and is now no longer available for consumptive use.

It means less water is available for irrigation than before, and irrigators need to have a good understanding of what water is available to make informed water management and purchasing decisions.

### How much water is there and who owns what?

The Basin Plan's implementation is ongoing and therefore the volume held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) will increase over time.

The Australian Government is still sourcing water to meet the SDL targets. Irrigators can go to the CEWH website to see current water holdings and environmental water use across the basin:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/about/water-holdings>.

The CEWH also provides information on how much water it used in any particular season and how much it carried over. This can be useful for irrigators looking for an improved understanding of what water is in the different storages and how much is available for consumptive use.

For more information: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/about-commonwealth-environmental-water> for total CEWH used and delivered.

The current volume of entitlements across the river valleys in the southern MDB and how much is owned by the CEWH in volume and as a % of the whole is illustrated in the Table below.

**Table 1: Entitlements across the southern MDB**

State	Entitlement Type	Reliability Class	Private Water Share Holders (including Irrigators) <sup>1</sup>	CEWH Entitlements (% of total GL on issue as of February 2015) <sup>2</sup>	Long-term average Yield <sup>3</sup>
<b>Murray System</b>					
NSW	High Security water access licence	High	182	16 (8%)	95%
NSW	General Security water access licence	Medium	1343	327 (20%)	81%
Victoria	High reliability water share	High	939	247 (21%)	95%
Victoria	Low reliability water share	Low	267	22 (8%)	36%
SA	Water Licence	High	415	129 (24%)	90%
<b>Goulburn System</b>					
Victoria	High reliability water share	High	647	245 (27%)	95%
Victoria	Low reliability water share	Low	374	22 (6%)	42%
<b>Broken System</b>					
Victoria	High reliability water share	High	17	1 (6%)	95%
Victoria	Low reliability water share	Low	3	0 (0%)	75%
<b>Campaspe System</b>					
Victoria	High reliability water share	High	16	7 (30%)	95%
Victoria	Low reliability water share	Low	18.6	0.4 (2%)	49%
Loddon System					
Victoria	High reliability water share	High	18	3 (14%)	95%
Victoria	Low reliability water share	Low	7.5	0.5 (6%)	27%
<b>Murrumbidgee System</b>					
NSW	High Security water access licence	High	358	7 (2%)	95%
NSW	General Security water access licence	Medium	1813	230 (11%)	64%
			<b>Total (GL)</b>	<b>Total (GL)</b>	
<b>Total High Security (Vic + NSW + SA)</b>			<b>2592</b>	<b>655</b>	
<b>Total Medium Security (NSW General Security)</b>			<b>3156</b>	<b>557</b>	
<b>Total Low Security (Vic LRWS)</b>			<b>670</b>	<b>45</b>	

In the three levels of 'normal' years, the High Security allocation is always 100% in all valleys and States; the only variable is how much NSW General Security is available.

<sup>1</sup> GL held by irrigators and water corporations sourced from multiple sources including water authority annual reports, websites and A Guide to the Water Sharing Plan for the Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source September 2004.

<sup>2</sup> Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder entitlements as of 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015. Source: <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/about/water-holdings>

<sup>3</sup> Average yield is adapted from long term average annual yield information on the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office website. <http://www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/about/water-holdings>