

Irrigation In South Australia



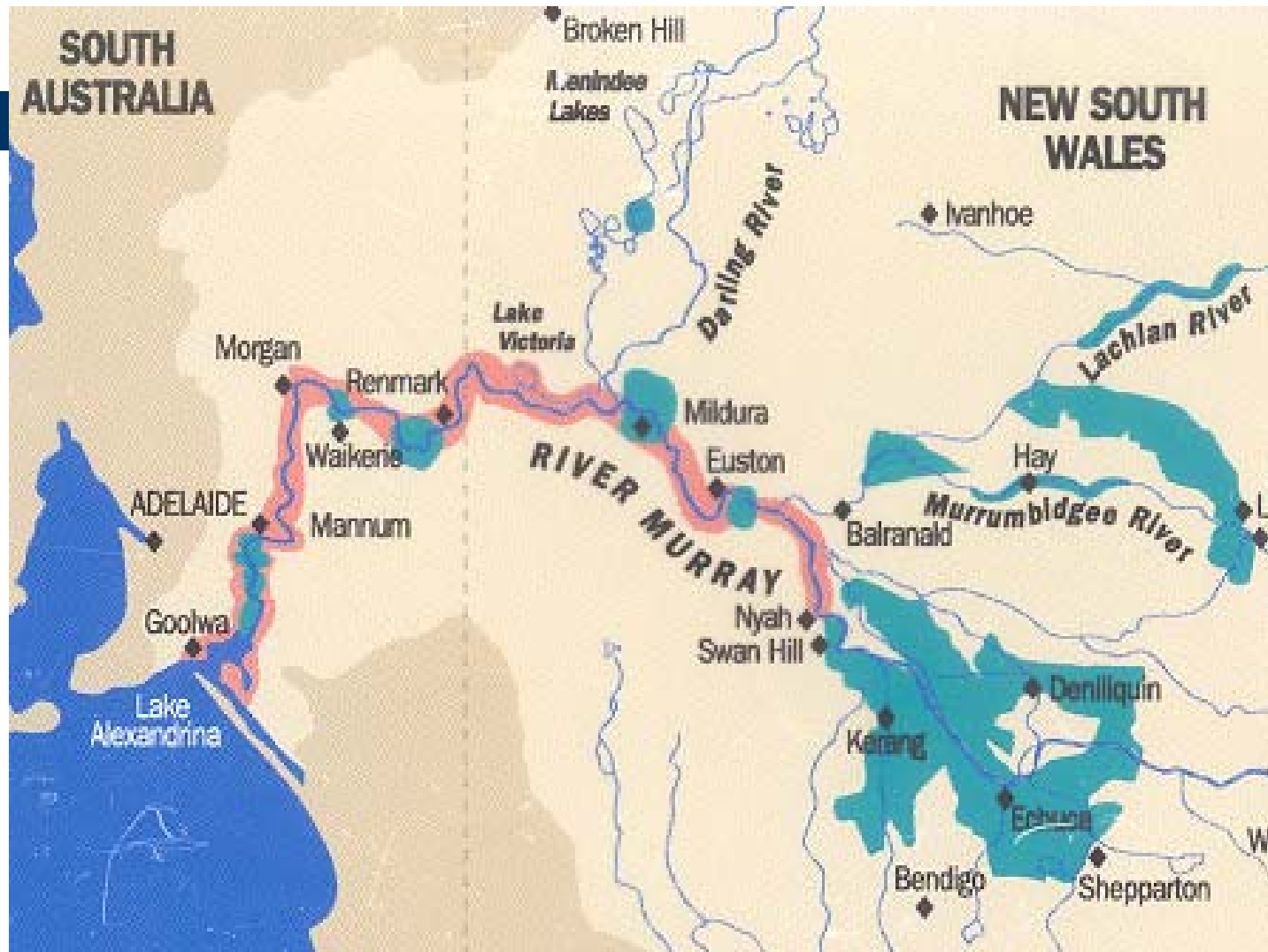
Water Resource Use

- Irrigated Agriculture is the largest water user in the State (80% of water used)
- Approximately 80% of all water use in SA is applied to irrigated crops
 - 40% River Murray
 - 50% South East Groundwater
 - 10% other Groundwater basins

South Australian prescribed water resources

- A map of SA showing major irrigation areas

River Murray



River Murray

- 794.1 GL authorised to be taken from the River Murray in 2001
- Approximately 600 GL for Irrigation

Irrigators

- Approximately 5500 Farms
- Horticulture, Viticulture & Dairy
 - Riverland (River Murray) Region produces 25% of Australia's wine grapes & 30% of its citrus.

Organisational Structures

- Only remaining Government districts are in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Areas (3500ha)
- Largest private organisation is the Central Irrigation Trust (9 Districts 16000 ha)
- Other private areas include the Renmark Irrigation Trust, Sunlands Qualco and Langhorne Creek
- Many individual private diverters

Water Delivery

- All districts on the Murray System are covered by the RMCWMB Water Allocation Plan (WAP)
- Most are covered by a Land and Water Management plan
 - Plans identify target efficiencies & timeframes
 - Annual reporting begins this year

Major Issues

- Improving Water Use Efficiency
 - Most districts have been “rehabilitated” to piped water delivery
 - Lower Murray Reclaimed areas have begun negotiations
- Water Allocation and Tradability
- Water Price
 - Prices have increased to \$16-1800/ML permanent
- Environmental Management