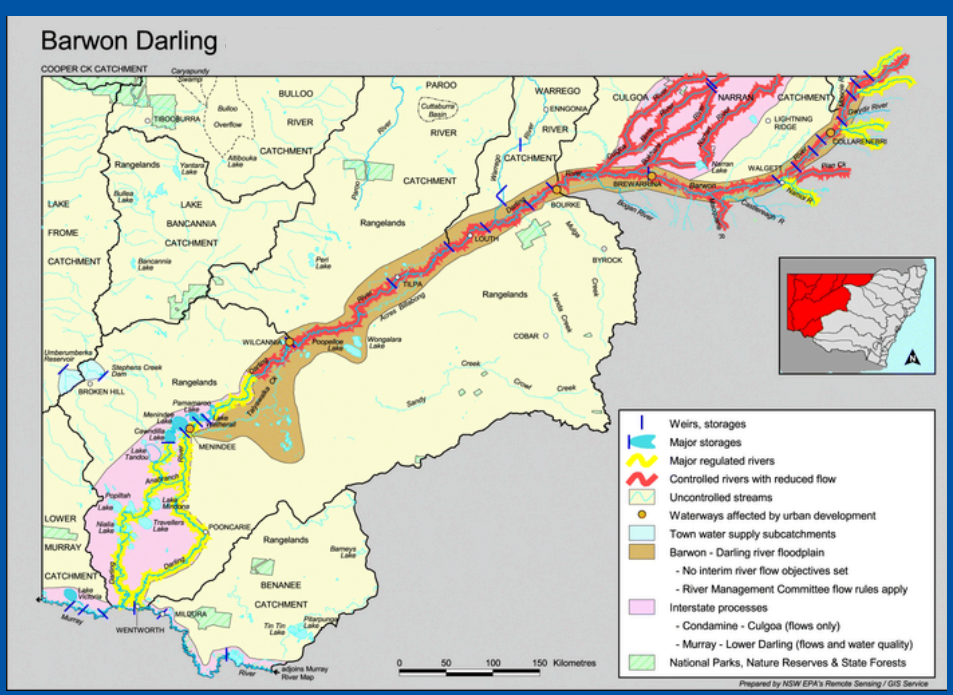
# Water in BARWON-DARLING VALLEY




## Fast Facts

| | |
|---|---|
| Where: | Northern NSW |
| LGAs: | Central Darling<br>Walgett<br>Cobar<br>Brewarrina<br>Bourke |
| Basin: | Murray-Darling |
| Catchment area: | 13% of Murray-Darling Basin |
| Contribution to Basin: | 2.8% of Murray-Darling Basin |

## First Nations Country

The Barwon-Darling catchment includes the land of many First Nations people including the Barkindji, Murrawarri, Ngemba and Ngiyampaa.

The Baiame's Ngunnha (fish traps) at Brewarrina, one of the oldest human-made structures (40,000 years old!) in the world, were made by the Ngemba People.

Working With Country To Heal: An Indigenous-led project restoring the health of the Baaka (Darling River) through environmental conservation and traditional knowledge

## Barwon-Darling River's

### Tributaries

**flow towards** *(adds to)* Barwon-Darling River

- Border Rivers
- Moonie River
- Culgoa River
- Bokhara River
- Gwydir River
- Namoi River
- Castlereagh River
- Macquarie River

### Distributaries

**flow away** *(takes)* from Barwon-Darling River

- Talyawalka Creek
- Numerous small creeks

## Barwon-Darling Catchment

**Boundaries**

- North – Border Rivers catchment
- East – Great Dividing Range
- South – Macquarie-Bogan catchment
- West – Western floodplains and semi-arid plains

**Key Ecosystems**

- Coolibah-Black Box Woodland - This endangered community of flora and fauna is found on periodically water-logged areas including tall riparian to open, grassy woodlands on grey-clay.
- There are many billabongs, lagoons, lakes and wetlands on the important floodplains, that vital habitat for fish and bird breeding.

**Economy**

- Agriculture - Dryland cattle and sheep grazing, grain production and cotton farming dominate the economy.
- Tourism, fishing, mining, and local businesses also contribute to the economy.

**Other**

- Lightning Ridge has beautifully opalised fossils, including the only dinosaur fossils found in NSW.

Sustainable Rivers Audit | Barwon-Darling Water Plan | Barwon River

## Weirs

The main Barwon-Darling River system connects the northern and southern basins. It doesn't have any major dams, which makes it a mostly unregulated river system. However, several weirs are used to manage water levels for towns, agriculture, and the environment.



**Brewarrina Weir**



**Bourke Weir**



**Walgett Weir**



**Allan Tannock Weir**

## DID YOU KNOW? Fish Passage: Reconnecting the Northern Basin project



The project is building fishways at several weirs to allow native fish to migrate and breed. It will reconnect more than 500 km of waterways and improve the ecological health of the river system.

## Water Users

Local water users can join WaterNSW's Customer Advisory Groups (CAGs) and meet regularly to raise issues, provide advice, and share information.

The federal and state governments hold water licenses and plan how they use water for the environment.

Livestock | Cotton | Irrigators | Mining | Households | Towns | Recreation | Cultural | Environment

## Managing Water

Water is a precious resource that is protected by laws and carefully managed by three main agencies in NSW.

**Dept of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment & Water (DCCEEW)**

**Makes the rules**

Plan and develop laws, policies, and guidelines for everyone to follow

WaterNSW

**Implements the rules**

- Manage NSW's river systems & 41 dams
- Organise most users' licensing & approvals
- Monitor water for other agencies

**Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR)**

**Enforces the rules**

Oversee and investigate to make sure everyone is following the rules

## Native Species

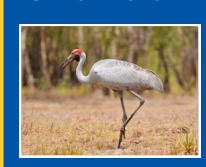


Silver Perch



Murray Cod

The Barwon-Darling River Valley is home to many native species, including threatened plants and animals. DPIF manages threatened fish.



Brolga



Grey Falcon



River Red Gum



Darling River Snail

## Local River Projects

Managing Environmental Water in the Barwon-Darling System: a program that protects and manages river flows to improve water quality, support native fish populations, maintain wetlands, and keep the river ecosystem healthy

The Northern Basin Connectivity Program: a project that improves water flows into the Barwon-Darling River. It aims to improve water quality, reduce algal blooms, support fish migration, and ensure river ecosystems remain healthy during dry periods