SDLAM – Quick Overview

Video Script

The Murray–Darling Basin is the largest and most complex river system in Australia.

It covers one million square kilometres across Queensland, New South Wales, the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and South Australia.

The Basin needs a plan to make it healthier and more sustainable, while continuing to support communities, farming and other industries.

At its heart, the Murray–Darling Basin Plan sets the amount of water that can be taken from the Basin in an average year, while leaving enough for our rivers, lakes and wetlands and the plants and animals that depend on them.

Communities across the Basin swim in, fish in, camp on, travel along and depend on our rivers on a daily basis.

Maintaining a healthy Basin and rivers continues to support our communities and the people who live and breathe their local rivers.

The gap between what was taken for consumptive use before the Basin Plan – and what the rivers need to stay healthy was 2750 gigalitres – this is known as ‘gap bridging’ water.

This was the water recovery target. The Basin Plan includes mechanisms to adjust the water recovery target.

In the northern Basin the Northern Basin review found that 70 gigalitres of the north’s 2750 gigalitre ‘gap bridging’ target could stay in productive use if a range of environmental projects was undertaken.

These measures make up the Northern Basin Toolkit.

In the southern Basin the mechanism is called the Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism or SDLAM for short.

**END**