



29/11/2019

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission

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ACCC inquiry into water markets in the Murray-Darling Basin

Submission.

The current high prices for water temporary and water rights can be traced back to simple greater demand than supply the causes as I see it are as follows.

1. Failure to reign in overallocation that was done before the MDBA Plan came into operation.
2. Gross overestimation of historical inflows.
3. Too much reliance on the "Market to solve problems"
4. Failure to manage the relationship between permanent plantings requiring 100% water 100% of the time to annual plantings. I.e. Too many permanent plantings.
5. Too many people relying on temporary water.
6. Failure to make allowances for Climate change.
7. Failure to take notice of Perth's experience where their dam inflows have decreased by 86% (If it has happened in Perth why not the Murray Darling Basin)
8. Too many shifty deals.

Action needed.

1. Establishment of a water data base that includes all states including Tasmania.
2. Direct access to data base by all users with the ability to view all offers that can be delivered to extraction point and conclude purchase online. (Brokers are just an unnecessary luxury.)
3. Accurate measurement of all water in each valley and that includes all surface water, stream water, and ground water
4. Metering of **ALL extraction points**.
5. **All extraction points** to electronically report back to central data base on a 15minute interval.
6. All calculations for water volumes must be calculated from ridge-line to ridge-line.
7. Climate change to be taken seriously.
8. Contingency plans be established to plan for even greater declines in inflows.

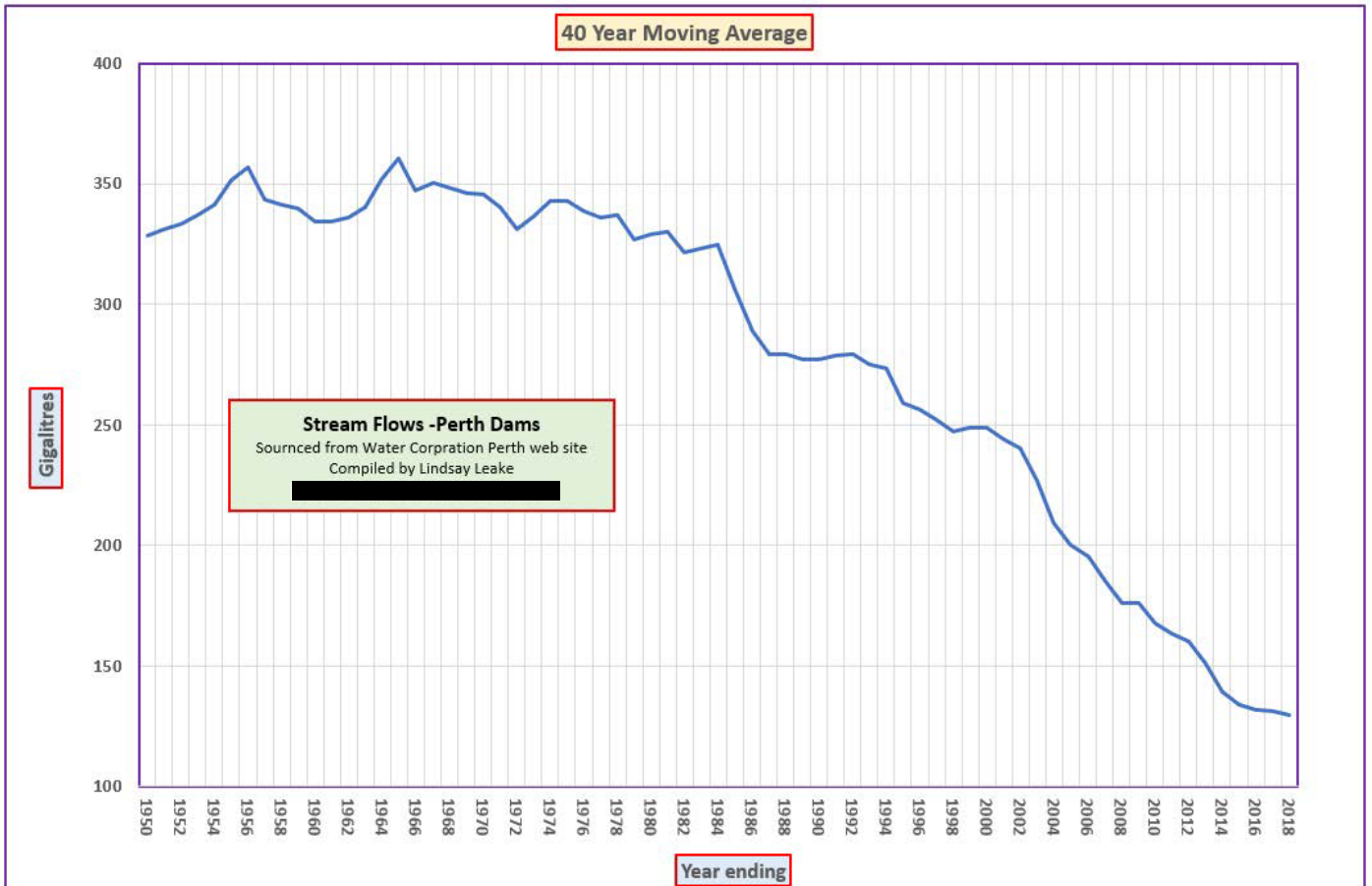
I enclose a graph showing the 40year moving average of inflows into the Murray River, (Data sourced from MDBA) this graph shows an alarming decrease in inflows since 1990, if that decrease continues then much of the irrigation development in the basin will be unviable.

I also enclose a graph from the Water Corporation, Perth taken from their web site (28/11/2019) and my calculation of 40 year moving average of Perth's dam inflows, showing the disastrous decrease in inflows into Perth dams, and Wimmera Mallee Headworks 40 year moving average (Source GWM web site)

The current hysterical calls being made are understandable when irrigators are facing disaster, however, there needs to be serious attention to the alarming decrease in inflows into ALL rivers in southern Australia.

Head in the sand is just not good enough.





# Streamflow Historical

Overview

Rainfall

Streamflow

Dam levels

Water use

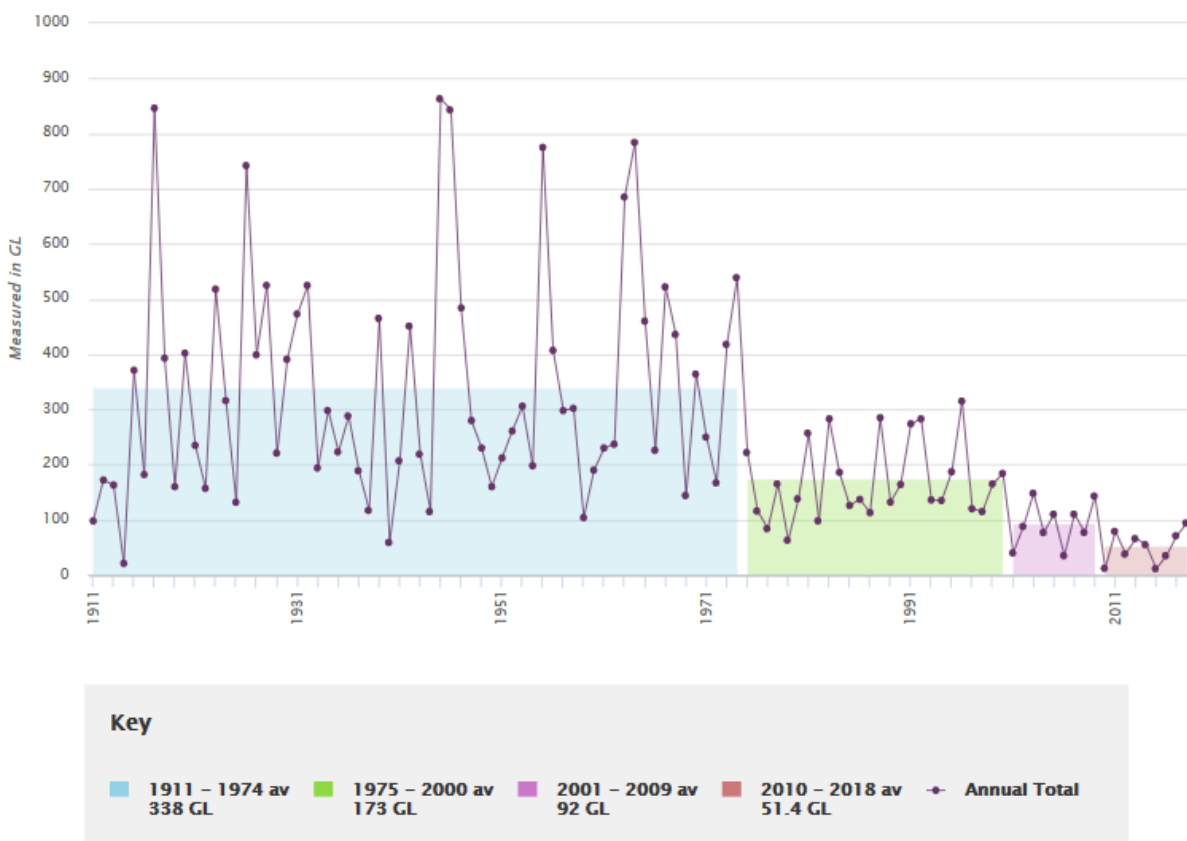
Streamflow

Streamflow Historical

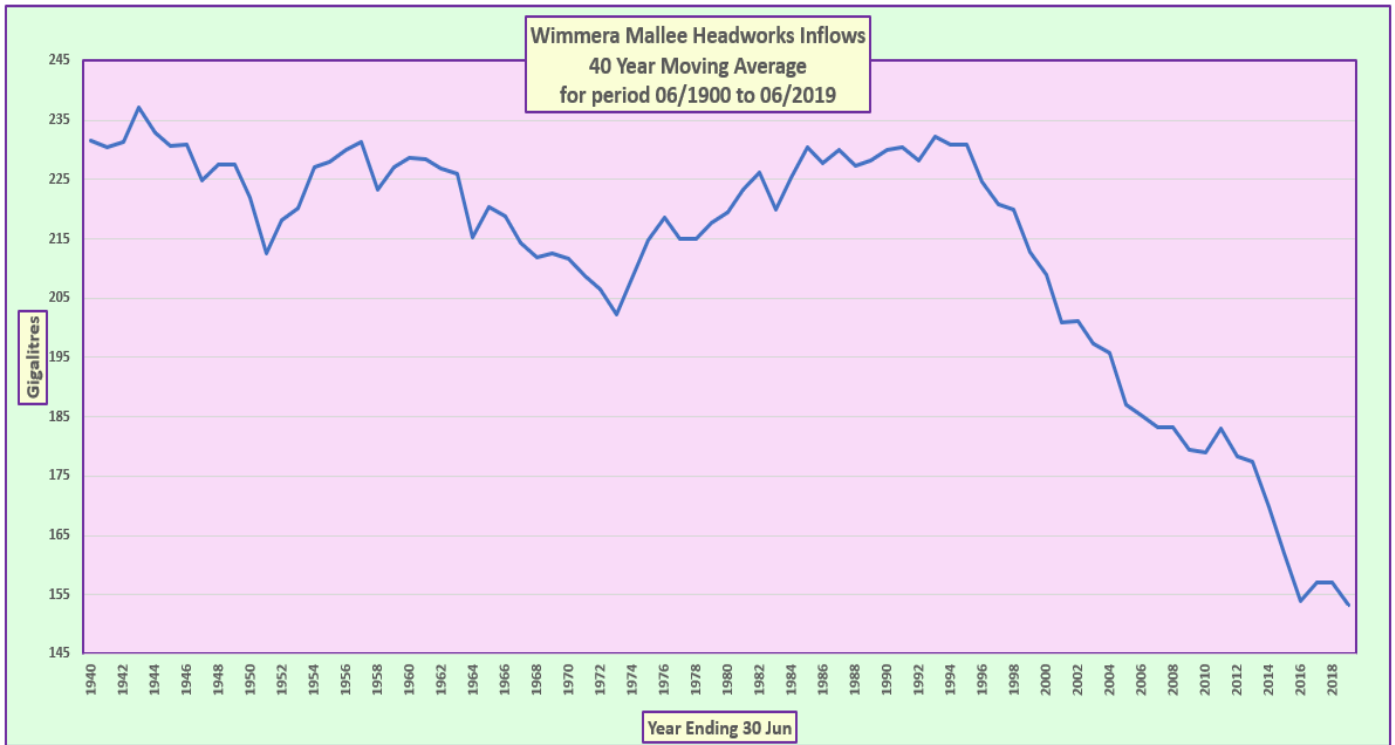
## Historical streamflow

We need steady, regular rain in order to soak our catchments and get the streams flowing into our dams. Slowly declining rainfall means Perth's dams receive much less streamflow than in years past.

In order to provide an accurate historical comparison streamflow from Stirling and Samson Brook Dams are not included in this data as these dams only came online in 2001. Inflow is therefore modelled on Perth dams pre-2001.



<https://www.watercorporation.com.au/water-supply/rainfall-and-dams/streamflow/streamflowhistorical>



Data sourced from graph on Page 19 of  
Operating Plan for the  
**Wimmera Mallee System Headworks**  
**Water Year 2019 - 2020**  
(Flows estimated from bar graph)  
Compiled by Lindsay Leake  
[REDACTED]  
<https://gwmwater.org.au/component/edocman/1920-annual-operating-plan-2019-20/download>