



Australian Government



Water Resource Plan

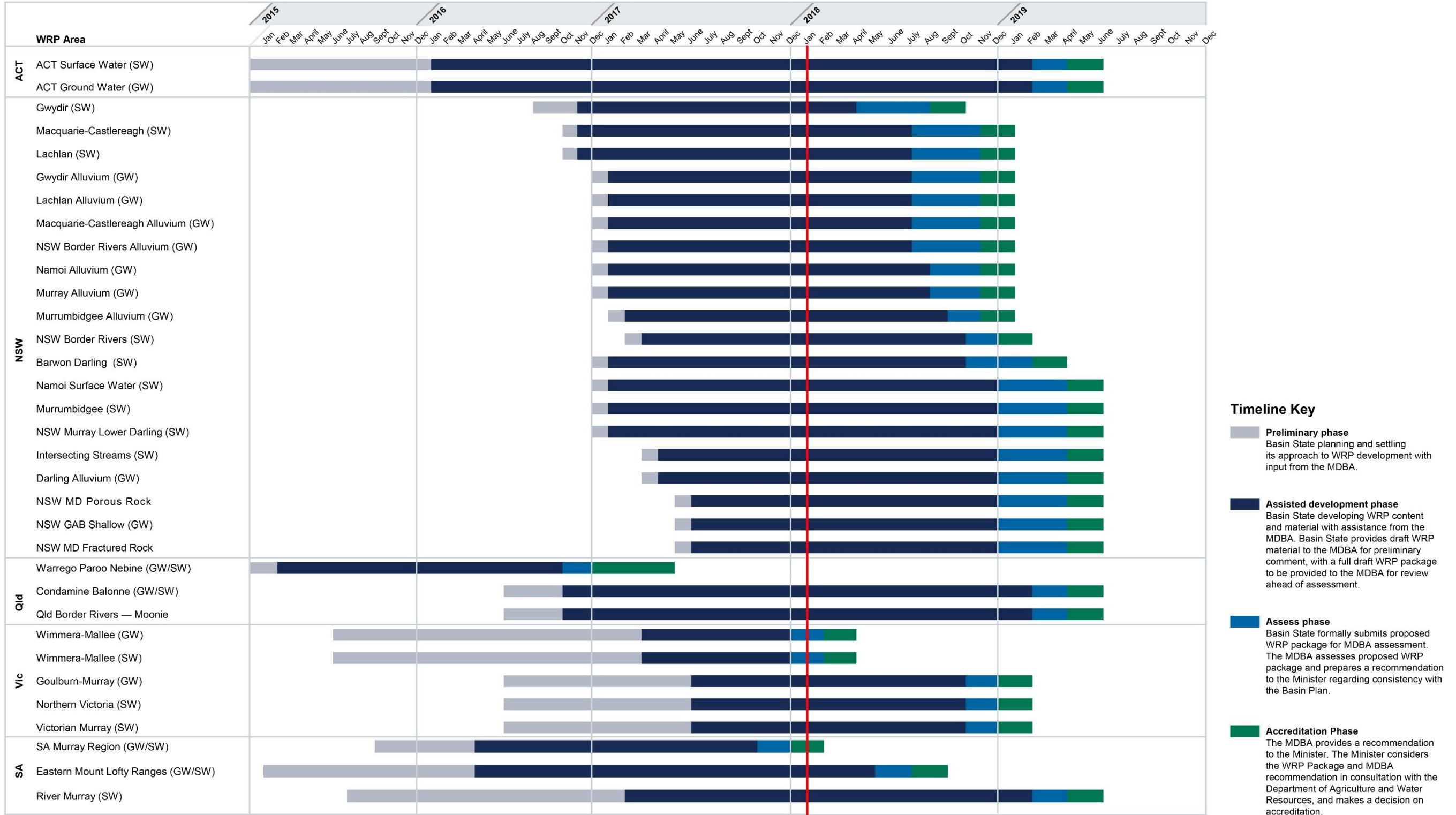
Quarterly report

January 2018

Under the Basin Plan, all water resource plans (WRPs) must be accredited by mid-2019. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) is working with Basin states to support the development of states' water resource plans and ensure the plans will be accredited on time.

For more information about the water resource plan process and accreditation, visit mdba.gov.au

Water resource plan timeframes

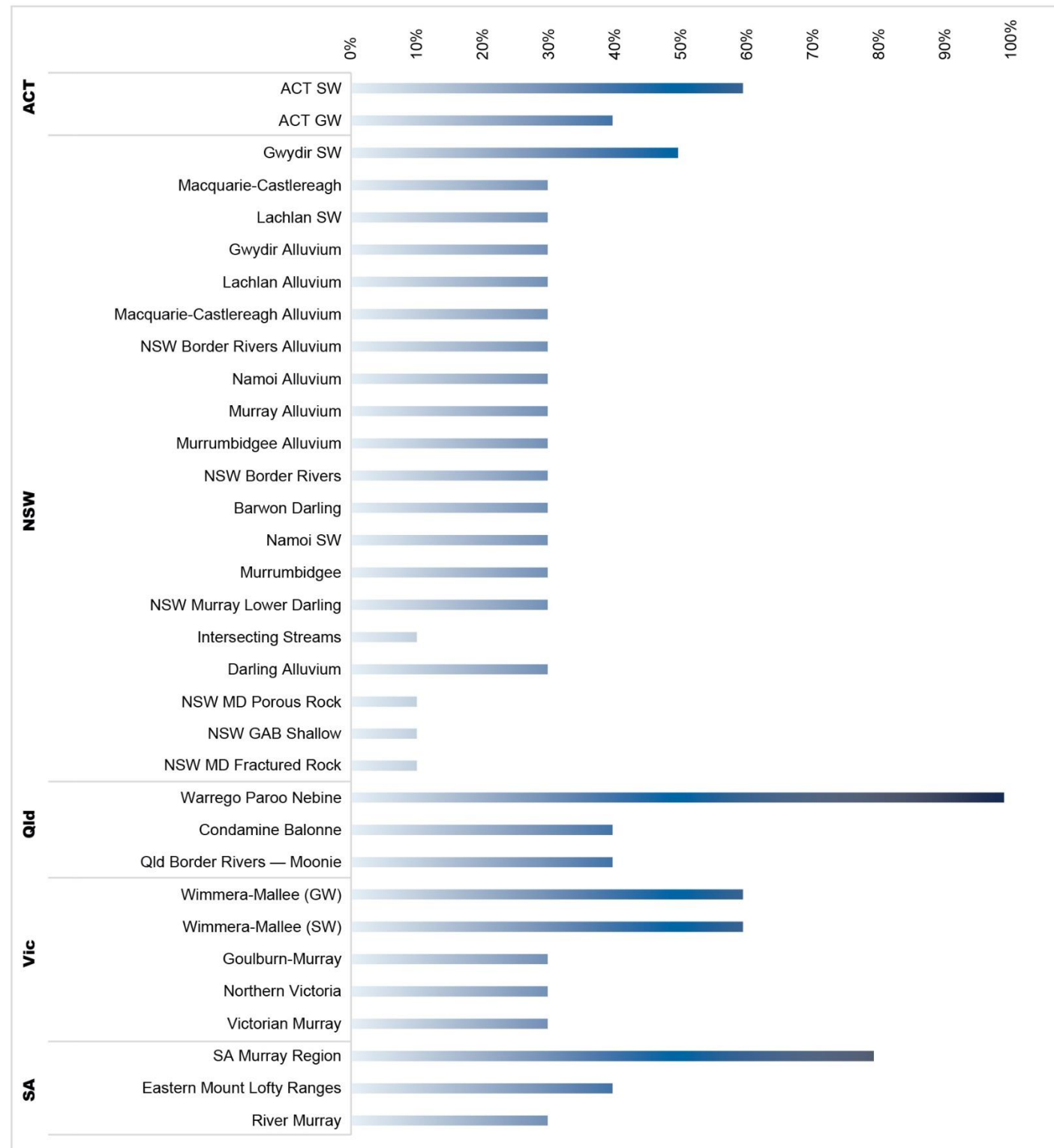


Timeline Key

- Preliminary phase**
Basin State planning and settling its approach to WRP development with input from the MDBA.
- Assisted development phase**
Basin State developing WRP content and material with assistance from the MDBA. Basin State provides draft WRP material to the MDBA for preliminary comment, with a full draft WRP package to be provided to the MDBA for review ahead of assessment.
- Assess phase**
Basin State formally submits proposed WRP package for MDBA assessment. The MDBA assesses proposed WRP package and prepares a recommendation to the Minister regarding consistency with the Basin Plan.
- Accreditation Phase**
The MDBA provides a recommendation to the Minister. The Minister considers the WRP Package and MDBA recommendation in consultation with the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, and makes a decision on accreditation.

Progress of water resource plans from development to accreditation

Progress of WRPs — January 2018



| % Complete | Stage of WRP Development |
|------------|--|
| 0% | Development not yet begun |
| 10% | Preliminary planning begun |
| 20% | Development of plan started |
| 30% | Some early draft material available to the MDBA for review |
| 40–60% | Progress in developing draft material, providing to the MDBA for review, and updating draft material |
| 70% | Complete set of draft material available to the MDBA for review |
| 80% | Final plan submitted to the MDBA for assessment |
| 90% | MDBA recommendation provided to the Minister |
| 100% | Plan accredited |

SW = surface water GW = groundwater

State-by-state progress development report — January 2018

Queensland

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|------------|---|---|
| Qld | <p>1 plan accredited (Warrego Paroo Nebine area)</p> <p>2 plans under development</p> | <p>Queensland is progressing to schedule and is likely to meet timeframes for remaining plans.</p> <p>There have been some delays in the development of WRP documentation. A number of discussions on key planning issues are being held to ensure any relevant issues are resolved before the public release of the draft statutory Water Plans and Healthy Water Management Plans (proposed March 2018).</p> <p>Queensland and the Murray–Darling Basin Authority will focus increased attention during 2018 on ensuring WRP documentation and the statutory documents align.</p> |

New South Wales

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|------------|----------------------------|---|
| NSW | 20 plans under development | <p>New South Wales is reporting delays in progress against five of its nine surface water WRPs. The MDBA has concerns that, while substantial progress is being made in the development of plans, not all NSW plans will meet planning timeframes. This is in part due to the large number of plans to be completed and the limited timeframe.</p> <p>There are also a number of policy matters that require resolution to allow WRPs to be finalised, and which are subject to continued discussions with New South Wales stakeholders and the Murray–Darling Basin Authority.</p> |

Australian Capital Territory

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|--------------------------|---|
| ACT | 2 plan under development | <p>The Australian Capital Territory is progressing to schedule and is likely to meet planning timeframes.</p> <p>The Australian Capital Territory and the Murray–Darling Basin Authority are working closely to update documents for the s surface water WRP, and will shortly commence work on the groundwater WRP.</p> <p>Relevant amendments to Australian Capital Territory instruments will take place in 2018 ahead of incorporation into the draft WRPs.</p> <p>Options for managing issues, such as finalisation of the Australian Capital Territory Shared Reduction Amount and cross-border issues with New South Wales, continue to be investigated.</p> |

Victoria

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|---------------------------|--|
| Vic | 5 plans under development | <p>Victoria has developed its first draft WRP (Wimmera-Mallee) and the MDBA is reviewing it for the purpose of providing advice to Victoria. Feedback has been given on a section by section basis, and this work is nearing completion. The assessment has identified significant gaps in content and some key issues are yet to be resolved. These issues relate to the interpretation and treatment of planned environmental water, the detail in the proposed text for accreditation and the most appropriate form of the water resource plan.</p> <p>The MDBA is becoming increasingly concerned that the currently proposed content of Victoria WRPs may not meet Basin Plan requirements unless the identified issues are quickly resolved. The MDBA and Victoria continue to work closely in an attempt to resolve these issues.</p> <p>The remaining Victorian WRP areas will be covered by a single 'Northern Victoria' WRP. Victoria has commenced work on this plan.</p> |

South Australia

| State | WRP | Development commentary |
|-------|---------------------------|---|
| SA | 3 plans under development | <p>South Australia is progressing to schedule and is likely to meet planning timeframes.</p> <p>South Australia submitted its WRP (South Australia Murray Region) for assessment and accreditation on 8 January 2018. South Australia is also working closely with the MDBA to finalise planning assumptions for the River Murray. South Australia and the MDBA continue to develop early draft material for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges WRP and River Murray WRP.</p> |