

Australian Water Information Advisory Council

The importance of water information to national water reform

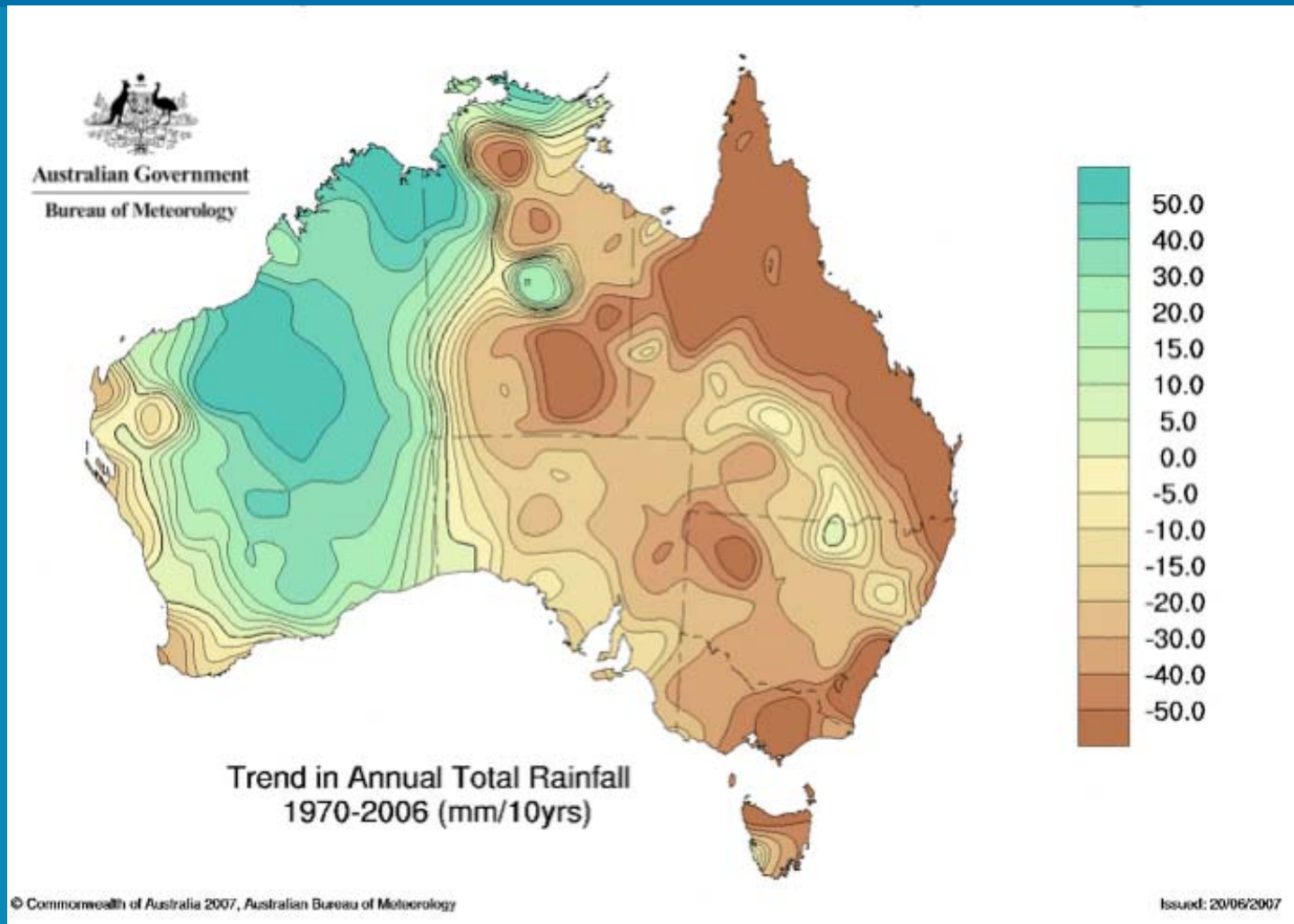
Ross Young

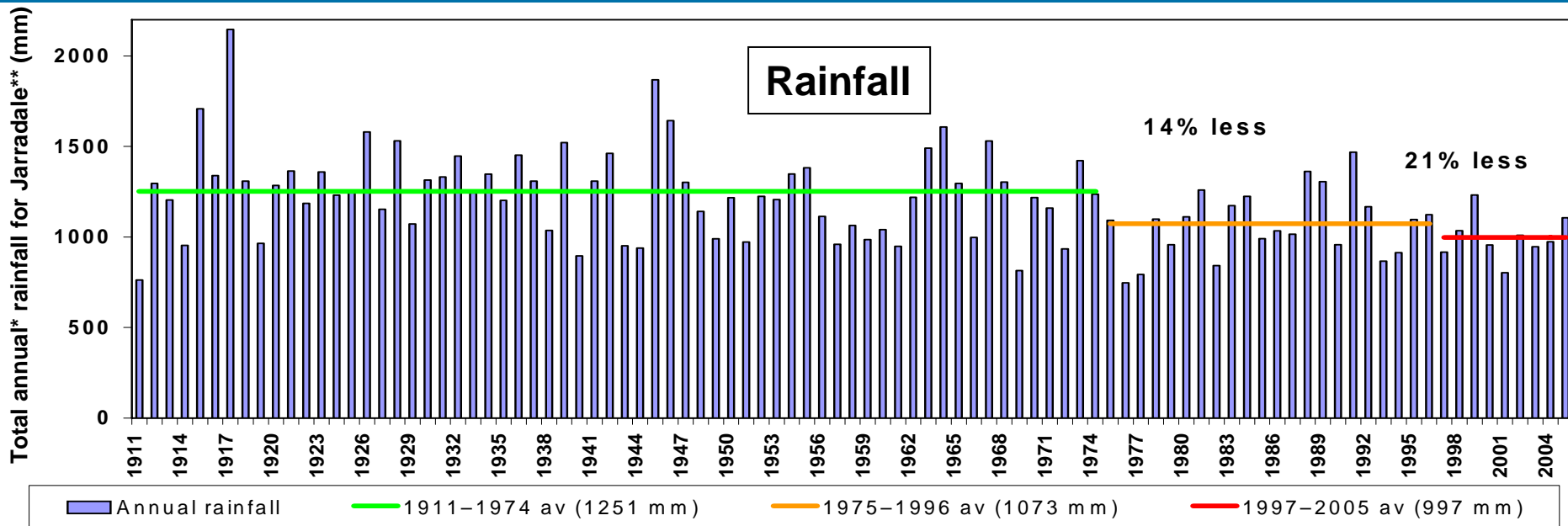
Australian Water Information Advisory Council

water *information*

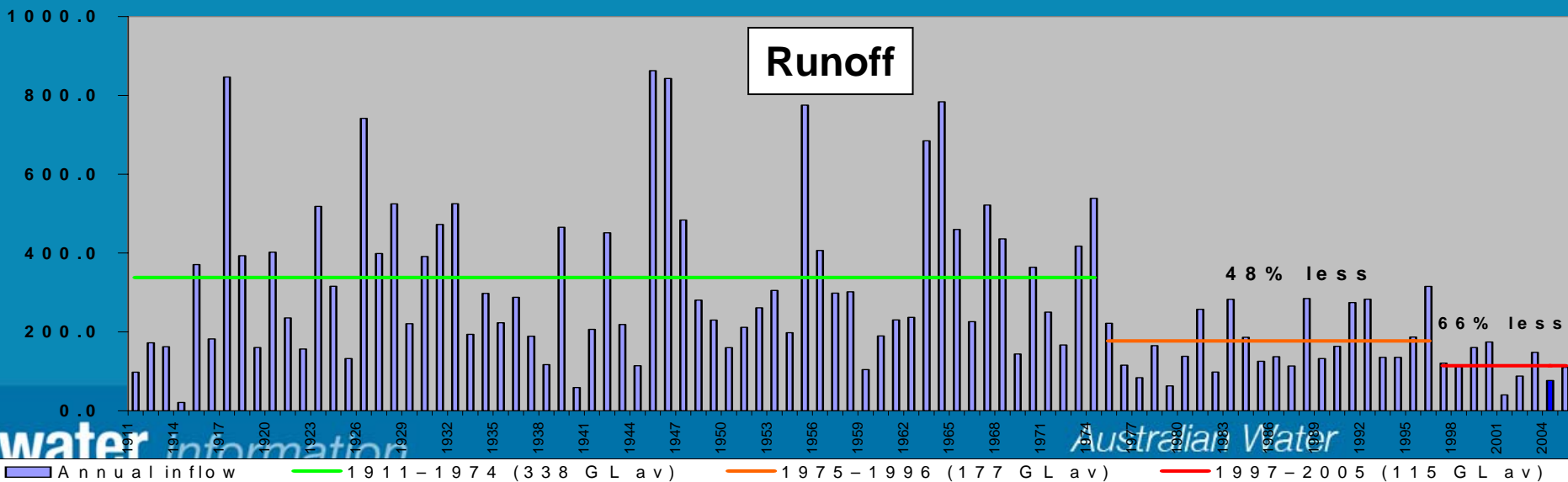
Data ↪ Information ↪ Insight

Trend in annual rainfall across Australia.



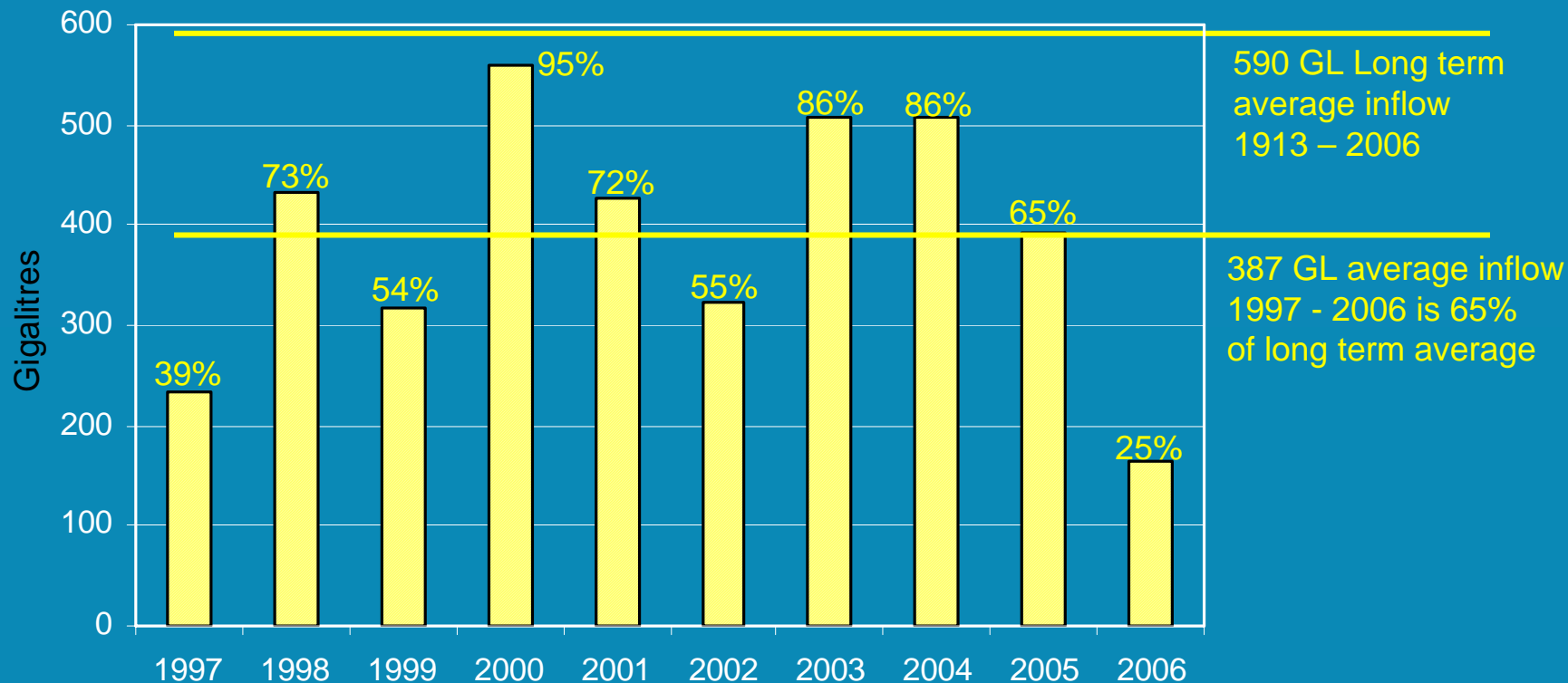


Notes: * year is taken as May to April and labelled year is beginning (winter) of year
 ** some rainfall filled from other stations, 2004 & 2005 are estimates

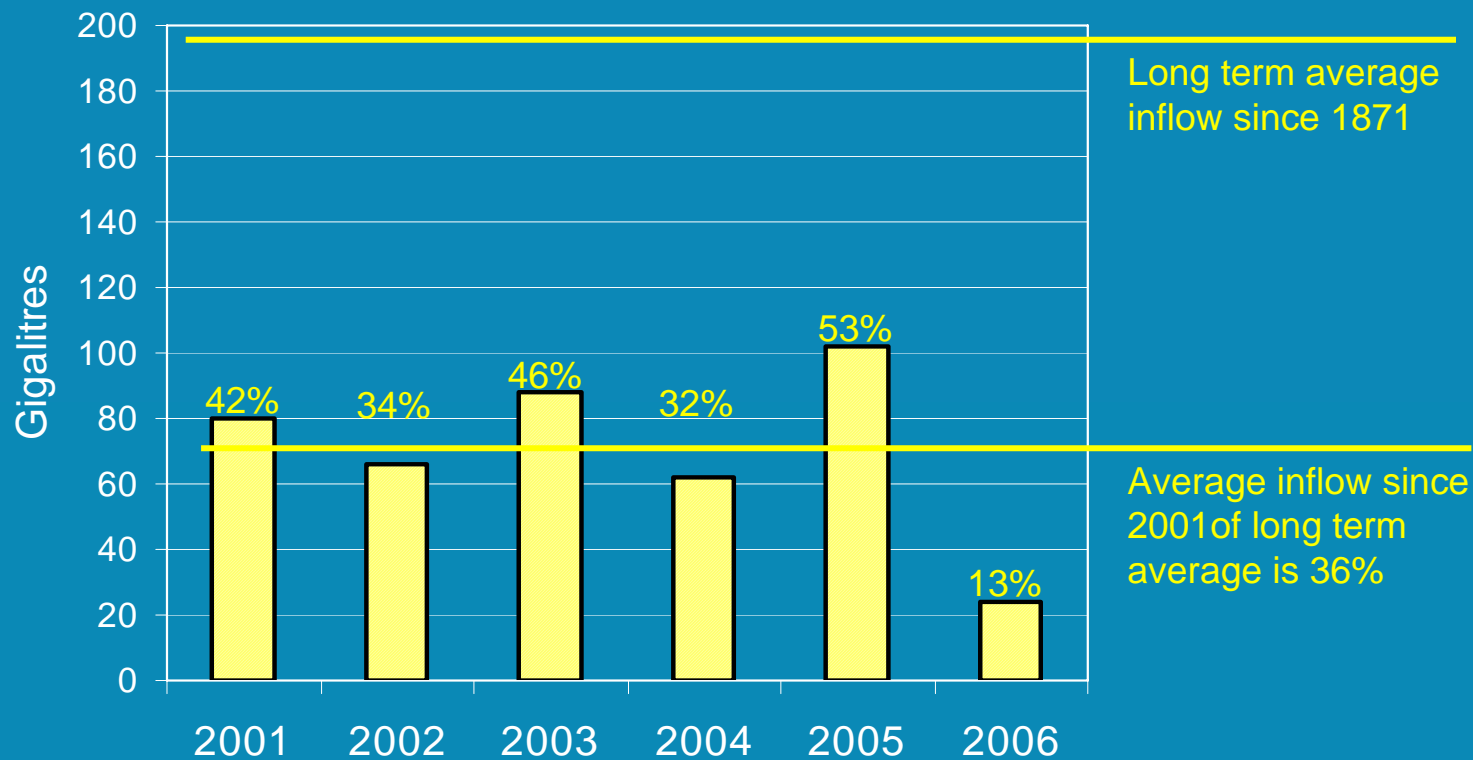


Notes: * year is taken as May to April and labelled year is beginning (winter) of year
 ** inflow is simulated based on Perth dams (excluding Stirling & Samson)

Annual inflows to Melbourne's storages

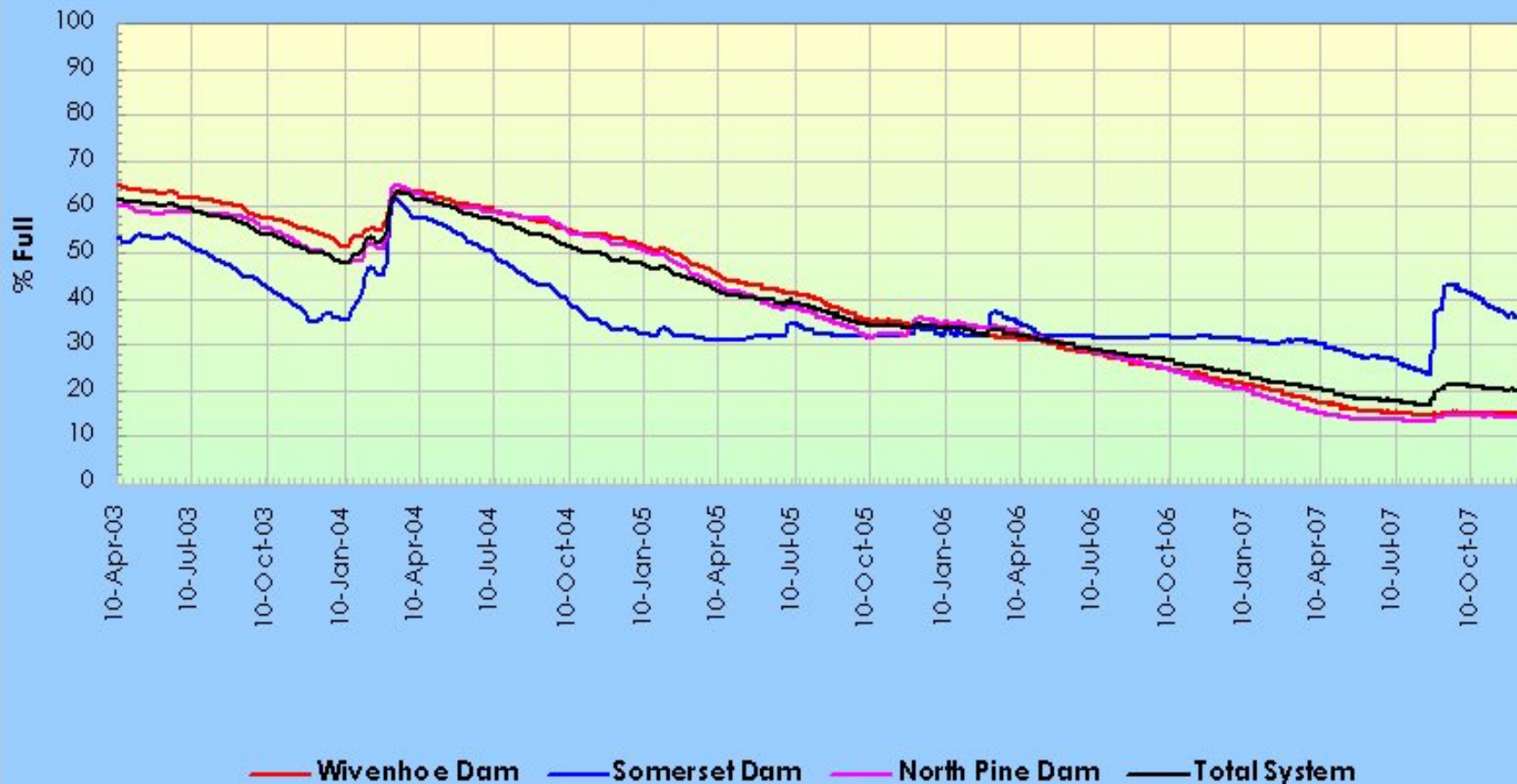


Annual inflows to Canberra's storages



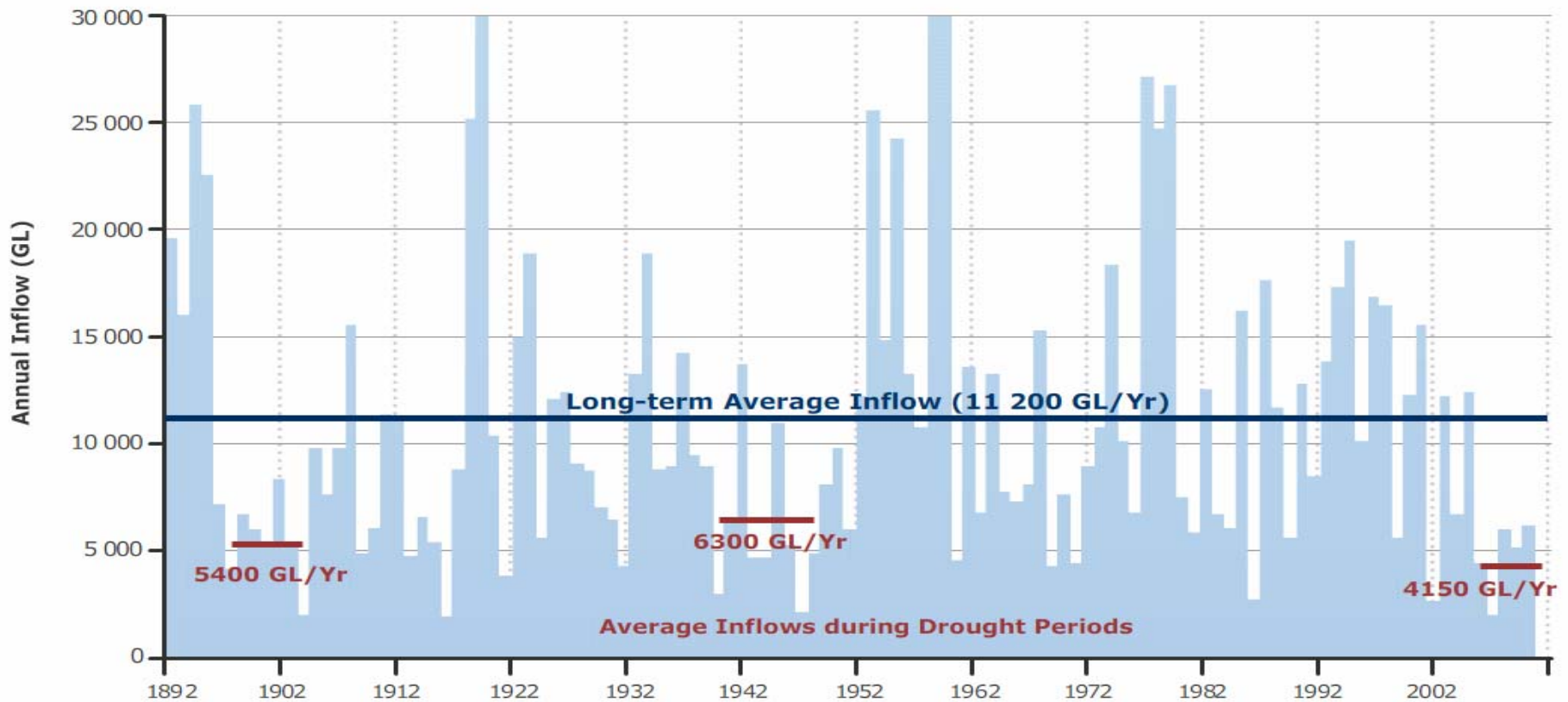
SEQ WATER

Wivenhoe, Somerset and North Pine Dams

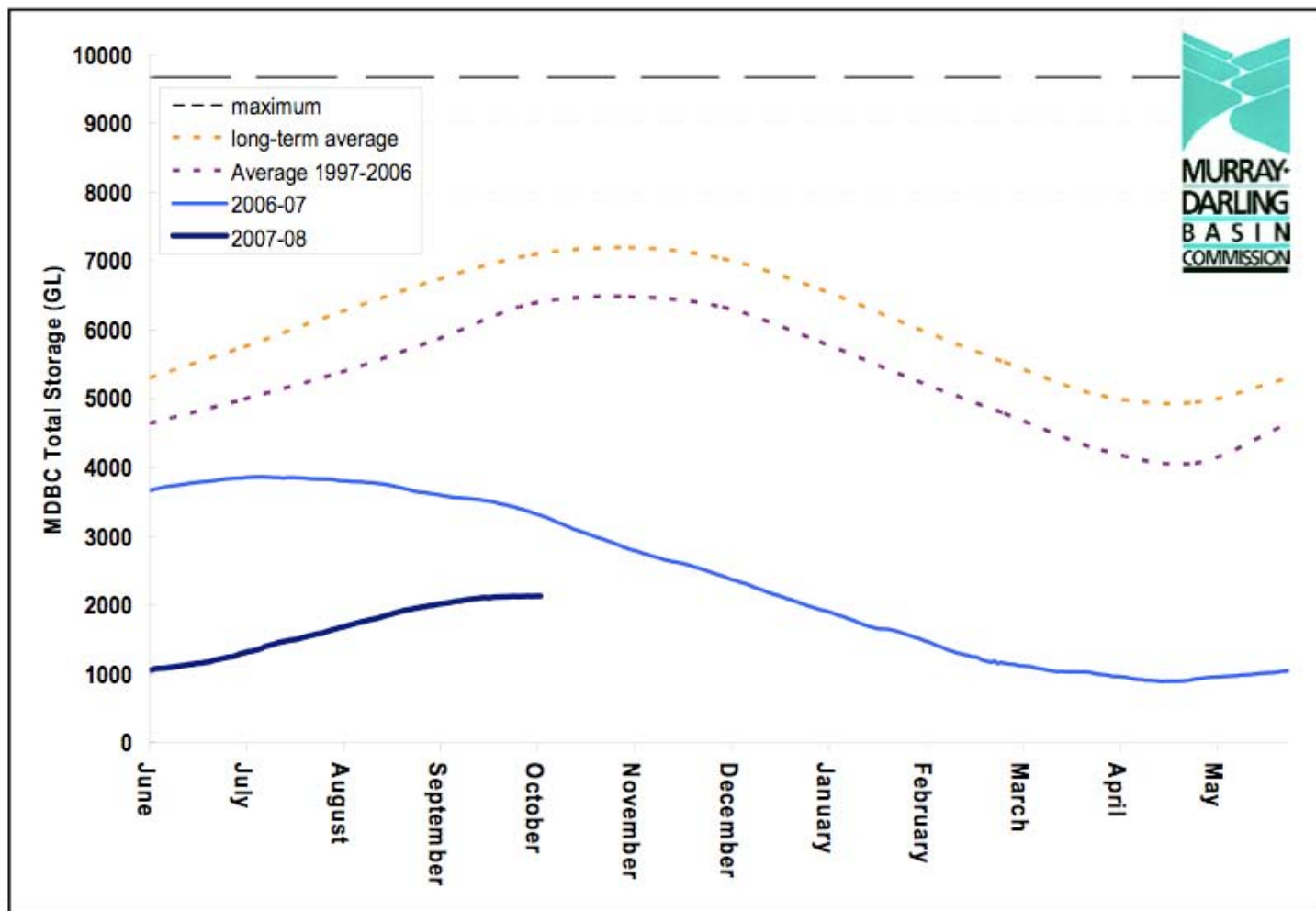


Historic sequence of MDB system inflows.

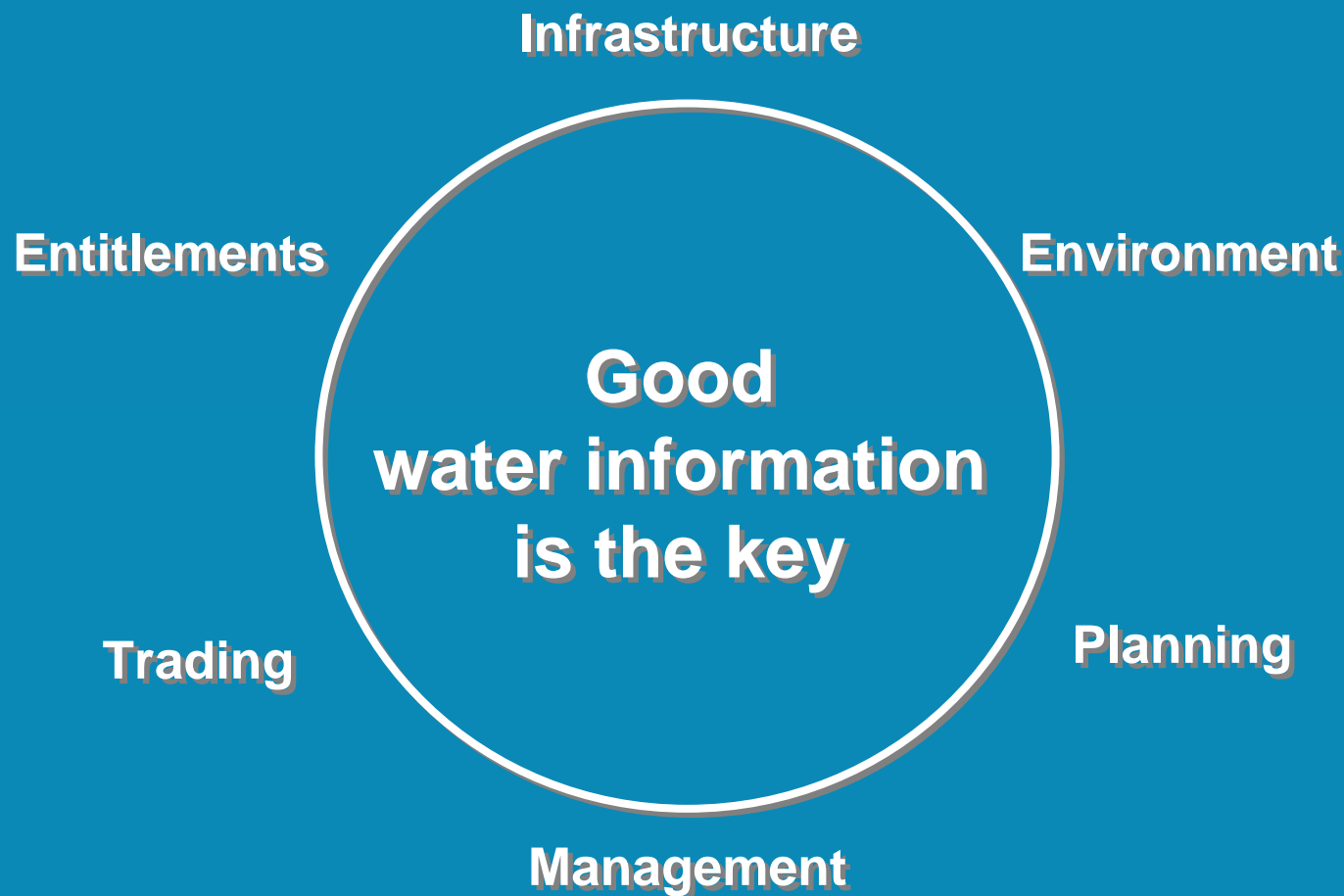
Modelled Annual Inflows - current conditions



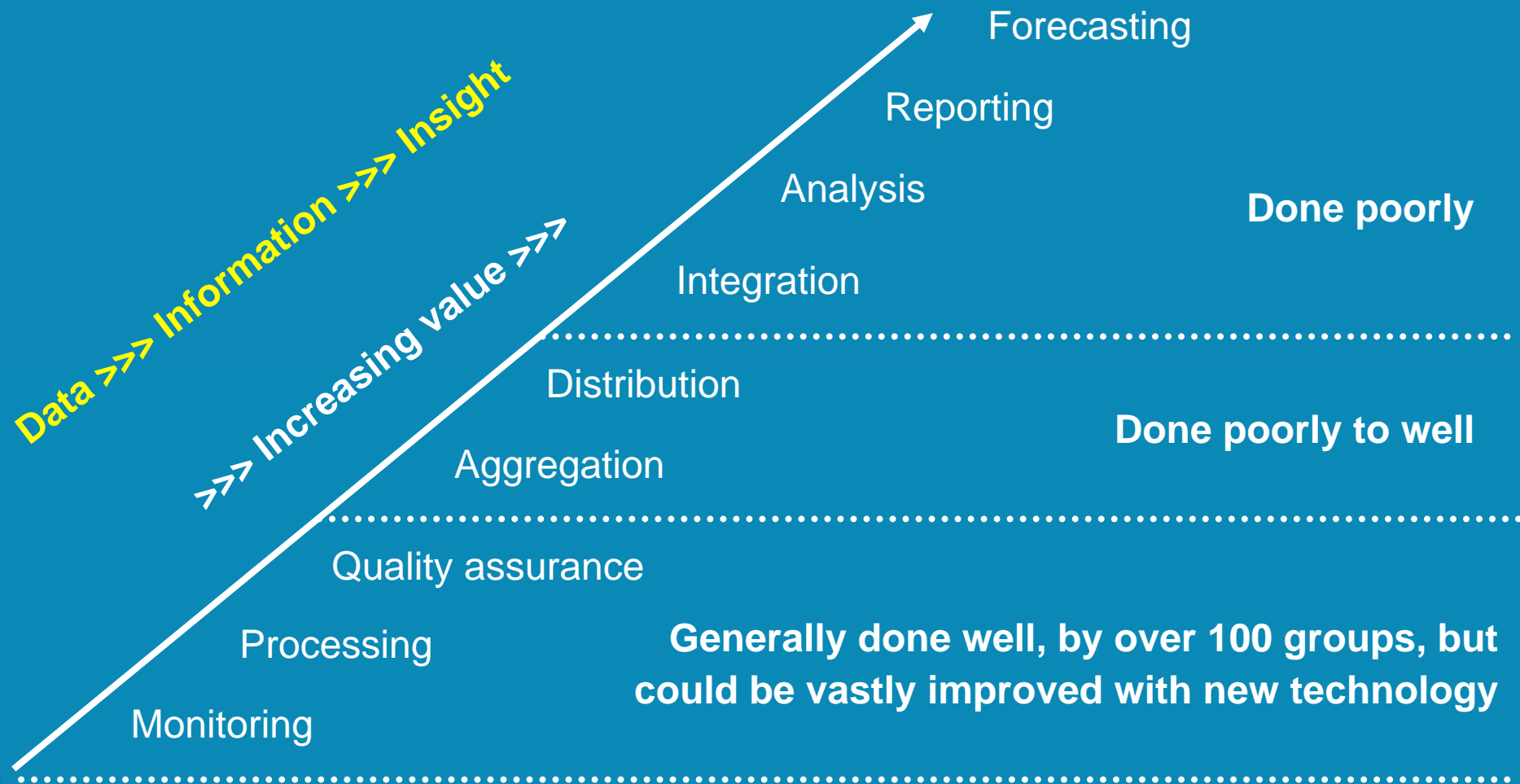
Water storage volumes in the MDB system.



Sustainable water resources management



The water information value ladder



The opportunity

- Drought inspired
- Political support locked in
- Dollars on the table

Chance for a major improvement in water information data in Australia

The National Plan for Water Security (NPWS)

- **Announced by the Prime Minister in January, 2007**
- **\$10b over 10 years to reform water management**
- **Accelerates the National Water Initiative**
 - Australia's water reform blueprint
- **Supported by enabling legislation**
 - Water Act 2007
 - (passed in Aug 07; to be proclaimed in Mar 08)

Elements of the NPWS.

- A new Murray-Darling Basin Authority
- MDB water purchases and structural adjustments
- National irrigation delivery system upgrades
- National on-farm water savings measures
- MDB river system improvements
- ACCC oversight of MDB water charging and market rules
- National water use metering and telemetry
- **National water information program**
- Understanding the potential of Northern Australia
- Reducing groundwater losses in the GAB

The questions we need to answer

- How much water is available in different parts of the country today (and how does it compare with history)?
- How much water is likely to be available in the coming days, weeks, months and years?
- How much water is the environment getting?
- How is water quality changing?
- How much water is being intercepted by farm dams and various land management changes?

Australian Water Information Advisory Council (AWIAC)

- Provide strategic advice to the Bureau on emerging water information needs across the water sector.
- Advise the Bureau on how to maximize the value of its water information activities across the water sector.
- Evaluate the Bureau's contribution to NWI and NPWS objectives.
- Assist the Bureau by providing advocacy across the water sector for its new water information mission.

AWIAC members

- Russell Mein (Chair)
- James Horne (Dept of Environment and Water Resources, AG)
- Ken Matthews (National Water Commission, AG)
- Rob Freeman (Dept of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, SA)
- Warwick Watkins (Department of Lands, NSW)
- Ross Young (Water Services Association of Australia)
- Jolyon Burnett (Irrigation Australia Limited)