The Murray River connects places

Australia's largest river, the Murray, is a vital source of water for South Australia. It connects places that rely on its water for agricultural, industrial and domestic use. Water is distributed from different locations along the banks of the Murray by five major pipelines. Two pipelines supply metropolitan Adelaide and three supply regional parts of South Australia. These pipelines bring economic benefits to towns and farmland located many kilometres from the river.

Construction of the Morgan–Whyalla Pipeline in 1942

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA: MURRAY RIVER PIPELINES**

- **Morgan–Whyalla Pipeline**
  (completed 1944)
  In 1944, a 379-kilometre pipeline connected Morgan to the iron ore town of Whyalla. The growth of this industrial town relied on the supply of fresh water from the Murray River pipeline. Extensions were made to Iron Knob and Peterborough. As demand increased, a second pipeline was built beside the original in 1962.

- **Murray Bridge–Adelaide Pipeline**
  (completed 1973)
  In the early 1960s, it became clear that a second pipeline would be needed to supply water to Adelaide's growing city area. The 48.6-kilometre pipeline discharges Murray River water directly into the Onkaparinga River channel, which carries it 10 kilometres downstream to the Moore's Bold Reservoir.

- **Tailem Bend–Keith Pipeline**
  (completed 1969)
  This 143-kilometre pipeline supplies 13 towns and large agricultural areas.

- **Swan Reach Pipeline**
  (completed 1969)
  The main purpose of this pipeline is to supplement water supplies to the Barossa Valley and the Yorke Peninsula, as well as supplying towns and farms along its route. The pipeline is 54 kilometres in length.

- **Mannum–Adelaide Pipeline**
  (completed 1955)
  This was the first pipeline built from the Murray River to supply the water needs of Adelaide. This pipeline is 60 kilometres long.

▲ During the early 20th century, the Murray River was a major inland highway. Fleets of paddle steamers and their barges carried produce from farms and stations. There were also floating shops, mailboats and passenger steamers. The Merle was a trading boat that travelled the Murray River selling goods to people in remote towns and farms.

Today, wooden paddle steamers are a popular tourist attraction on the Murray River at Echuca. ▲