



# South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

2 September 2019

***This statement provides River Murray irrigators with information about water availability for the 2019-20 water year to inform business planning.***

It contains information on South Australia's River Murray Entitlement, allocations, private carryover, water held in storage, climate outlook and projections of irrigation water allocations under a range of outlook scenarios for 2019-20.

## Minimum Irrigation Allocation

The updated minimum irrigation water allocation for the 2019-20 water year is 74 per cent. Minimum allocations for other classes of water are included in Table A.

*Table A - Minimum allocations 2019-20*

Water Product	Minimum Allocation
All Purpose - Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%
All Purpose - Class 2 (country towns)	74%
All Purpose - Class 3 (irrigation)	74%
All Purpose - Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
Metropolitan Adelaide - Class 6	50%
All Purpose - Class 8 (environmental land management)	74%

The last water allocation announcement of 68 per cent (announced on 15 August 2019) was gazetted on 22 August 2019.

Allocation decisions are made based on South Australia's water allocation framework detailed in [the Water Allocation Plan for the South Australian River Murray Prescribed Watercourse](#).

Figure 3 at the end of this document illustrates how available water from South Australia's Entitlement is prioritised and the relationship between the Entitlement and allocations.

## Private Carryover

Private carryover will be available in 2019-20 for eligible Class 3 entitlement holders, who submitted their meter reading by 31 July 2019.

An individual may carryover any water allocated to them and not used in the 2018-19 water year, up to 20 per cent of the volume of Class 3 entitlements held on 30 June 2019.

The maximum allocation against entitlements for a water year is 100 per cent, including private carryover.

## South Australia's River Murray Entitlement

The projected minimum amount of water that will be delivered to South Australia as part of its Entitlement in 2019-20 is 1,320 gigalitres (GL).

This assumes that future inflows in 2019-20 will be consistent with the lowest inflows on record.

## Water held in storage

At 27 August 2019, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) controlled storages were holding 4,149 GL (45 per cent of capacity).

The long-term average volume held in storage at the end of August is 7,127 GL (77 per cent of total capacity).

A total of 102 GL of water is currently held in storage for South Australian private carryover.

Table B - Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at 27 August 2019

Storage	Full Supply Volume	Current Volume		South Australian Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,301	60	102
Hume Dam	3,005	1,298	43	0
Lake Victoria	677	536	79	0
Menindee Lakes	1,731	14	1	0
Total	9,269	4,149	45	102

For more information on Murray-Darling Basin storages visit the [MDBA website](#).

## Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for the three months from October to December indicates that across the Murray-Darling Basin it is likely to be drier than average with warmer temperatures. A drier than average three months is likely for much of south-east Australia (Figure 1 left-hand side). Above average maximum temperatures are also likely (Figure 1 right-hand side).

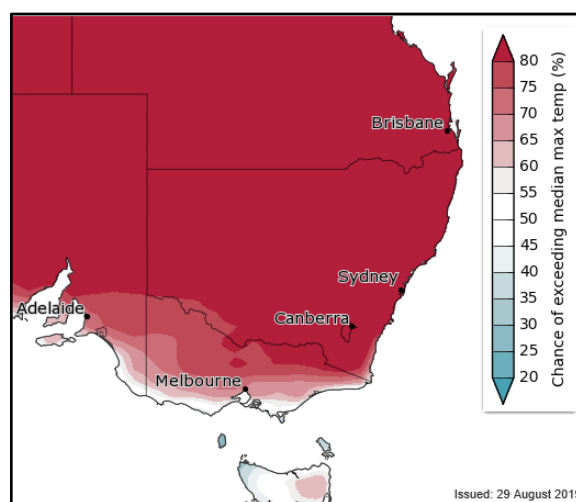
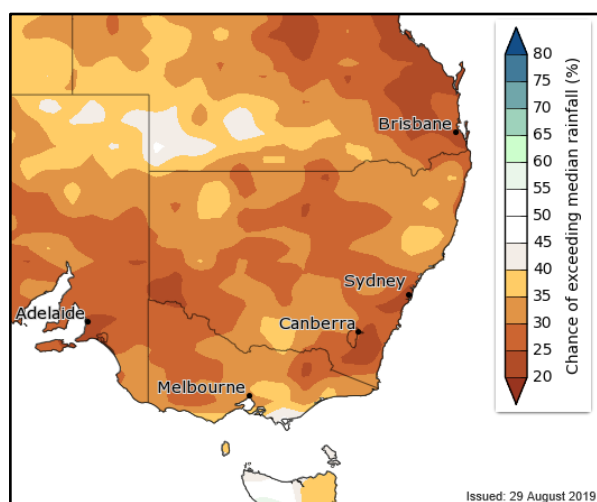
The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral and likely to remain neutral for the remainder of 2019. The ENSO outlook is INACTIVE. The Indian Ocean temperature is likely to be the key influence on Australia's climate during the coming months. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is forecast to remain positive through spring.

Typically, a positive IOD brings below average winter-spring rainfall and warmer than average daytime temperatures for southern and central Australia. This is reflected in the rainfall and temperature outlooks for the coming months.

The current state of the drivers means that higher than average pressure is likely over southern and eastern Australia. This can act to keep cold fronts further south and reduce the number of cold fronts affecting the southern states, thereby reducing rainfall.

For more information on seasonal rainfall and temperature outlooks go to the [BoM website](#).

Figure 1 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall (left) and Temperature (right), October-December 2019



## Water availability projections

Water availability projections are a tool to help water users better understand the likelihood of future water allocations.

The water availability projections provide a guide about future water allocation increases based on River Murray system modelling and South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Framework.

The modelling sets all storages and flows in the system to current conditions and uses historical inflow and climate conditions over the last 30 years to create unique inflow sequences.

The range of water availability conditions included in the table and graph (see Table C and Figure 2) are based on

historical variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings.

- Water availability projections indicate that that under exceptionally dry conditions: water allocations are likely to get to 100 per cent.

The projections do not incorporate information from the BoM's recently updated seasonal outlook, which indicates that it is likely to be drier than average across the catchment.

Table C - Water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 3 and 8) 2 September 2019

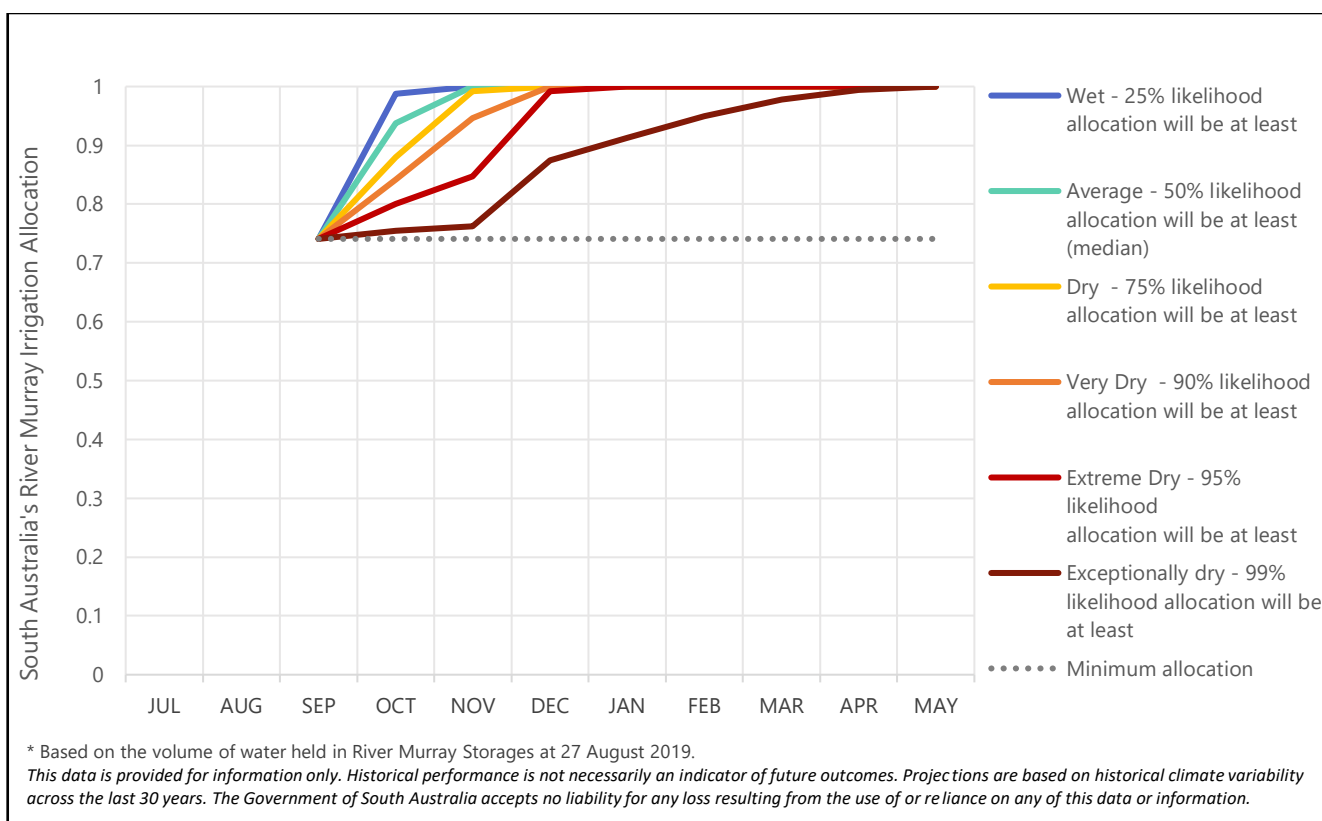
SA River Murray Irrigation Allocation Scenarios*	Minimum Allocation for 2019-20	1 Nov 2019	1 Jan 2020	1 Apr 2020
All Purpose - Class 3   2 September 2019	Projected Allocation as %			
Exceptionally dry - 99% likelihood allocation will be at least	74	76	91	100
Extreme dry conditions - 95% likelihood allocation will be at least	74	84	100	100
Very dry conditions - 90% likelihood allocation will be at least	74	94	100	100
Dry conditions - 75% likelihood allocation will be at least	74	99	100	100
Average conditions - 50% likelihood allocation will be at least	74	100	100	100
Wet conditions - 25% likelihood allocation will be at least	74	100	100	100

Based on forecast provided on 27 August 2019 water availability.

\*Based on modelling of water availability that simulates historical variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings.

**DISCLAIMER:** This data is provided for information only. Historical performance is not necessarily an indicator of future outcomes. Projections are based on historical climate variability across the last 30 years. The Government of South Australia accepts no liability for any loss resulting from the use of or reliance on any of this data or information.

Figure 2 - Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 3 and 8) 2 September 2019



## Next announcement

The next announcement will be provided on 16 September 2019.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) will provide water availability updates twice per month during the 2019-20 water year while water allocations are less than 100 per cent.

## Further Information

To speak with someone about your water allocation or account:

- drop into the water licensing office at 2 Wade Street, Berri SA
- call the water licensing office on (08) 8595 2053
- email water licensing on [DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au)

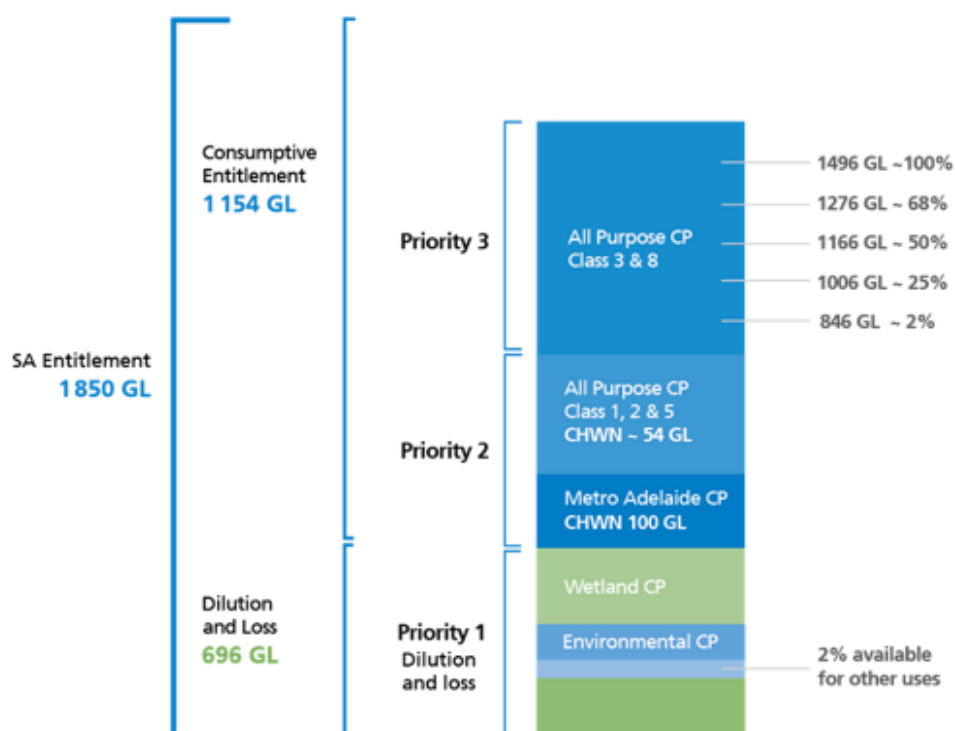
To speak with someone about water allocation projections contact:

- Dr Ashley Kingsborough, Principal Policy Adviser  
T: (08) 8463 7991
- Mr Jarrod Eaton, Manager Water Delivery  
T: (08) 8463 7927

For more information on South Australia's water allocations:

- visit the [DEW website](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/river-murray)
- email [sarah.meins@sa.gov.au](mailto:sarah.meins@sa.gov.au) to receive the weekly River Murray Flow Report.

Figure 3 - 2019 River Murray Water Allocation Plan's allocation framework\*



\* This figure illustrates how water is prioritised and provides a guide as to how allocations will change with improvements in South Australia's River Murray Entitlement. The Water Allocation Plan for the South Australian River Murray Prescribed Watercourse details how water is allocated. Water is made available to one or more Consumptive Pools (CP) and then shared in accordance with the principles in the water allocation plan.