

South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

Issued 15 November 2019

This statement provides River Murray irrigators with information about water availability for the 2019-20 water year to inform business planning. It supersedes the previous statement issued by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 1 November 2019.

It contains information on South Australia's River Murray Entitlement, allocations, private carryover, water held in storage and climate outlook.

As irrigation allocations have reached 100 per cent, this will be the last update on allocation information relating to the 2019-20 water year.

Irrigation Allocation Update

The updated irrigation water allocation for the 2019-20 water year is 100 per cent. Updated allocations for other classes of water are included in Table A.

Table A Minimum allocations 2019-20

Water Product	Allocation
All Purpose - Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%
All Purpose – Class 2 (country towns)	100%
All Purpose – Class 3 (irrigation)	100%
All Purpose – Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
Metropolitan Adelaide – Class 6	90%
All Purpose – Class 8 (environmental land management)	100%

The last water allocation announcement of 94 per cent (announced on 1 November 2019) was gazetted on 7 November 2019.

Water allocation decisions are made based on South Australia's water allocation framework detailed in [the Water Allocation Plan \(WAP\) 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

Under the current WAP, the maximum allocation against entitlements for a water year is 100 per cent, including private carryover.

However, the appropriateness of this policy setting is under review and the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board is proposing to undertake statutory consultation on potential amendments to the current private carryover policy in the WAP. This consultation is scheduled to take place in early 2020.

South Australia's River Murray Entitlement

The projected minimum amount of water that will be delivered to South Australia as Entitlement flow in 2019-20 is 1,500 gigalitres (GL).

This volume assumes that future inflows in 2019-20 will be consistent with the lowest inflows on record and takes into account improvements (shared releases) from the Snowy Hydro Scheme.



Water held in storage

At 14 November 2019, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) controlled storages were holding 3,755 GL (41 per cent of total capacity).

The long-term average volume held in storage at the end of November is 7,308 GL (79 per cent of total capacity).

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

Subject to evaporation, this private carryover volume will remain in storage pending the outcome of scheduled review of the private carryover policy.

Table B Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at 14 November 2019

Storage	Full Supply Volume	Current Volume		South Australian Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,115	55	102
Hume Dam	3,005	1,117	37	0
Lake Victoria	677	512	76	0
Menindee Lakes	1,731	11	1	0
Total	9,269	*3,755	41	102

* includes water for carryover purposes and reserves

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

Climate outlook

The latest Bureau of Meteorology weather outlook for December 2019 to February 2020 indicates average to below average rainfall (Figure 1 left-hand side) with warmer than average temperatures (Figure 1 right-hand side) across the Murray-Darling Basin. Rainfall is likely to be below average in November (end of spring), with a chance that some parts of the Basin could receive average rainfall by January (mid-summer).

The outlook is being influenced by a strong, positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). A positive IOD usually brings below average spring rainfall, with above average temperatures to southern Australia.

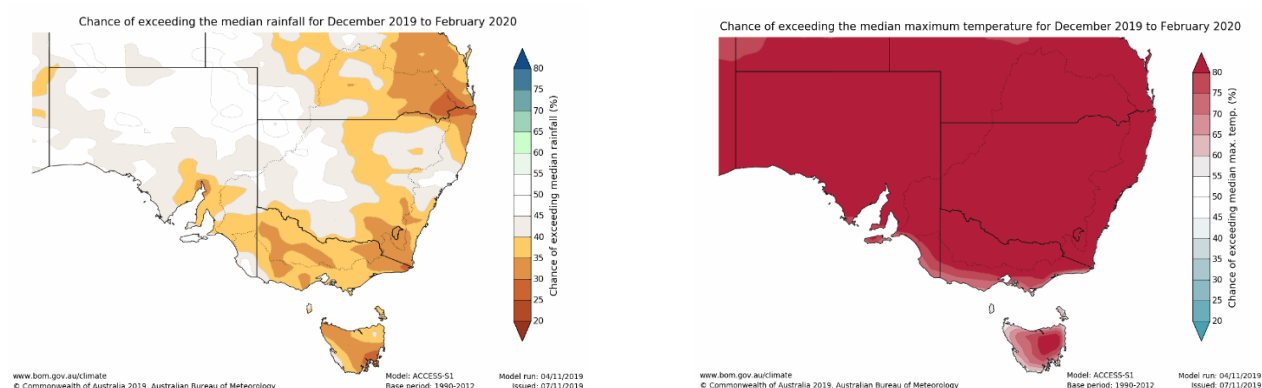
The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is experiencing a negative phase, which is expected to persist during

November. A negative SAM in spring tends to bring warmer and drier conditions to much of the southern mainland during spring. It also increases the chance of spring heatwaves occurring across southern and eastern Australia.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral, which means the Australian climate is not being influenced by El Niño or La Niña.

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), December 2019-February 2020



Next announcement

As water allocations are 100 per cent this will be the last water allocation update relating to the 2019-20 water year.

In future months, leading up to the mid-April 2020 minimum water allocation announcement, further water resource updates — including the Murray-Darling Basin storages and inflows, Bureau of Meteorology updates and links to other states' water allocations — will be provided on a monthly basis.

Similar to the format in 2019, another series of stakeholder information sessions on water resource conditions, availability and allocation outlooks will also be undertaken in 2020, ahead of the mid-April announcement.

Further Information

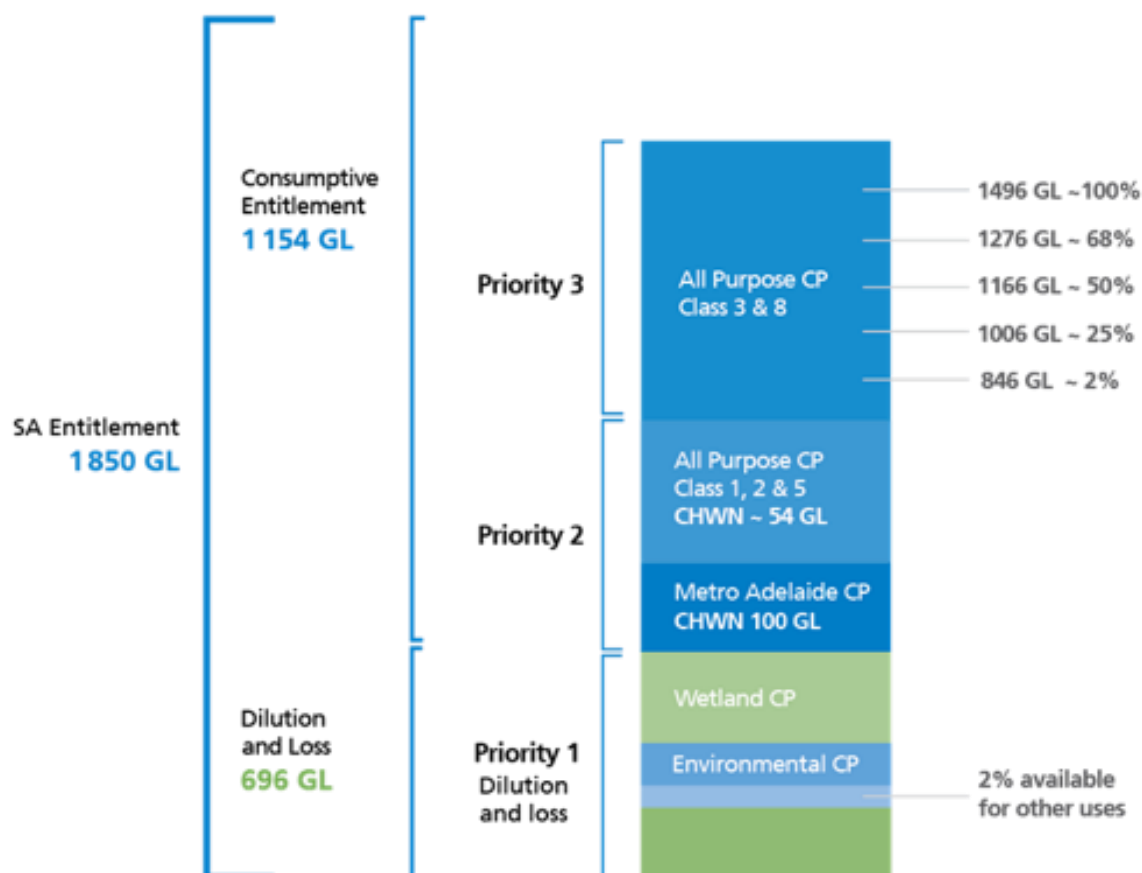
To speak with someone about your water allocation or account:

- 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

For more information on South Australia's water resource conditions:

- visit the [DEW website](http://www.dew.sa.gov.au)
- email sarah.meins@sa.gov.au to receive the weekly River Murray Flow Report.
- Mr Jarrod Eaton, Manager Water Delivery
T: (08) 8463 7927

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.