

South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

Issued 15 June 2026



Key messages

- The opening Class 3 (High Security) allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators for the 2026-27 water year is 83 per cent.
- 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, having regard to the latest water resource assessment advice from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).
- The opening allocation of 83 per cent assumes South Australia will receive 1,381 gigalitres (GL) as part of its Entitlement in the 2026-27 water year.
- Based on the most recent projections, with an opening allocation of 83 per cent, all scenarios except the minimum allocation scenario show a high likelihood of allocations increasing to 100 per cent during the 2026-27 water year.
- The probability forecasts for each climate scenario are conservative and are represented as the likelihood that an allocation will be at least a given percentage (Table 1).
- As announced on 15 April 2026, the carryover trigger for 2026-27 was not met and private carryover is not available in 2026-27.
- During 2024-25 and 2025-26, daily and monthly inflows to the major storages in the River Murray System have generally been below the long-term average in most months. As a result, storage volumes have declined over the past two years and are currently below the long-term average for this time of year.
- Allocation improvements are most likely between July to November 2026, following the main rainfall and inflow season, when water resource availability typically improves.
- However, while probability forecasts indicate a high likelihood of improved conditions, there is no guarantee of increased water availability. The Bureau of Meteorology's winter 2026 outlook indicates an increased chance of unusually low rainfall across parts of south-east Australia.
- The [SA River Murray Water Calculator](#) is available to help irrigators manage their water. The Calculator has two main features:
 - Personal Water Calculator – to help you better understand how much water you could have under different water availability circumstances to help you plan for the season ahead.
 - State Water Calculator – to help you better understand how the water available to South Australia is shared.



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 the MDBA’s River Murray system modelling and South Australia’s River Murray Water Allocation Framework. By comparing allocation forecasts to the climate outlook, water users can make informed choices for business planning purposes, depending on the level of risk they are comfortable with.

The reliability of the outlook will generally improve as the forecast period reduces. Forecast conditions are best estimates only and not guaranteed water availability. They should be used with caution, particularly when projecting many months ahead. The projections are created using the ‘worst-case’ water availability assessment from the MDBA as the starting point. Historical inflow and climate conditions over the last 30 years, in combination with current policy and operational settings, are then used to create unique inflow sequences (Figure 1 and Table 1).

The projections below indicate that, with an opening allocation of 83 per cent for the 2026-27 water year, all scenarios except the minimum allocation scenario show a high likelihood of allocations increasing to 100 per cent during the 2026-27 water year.

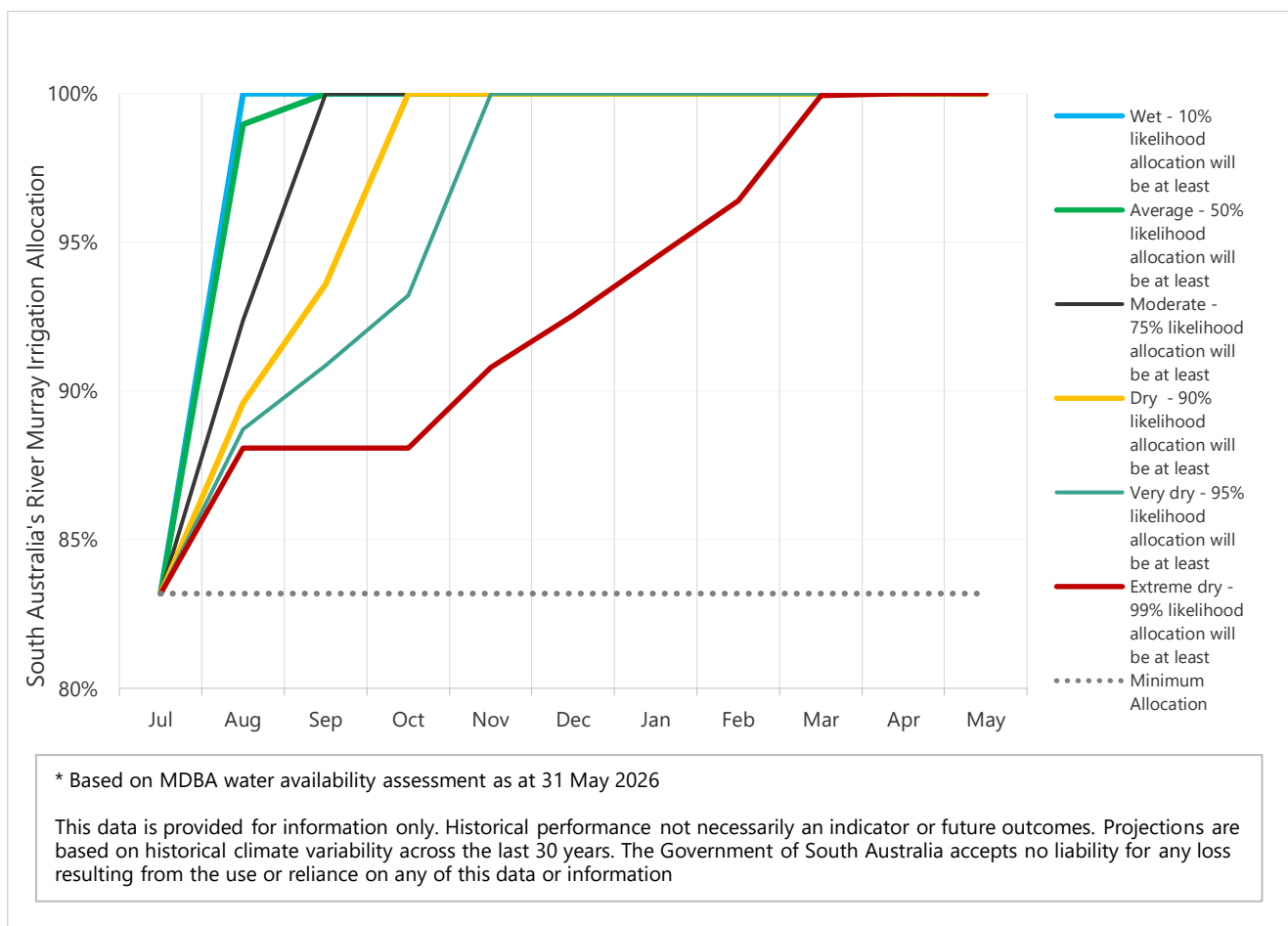


Figure 1 – Updated projected water allocation scenarios for SA River Murray Class 3 (High Security) entitlements

Table 1 – Updated projected water allocation scenarios for SA River Murray Class 3 (High Security) entitlements - 15 June 2026

| SA River Murray Irrigation Allocation Scenarios Class 3 (High Security) June 2026 | 1 Jul 2026 Opening Allocation | 1 Sep 2026 | 1 Nov 2026 | 1 Jan 2027 | 1 Apr 2027 |
|--|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Updated Projected Allocation as a Percentage | | | | |
| Minimum Allocation | 83 | 83 | 83 | 83 | 83 |
| Extreme dry conditions - 99 per cent likelihood allocation will be at least | 83 | 88 | 90 | 94 | 100 |
| Very dry conditions - 95 per cent likelihood allocation will be at least | 83 | 90 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Dry conditions - 90 per cent likelihood allocation will be at least | 83 | 93 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Moderate conditions - 75 per cent likelihood allocation will be at least | 83 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Average conditions - 50 per cent likelihood allocation will be at least | 83 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Wet conditions - 10 per cent likelihood allocation will be at least | 83 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

Correct as of 31 May 2026. Based on the end-May 2026 worst case water availability assessment provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the historical inflow and climate conditions over the last 30 years.

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.

Past allocations and actual improvements

Further information on previous allocation announcements, including a section showing how and when allocations improved in previous years when opening allocations were less than 100 per cent, is available on the Department’s website at www.environment.sa.gov.au/river-murray-allocations



Private carryover

In accordance with the [Water Allocation Plan for the South Australian River Murray Prescribed Watercourse](#), access to private carryover is only available to eligible users when the projected minimum opening irrigation allocation is 50 per cent or less. As announced on 15 April 2026, **private carryover is not available in the 2026-27 water year.**



Water allocation framework

The [Water Allocation Plan for the South Australian River Murray Prescribed Watercourse](#) (River Murray WAP) details how water is allocated. A [factsheet](#) is also available.

The [SA River Murray Water Calculator](#) can help you better understand how the water available to South Australia is shared. It improves transparency of water sharing arrangements within South Australia by showing how much water is allocated for different purposes.



Water held in storage

Regularly updated information regarding the current volumes held in Murray-Darling Basin storages is available via the MDBA's River Data website: [The River Murray – System view | River Murray data by MDBA](#).

Under clause 91 and Schedule G of the **Murray-Darling Basin Agreement 2008** (the Agreement), South Australia can defer and store part of its annual Entitlement in River Murray storages to meet critical human water needs and/or private carryover in dry years. To check real-time storage levels please visit:

1. [Dartmouth Dam](#)
2. [Hume Dam](#)
3. [Lake Victoria](#)
4. [Menindee Lakes*](#)

** The MDBA can access and manage water in the Menindee Lakes once the volume rises above 640 GL and until it falls below 480 GL. Once the water level falls below the 480 GL trigger point, New South Wales manages the water in accordance with its priorities. For more information on Menindee Lakes visit this [MDBA webpage](#).*

For more information on water storages visit:

- The Bureau of Meteorology's [Water Storage Dashboard](#)
- The Bureau of Meteorology's [Murray-Darling Basin Water information portal](#)



Climate outlook

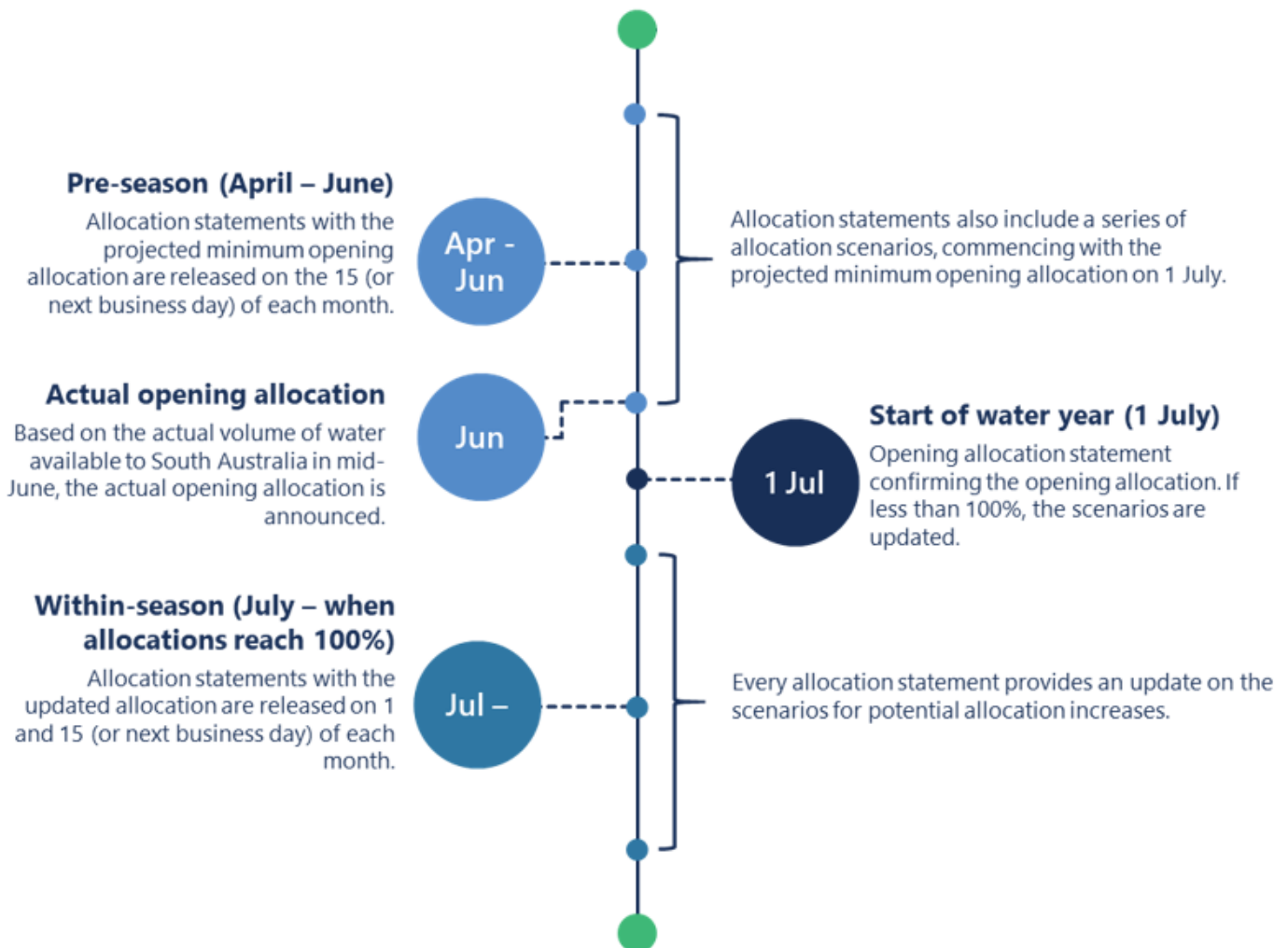
The Bureau of Meteorology provides climate outlooks that offer insights into future weather patterns. These outlooks include three-monthly forecasts for rainfall, maximum and minimum temperatures and updates on key climate influences affecting Australia.

More detailed information can be found via the Bureau of Meteorology’s Climate Data website.



Next announcement

As the opening allocation is **less than 100 per cent**, further allocation announcements will be made on the **1st and 15th of each month** (or the next business day) in accordance with the River Murray Water Allocation Plan until allocations reach 100 per cent, **beginning 1 July 2026**.





Further information

For more information on South Australia's water allocations visit the [DEW website](#).

The Department for Environment and Water issues a weekly River Murray Flow Report that contains information about water levels, flow rates and barrage operations, as well as any navigation issues and construction activities. To view earlier reports, click [here](#). To sign up to receive the weekly River Murray Flow Report click [here](#).

To speak with someone about your water allocation or account:

- Drop into the water licensing office at 2 Wade Street, Berri, South Australia.
- Call the water licensing office on (08) 8595 2053.
- Email water licensing on DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au

Interstate Allocations and Outlooks

Information on current River Murray allocations and projected allocations for 2026-27 in both New South Wales and Victoria can be found at the website links below:

- [NSW allocation information](#)
- [Victorian allocation information](#)