

Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan



Ref: DEW-D0036303

Prepared for Adoption from 1 August 2026

Purpose

Under Schedule G of the *Murray-Darling Basin Agreement 2008* (the Agreement), the Basin Officials Committee Member for South Australia must provide to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), New South Wales and Victoria by the first day of each month, a draft Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan (the Plan) for at least the following 12 months. The Plan contained herein fulfils South Australia's requirements under this Schedule.

Draft Plan Requirements

Under clause 7(1) in Schedule G of the Agreement, the Plan for at least the following 12 months is required to estimate the deferred water to be stored and delivered in each of those months under either:

- a) worst case inflow conditions; or
- b) other inflow conditions specified in the Plan.

It must:

- a) nominate how much of the deferred water held in storage at the commencement of the Plan is for the purpose of meeting critical human water needs (CHWN);
- b) for each month of the Plan, provide for the delivery of deferred water for the purpose of meeting either or both CHWN and private carryover (PC);
- c) for each month of the Plan, nominate one or more preferred major storages in which water set aside as deferred water in that month might be stored;
- d) for each month of the Plan, nominate one or more preferred major storages from which deferred water might be delivered;
- e) for each month of the Plan, nominate any preferred transfers and substitutions of deferred water between major storages; and
- f) not provide for deferred water to be delivered in the same month as that water became deferred water.

Draft Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan

A summary of the volumes proposed by South Australia for deferral and delivery are presented in **Attachment B** and discussed in this Plan.

Plan Duration

This Plan has been prepared for the period 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027 (12 months).

Inflow Assumption

This Plan is based on South Australia receiving less than its full Entitlement Flow of 1,850 gigalitres (GL) during 2026-27. The 12-month plan has been amended for the 2026-27 water year and assumes an annual entitlement of 1,675 GL for the remainder of the water year. If water resource availability improves in the 2026-27 water year, then South Australia reserves the right to re-commence deferral ahead of any given month.

Expected Volume Held at Commencement of Plan

At the commencement of this Plan, it is expected that South Australia will hold a total volume of 340.7 GL of deferred Entitlement Flow (**Attachment A**). This is based on the MDBA confirmed 9 July 2026 volume (366.5 GL) and any planned or expected deferrals (0 GL), losses, spills and/or deliveries (25.8 GL) over the month of July 2026.

Deferred Water

The plan proposes to defer a total of 0.0 GL from 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027. This represents a reduction of deferral from previous plans, reflecting current water availability. Deferral will be reviewed monthly and is dependent on winter/spring system inflows through 2026. South Australia would revisit the deferral volumes proposed in this plan for 2026-27 if water availability improves significantly.

Delivery of Deferred Water

No requests for delivery of stored water are made in this plan. Delivery requests may be altered in future plans subject to formal advice pertaining to the South Australia's Entitlement Flow for 2026-27 as the water year progresses. It is expected that a 'forced delivery/spill' of the 25.8 GL of deferred water in Lake Victoria will occur throughout July as a result of unregulated flow that will result in Lake Victoria filling in mid-August.

Transfers and Substitutions

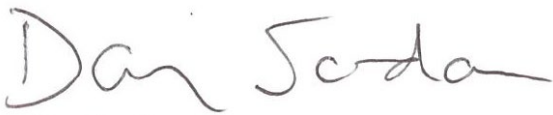
SA's preference is for the storage of deferred water to ultimately be in Dartmouth Dam. It is requested that deferred water be moved from Lake Victoria to Hume Dam at the earliest possible convenience, until it can be moved to Dartmouth Dam noting that substitutions are dependent on operational transfers. Transfers and substitutions will be detailed in future plans, if delivery of the storage right is required.

Proposed Net Flow to South Australia

The net flow delivery at the South Australian border is to be delivered as outlined in the *Proposed SA Entitlement Volume for Deferral and Delivery* table in **Attachment B**.

Plan Review

As provided for in Schedule G of the Agreement, the Plan will be reviewed monthly and South Australia reserves the right to seek variation to any of the elements contained in this Plan if water resource availability conditions change. South Australia reserves the right to re-commence deferral ahead of any given month if water resource availability improves.



DAN JORDAN

BASIN OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

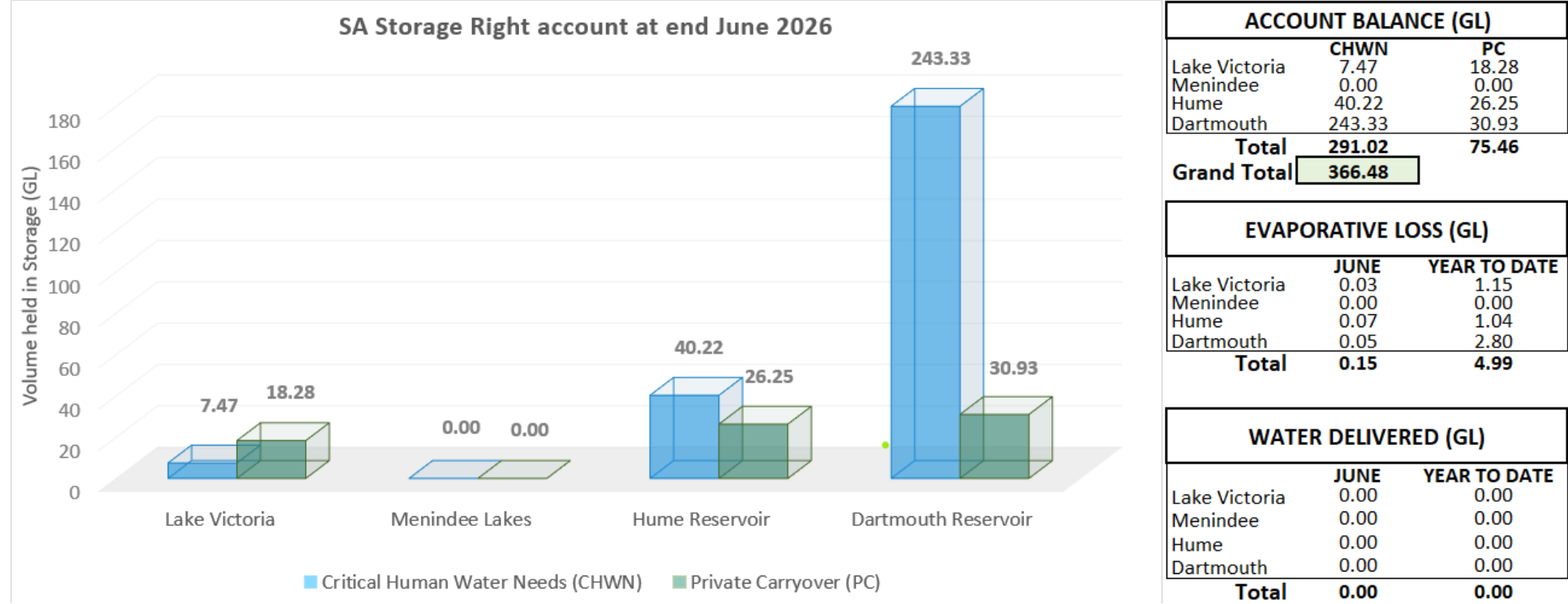
Date: 29 July 2026

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Date effective: 1 August 2026 to 31 July 2027

Assumed Inflow Conditions: 1,675 GL of entitlement flow for the remainder of the 2026-27 water year.

Expected Volume Held in Storage at commencement: **340.7 GL** – This volume is comprised of the MDBA accounted volume of 366.5 GL at the end of June plus planned deferral through July (0.0), minus deliveries (0.0) and spills (25.8 GL from Lake Victoria). This expected volume does not include assumed evaporative losses through July.



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Proposed SA Entitlement Volume for Deferral and Delivery

MONTHLY DEFERRALS

	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Total
CHWN (GL)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PC (GL)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preferred Storage	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth

MONTHLY DELIVERIES

	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Total
CHWN (GL)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PC (GL)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Preferred Storage	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic

SA ENTITLEMENT FLOW*

	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Total
Monthly Entitlement (GL)	124	135	170.5	180	217	217	194	186	135	93	90	108.5	1850
Adjusted Monthly Entitlement (GL)	124	135	170.5	180	217	217	194	186	135	93	90	108.5	1850

*current annual Entitlement flow to South Australia for the 2026-27 MDBA water year is 1,675 GL, however, no adjustments to monthly delivery have been proposed through the inflow season (June – November) at this stage. South Australia will continue to reassess, at each water availability assessment, the need to reduce monthly Entitlement delivery if water availability to South Australia does not improve.