Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan

Ref: DEW-D0037473

Prepared for Adoption from 1 November 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.

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 November 2026 to 31 October 2027 (12 months).

Inflow Assumption

This Plan is based on South Australia receiving its full Entitlement Flow of 1,850 gigalitres (GL) during 2026-27 and 2027-28. It is noted that South Australia commenced the MDBA water year below its annual entitlement and has subsequently been provided formal advice that full entitlement volume is available, based on the end of July water resource assessment. The plan herein also assumes that flow to SA has returned to regulated conditions.

Expected Volume Held at Commencement of Plan

At the commencement of this Plan, South Australia will hold a total volume of 342.36 GL of deferred Entitlement Flow (**Attachment A**). This is based on the MDBA confirmed end of September 2026 volume (339.86 GL) and any planned or

expected deferrals (2.5 GL), losses, spills and/or deliveries (0.0 GL) through October. Evaporative losses through October have not been assumed in this volume.

Deferred Water

The plan proposes to defer a total of 40.0 GL from 1 November 2026 to 31 October 2027. South Australia recommenced deferral at the conclusion of unregulated flow as detailed in the *intermediate* October deferral plan (plan commencing 16 October 2026).

Delivery of Deferred Water

No requests for delivery of stored water are made in this plan. Delivery requests may be altered in future plans, depending on formal advice pertaining to South Australia's Entitlement Flow for the 2027-28 water year.

Transfers and Substitutions

It is requested that any deferred water to Lake Victoria be substituted upstream to Hume reservoir at the earliest possible convenience, subject to operational transfers. It is noted that operational transfers from Dartmouth to Hume are unlikely for the remainder of this calendar year.

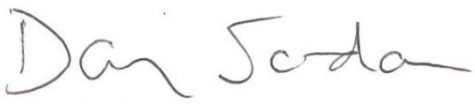
Recent amendments to Schedule G of the Murray Darling Basin Agreement enable South Australia to store deferred water in the Snowy-Murray development storages.

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 has recommenced deferral due to the notified conclusion of unregulated flow on 14 October and being below its storage right targets for Critical Human Water Needs and Private Carryover.



DAN JORDAN

BASIN OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Date: 30 October 2026

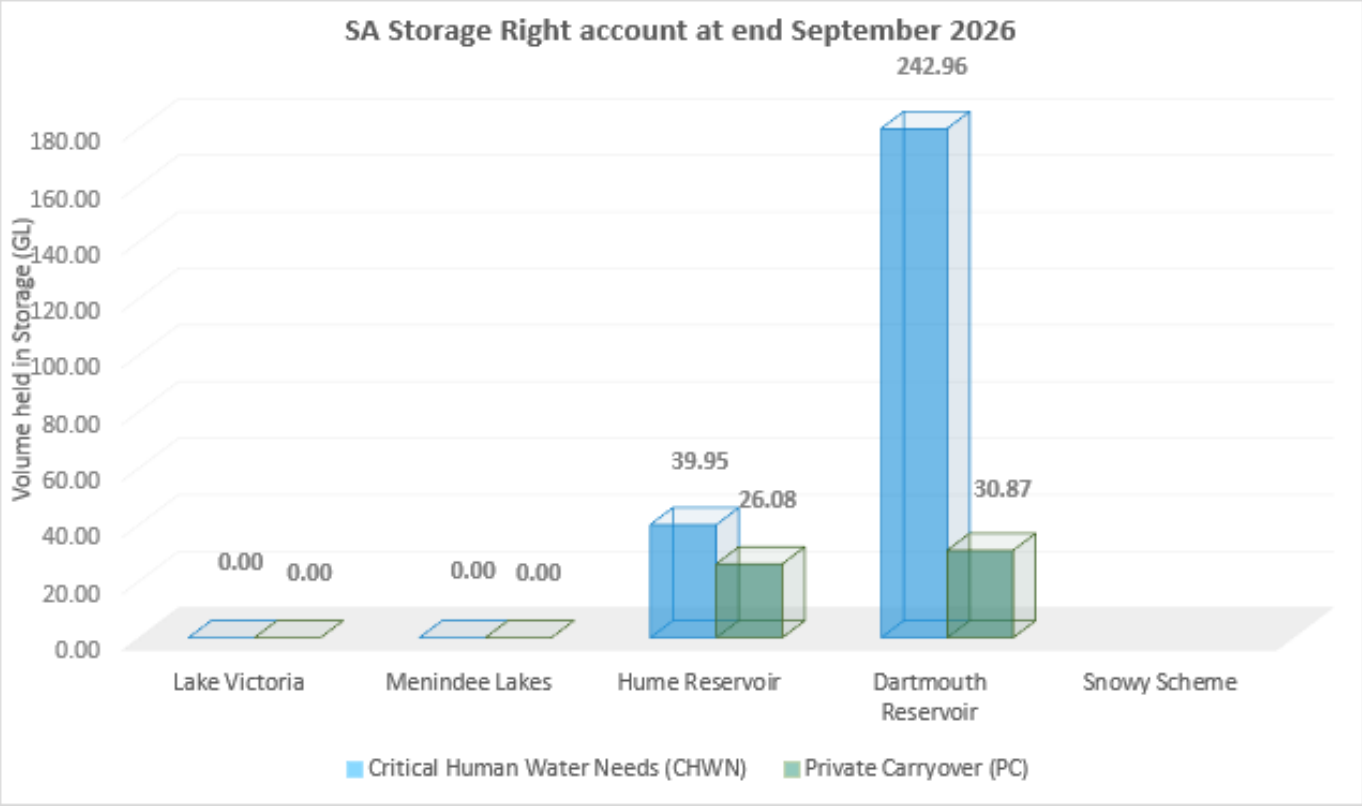
Attachment A

Draft Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan

Date effective: 1 November 2026 to 31 October 2027

Assumed Inflow Conditions: 1,850 GL of entitlement flow for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 water year (full entitlement)

Expected Volume Held in Storage at commencement: **342.36 GL** – This volume is comprised of the MDBA accounted volume of 339.86 GL at the end of September plus planned deferral from October (2.5 GL), minus deliveries (0.0 GL) and spills (0.0 GL). This expected volume does not include assumed evaporative losses through October.



ACCOUNT BALANCE (GL)	CHWN	PC
Lake Victoria	0.00	0
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	39.95	26.08
Dartmouth	242.96	30.87
Snowy Scheme	0.00	0.00
Total	**282.91**	**56.95**
Grand Total	**339.86**	

EVAPORATIVE LOSS (GL)	SEPTEMBER	YEAR TO DATE
Lake Victoria	0.00	0.03
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.24	0.44
Dartmouth	0.25	0.42
Snowy Scheme	0.00	0.00
Total	**0.49**	**0.89**

WATER DELIVERED (GL)	SEPTEMBER	YEAR TO DATE
Lake Victoria	0.00	25.72
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.00	0.00
Dartmouth	0.00	0.00
Snowy Scheme	0.00	0.00
Total	**0.00**	**25.72**

Attachment B

Draft Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan

Proposed SA Entitlement Volume for Deferral and Delivery

MONTHLY DEFERRALS

	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Oct-27	Total
CHWN (GL)	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**20.0**
PC (GL)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	7.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**20.0**
Preferred Storage	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	-	-	-	-	-	

MONTHLY DELIVERIES

	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Oct-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	

SA ENTITLEMENT FLOW*

	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Oct-27	Total
Monthly Entitlement (GL)	180	217	217	194	186	135	93	90	108.5	124	135	170.5	**1850**
Adjusted Monthly Entitlement (GL)	175	212	212	189	181	127.5	85.5	90	108.5	124	135	170.5	**1810**

*current annual Entitlement flow to South Australia for the 2026-27 MDBA water year is 1,850 GL (full entitlement volume) as per end of July water resource assessment. Full entitlement is also assumed for the 2027-28 MDBA water year (commencing 1 June 2027), noting this will be dependent on MDBA water resource assessments.