

South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

Issued 14 April 2022



Key messages

- The projected minimum opening allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators for the 2022-23 water year is 100 percent.
- This is based on a water availability assessment provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority which shows that, under a “worst-case” scenario, South Australia will receive its full annual River Murray Entitlement of 1,850 gigalitres (GL). This is well above the 1,496 GL at which irrigators reach allocations of 100 percent.
- With the projected minimum opening allocation being greater than 50 percent, carryover of allocations from 2021-22 will not be available in 2022-23.
- As the projected minimum opening allocation is 100 percent for the 2022-23 water year, no more allocation announcements are scheduled for the 2022-23 water year. In mid-June 2022 the volume of water available for allocation will be gazetted and allocations issued for use from 1 July 2022.

Interstate Allocations and Outlooks

Information on 2021-22 River Murray allocations and projected allocations for 2022-23, in both New South Wales and Victoria, can be found via the website links below:

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



Private carryover

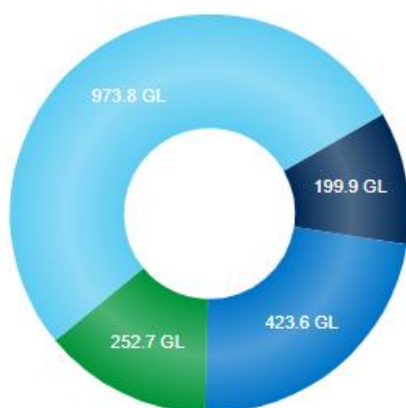
In accordance with the [Water Allocation Plan for the South Australian River Murray Prescribed Watercourse](#), access to private carryover is only available to eligible users when the projected minimum opening irrigation allocation is 50 percent or less. As the worst case projected minimum opening allocation for 2022-23, as announced on 14 April, is 100 percent **private carryover will NOT be available in the 2022-23 water year.**



Water allocation framework

The [Water Allocation Plan for the South Australian River Murray Prescribed Watercourse](#) (Water Allocation Plan) details how water is allocated. The Water Allocation Plan is a 220 page document, so to help you more easily understand how water is allocated, including during dry times, a 5 page [factsheet](#) is available.

The [SA River Murray Water Calculator](#) also helps you better understand how the water available to South Australia is shared. It improves transparency of the water sharing arrangements within South Australia by showing how much water is allocated for different purposes (Figure 1).



Volume available 1850 GL

Figure 1 – Output from the SA River Murray Water Calculator illustrating how water is shared in South Australia when 1,850 GL is available.

Irrigation

This water is used to support productive irrigation businesses and communities in South Australia.

All Purpose – Class 3

High Security 100%

All Purpose – Class 8

Environmental Land Management 100%

Critical human water needs and town water supply

This water is used to support critical human water needs in both urban and rural areas across South Australia. This water underpins the water security of the majority of South Australians, including those in metropolitan Adelaide.

All Purpose – Class 1 & 5

Stock, Domestic, Industrial 100%

Metropolitan Adelaide – Class 6

Urban Water Supply 100%

All Purpose – Class 2

Country Towns 100%

Environment

This water is held by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the South Australian Government for environmental purposes. Water for the environment benefits wetlands and floodplains along the length of the River Murray and supports the health of the Lower Lakes and Coorong.

All Purpose – Class 1

Stock, Domestic, Industrial 100%

All Purpose – Class 3

High Security 100%

Class 9

Wetland / Environment 100%

Running the river

This includes water set aside to meet the conveyance requirements to "run the river", as well as water that "remains in the river" to contribute to environmental outcomes. Conveyance water is required to deliver Critical Human Water Needs and water for all River Murray water users.



Water held in storage

As at 12 April 2022, there was 8,420 GL (91 percent of capacity) held in the major Murray-Darling Basin storages. This is 44 percent more than the same time last year (4,351 GL) and 32 percent more than the long-term average held at the end of March (5,505 GL). Around 100.5 GL is currently held in storage for potential South Australian private carryover demand in future years.

Table 1 - Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at 12 April 2022

Storage	Full Supply Volume	Current Volume		SA Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	3,594	93	100.5
Hume Dam	3,005	2,600	87	0
Lake Victoria	677	422	62	0
Menindee Lakes*	1,731	1,804	104	-
Total	9,269	8,420	91	100.5

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

*The total storage volume of Menindee Lakes at full supply level is 1,731 GL, with an ability to surcharge the lakes with seasonal inflows to a volume of 2,050 GL. This is a combined storage volume consisting of Lake Cawndilla, Lake Menindee, Lake Pamamaroo and Wetherell and Tandure lakes. Individual storage data is available via [Real-time Data from WaterNSW](#).



Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's mid-range rainfall outlook across the Murray-Darling Basin shows that much of the Basin is likely to be wetter than average for the three months from May to July 2022 (Figure 2). Over the same period, temperatures are likely to be warmer than average (Figure 3). Rainfall over the last 12 months has meant there are very few areas in the Basin that have rainfall deficiencies (Figure 4).

La Niña remains active in the tropical Pacific but is gradually weakening. Outlooks indicate that a return to neutral El Niño-Southern Oscillation conditions is likely late in the southern hemisphere autumn. Despite weakening, La Niña may still contribute to wetter than median conditions for parts of northern and eastern Australia. Above average sea surface temperatures, particularly around northern Australia, are also likely to be influencing this outlook. This pattern may be contributing to the wetter outlooks and warmer nights for many areas.

For more detailed information on the climate outlook visit this [BoM webpage](#).

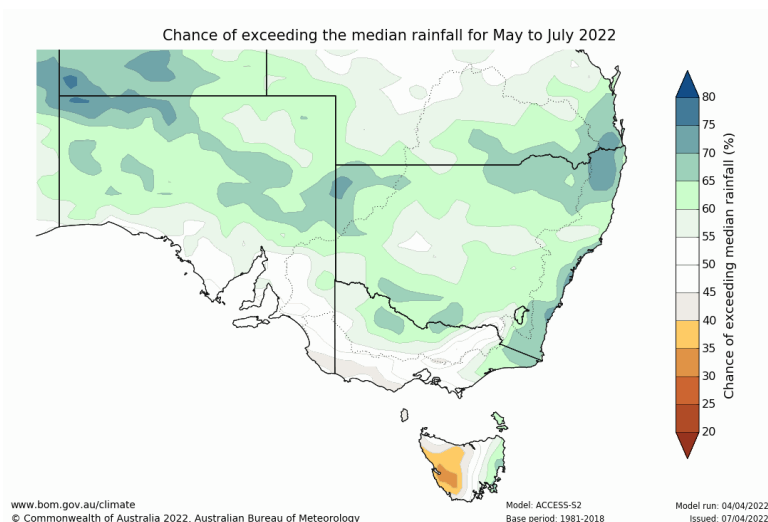


Figure 2 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall, May-July 2022

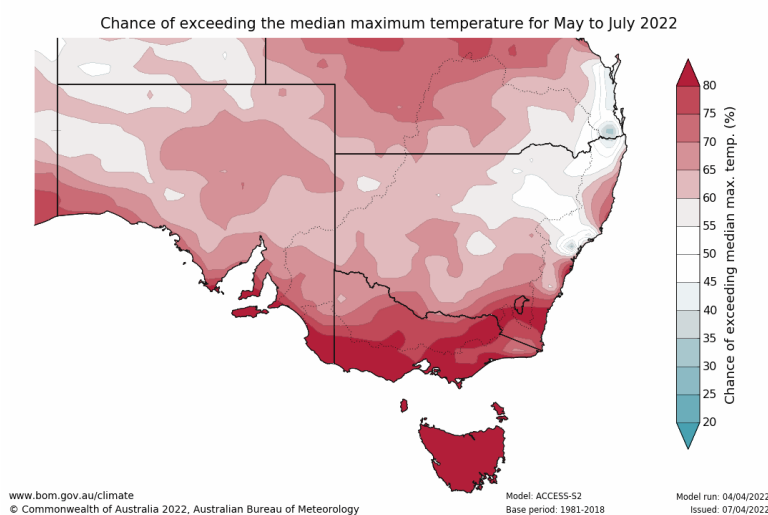


Figure 3 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Temperature, May-July 2022

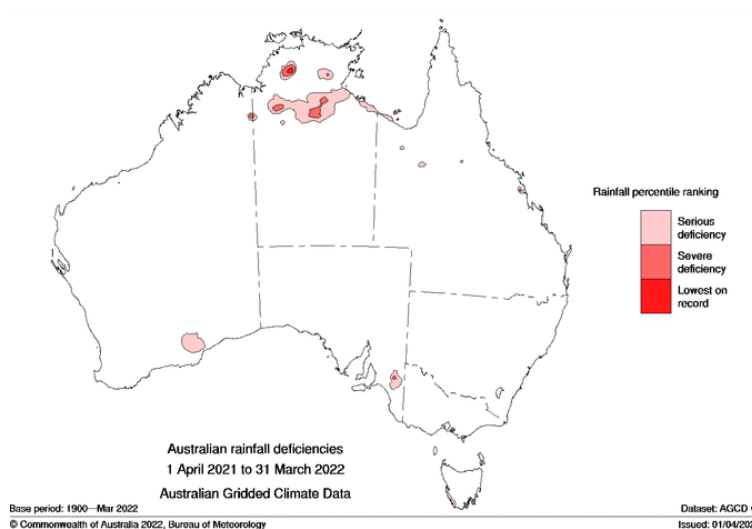


Figure 4 - Bureau of Meteorology rainfall deficiency April 2021 to March 2022



Next announcement

As the projected minimum opening allocation is 100 percent for the 2022-23 water year, no more allocation announcements are scheduled. In mid-June 2022 the volume of water available for allocation will be gazetted and allocations issued for use from 1 July 2022.



Further information

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

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 28 Vaughan Terrace, Berri SA.
- Call the water licensing office on (08) 8595 2053.
- Email water licensing on DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au.