Intermediate Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan

Government of South Australia
Department for Environment and Water

Ref: DEW-D0037311

Prepared for Adoption from 16 October 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. Schedule G is also enables the Basin Officials Committee Member to resubmit a proposed departure from a previous plan at any time.

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 16 October 2026 to 30 September 2027 (12 months). This plan duration commences upon the conclusion of unregulated flow, noting that SA is below is storage right targets for both CHWN and PC.

Inflow Assumption

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

Expected Volume Held at Commencement of Plan

At the commencement of this Plan, South Australia will hold a total volume of 339.86 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 (0 GL), losses, spills and/or deliveries (0.0 GL) from 1 October through to the commencement of this plan.

Deferred Water

The plan proposes to defer a total of 42.5 GL from 16 October 2026 to 30 September 2027. South Australia has recommenced deferral due to the conclusion of unregulated flow and improvements to water resource availability.

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. A forced delivery/spill of 25.7 GL of deferred water in Lake Victoria occurred throughout July due to unregulated flow and the filling of Lake Victoria.

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 are unlikely for the remainder of this calendar year.

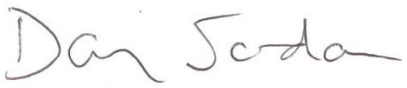
Recent amendments to Schedule G of the Murray Darling Basin Agreement enable South Australia to store deferred water in the Snowy-Murray development storages.

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 conclusion of unregulated flow and being below its storage right targets for Critical Human Water Needs and Private Carryover.



DAN JORDAN

BASIN OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Date: 16 October 2026

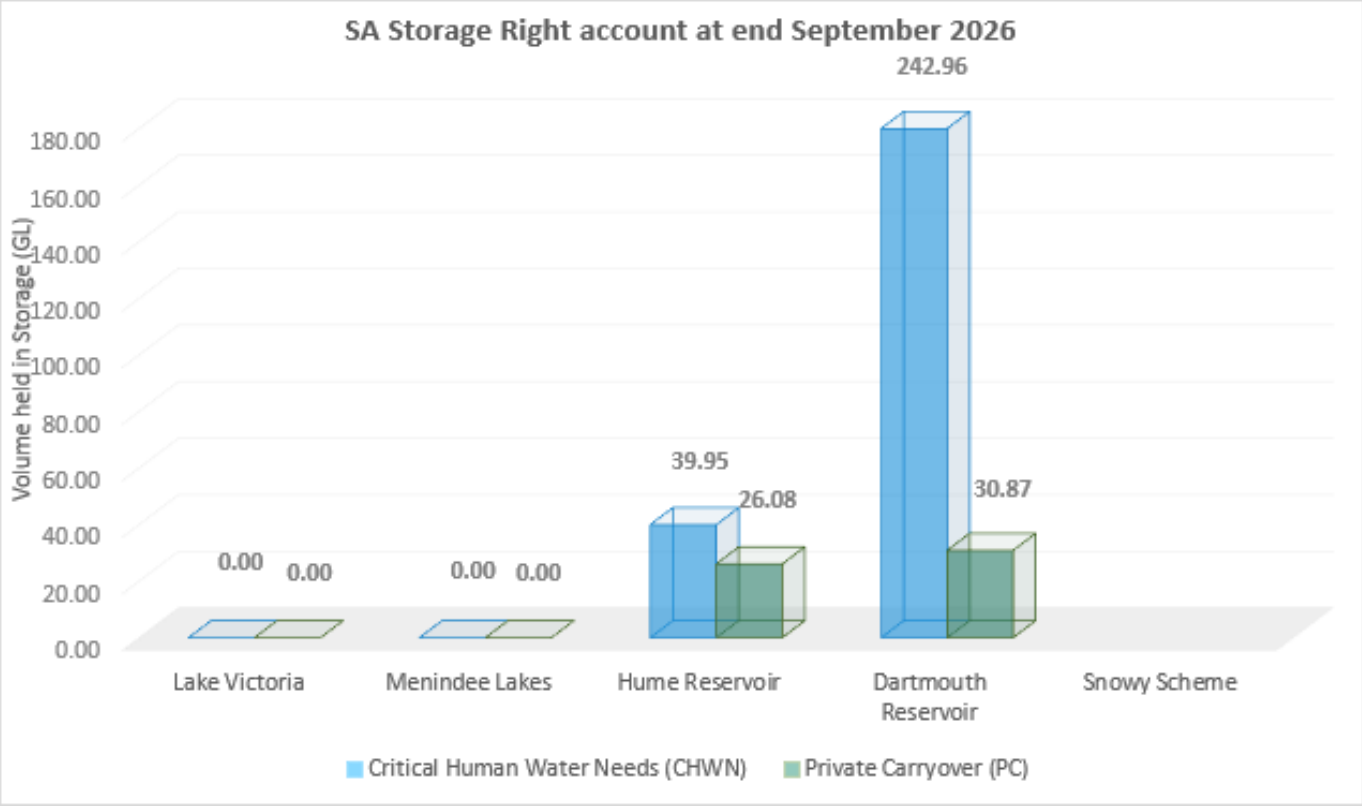
Attachment A

Draft Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan

Date effective: 16 October 2026 to 30 September 2027

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

Expected Volume Held in Storage at commencement: **339.86 GL** – This volume is comprised of the MDBA accounted volume of 339.86 GL at the end of September plus planned deferral from October 1 (0.0 GL), minus deliveries (0.0 GL) and spills (0.0 GL). This expected volume does not include assumed evaporative losses from October 1.



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

	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Total
CHWN (GL)	2.5	5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**22.5**
PC (GL)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.0	7.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	**20.0**
Preferred Storage	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	Hume	-	-	-	-	

MONTHLY DELIVERIES

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

	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Apr-27	May-27	Jun-27	Jul-27	Aug-27	Sep-27	Total
Monthly Entitlement (GL)	170.5	180	217	217	194	186	135	93	90	108.5	124	135	**1850**
Adjusted Monthly Entitlement (GL)	168	175	212	212	189	181	127.5	85.5	90	108.5	124	135	**1807.5**

*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.