



# South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

15 May 2019

***This statement provides River Murray irrigators with information about water availability for the 2019-20 water year to inform business planning.***

It contains information on South Australia's River Murray Entitlement, projected minimum opening allocations, private carryover, water held in storage, climate outlook and projections of irrigation water allocations under a range of outlook scenarios for 2019-20.

## Projected Minimum Opening Irrigation Allocation

The projected minimum, or worst case, opening irrigation allocation for the 2019-20 water year is 22 percent. Projected minimum opening allocations from South Australia's Entitlement for other classes of water are included in Table A.

*Table A - Projected minimum opening allocations*

Water Product	Projected Minimum Opening Allocation
All Purpose - Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%
All Purpose - Class 3 (irrigation)	22%
All Purpose - Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
All Purpose - Class 8 (environmental land management)	22%

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](#).

Figure 3 at the end of this document illustrates how available water from South Australia's Entitlement is prioritised and the relationship between the Entitlement and allocations.

## Private Carryover

Private carryover will be available in 2019-20 for Class 3 entitlement holders.

An individual may carryover any water allocated to them and not used in the 2018-19 water year, up to 20 percent of the volume of Class 3 entitlements held.

The maximum allocation against entitlements for a water year is 100 percent, including private carryover.

## South Australia's River Murray Entitlement

The projected minimum amount of water that will be delivered to South Australia as part of its Entitlement in 2019-20 is 990 gegalitres (GL). This assumes that:

- the remainder of the current year will be extremely dry<sup>1</sup>
- use of available water across the remainder of the current year will be high
- inflows in 2019-20 will be consistent with the lowest inflows on record.

<sup>1</sup> Historically, Murray-Darling Basin inflows for the remainder of the year exceed this value in 95 percent of years.

## Water held in storage

There were 3037 GL held in Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) controlled storages (33 percent of capacity) at the end of April 2019.

The MDBA active storage volume is 2826 GL (31 percent of active capacity).

The long-term average volume held in storage at the end of April is 5424 GL (59 percent of total capacity).

102.1 GL of water is currently held in storage for South Australian private carryover.

Table B - Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at the end of April 2019

Storage	Full Supply Volume Active Storage	Current Volume Active Storage		South Australian Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3785	2373	63	102.1
Hume Dam	2982	385	13	0
Lake Victoria	577	68	12	0
Menindee Lakes	1731	0	-	-
Total	9075	2826	31	102.1

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

## Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) mid-range outlook across the Murray-Darling Basin for the three months from May to July shows most of eastern and southern Australia have no strong tendency towards above or below average rainfall. See Figure 1 (left hand side).

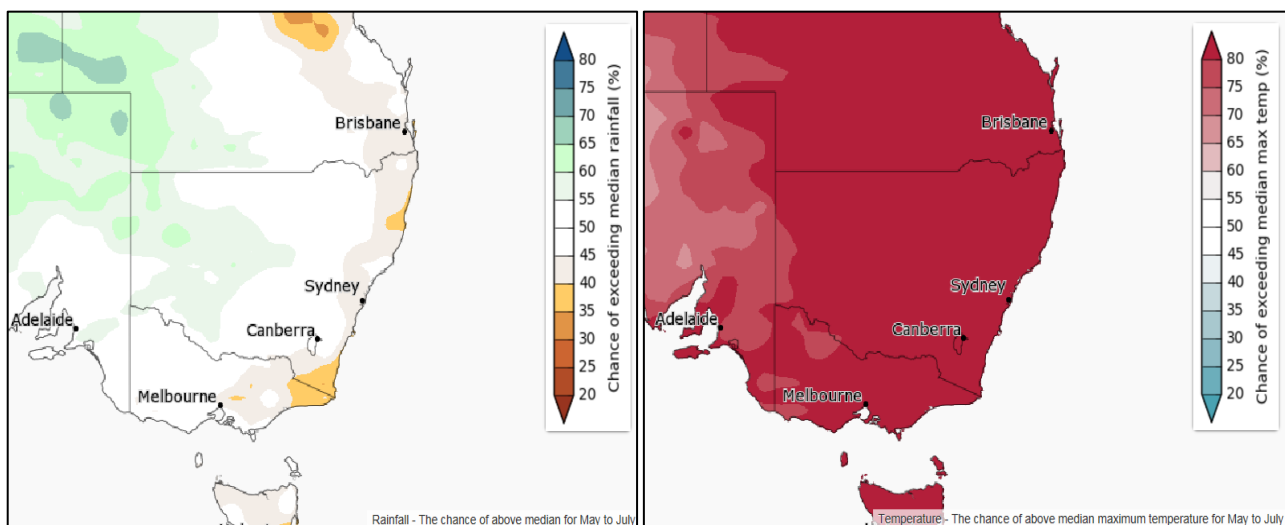
Both days and nights are likely to be warmer than average. Figure 1 (right hand side) shows the chance of exceeding median maximum temperatures.

The main climate drivers for Australia (e.g., El Niño/La Niña and the Indian Ocean Dipole) are neutral, which is why the rainfall outlook is not showing a tendency towards a wetter or drier than average three months ahead.

However, the Bureau's ENSO Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT. This means the chance of El Niño developing in 2019 is approximately 70 percent (around triple the normal likelihood). El Niño typically brings drier than average conditions for eastern Australia during winter–spring, and warmer days across southern Australia.

For more information on seasonal rainfall and temperature outlooks go to the [BoM website](#).

Figure 1 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall (left) and Temperature (right), May-July 2019



## 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 River Murray system modelling and South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Framework.

The modelling sets all storages and flows in the system to current conditions and uses historical inflow and climate conditions over the last 30 years to create unique inflow sequences. It also assumes a worst case actual opening allocation (22 percent for classes 3 and 8).

The range of water availability conditions included in the table and graph (see Table C and Figure 2) are based on historical variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings.

Table C - Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 3 and 8) | 15 May 2019

SA River Murray Irrigation Allocation Scenarios All Purpose - Class 3   May 2019	1 Jul 2019 Opening Allocation	1 Sep 2019	1 Nov 2019	1 Jan 2020	1 Apr 2020
	<b>Projected Allocation as a Percentage</b>				
Exceptionally dry - 99% likelihood allocation will be at least	22	27	33	39	45
Extreme dry conditions - 95% likelihood allocation will be at least		31	50	60	64
Very dry conditions - 90% likelihood allocation will be at least		34	56	78	82
Dry conditions - 75% likelihood allocation will be at least		45	69	92	93
Average conditions - 50% likelihood allocation will be at least		53	91	100	100
Wet conditions - 25% likelihood allocation will be at least		71	100	100	100

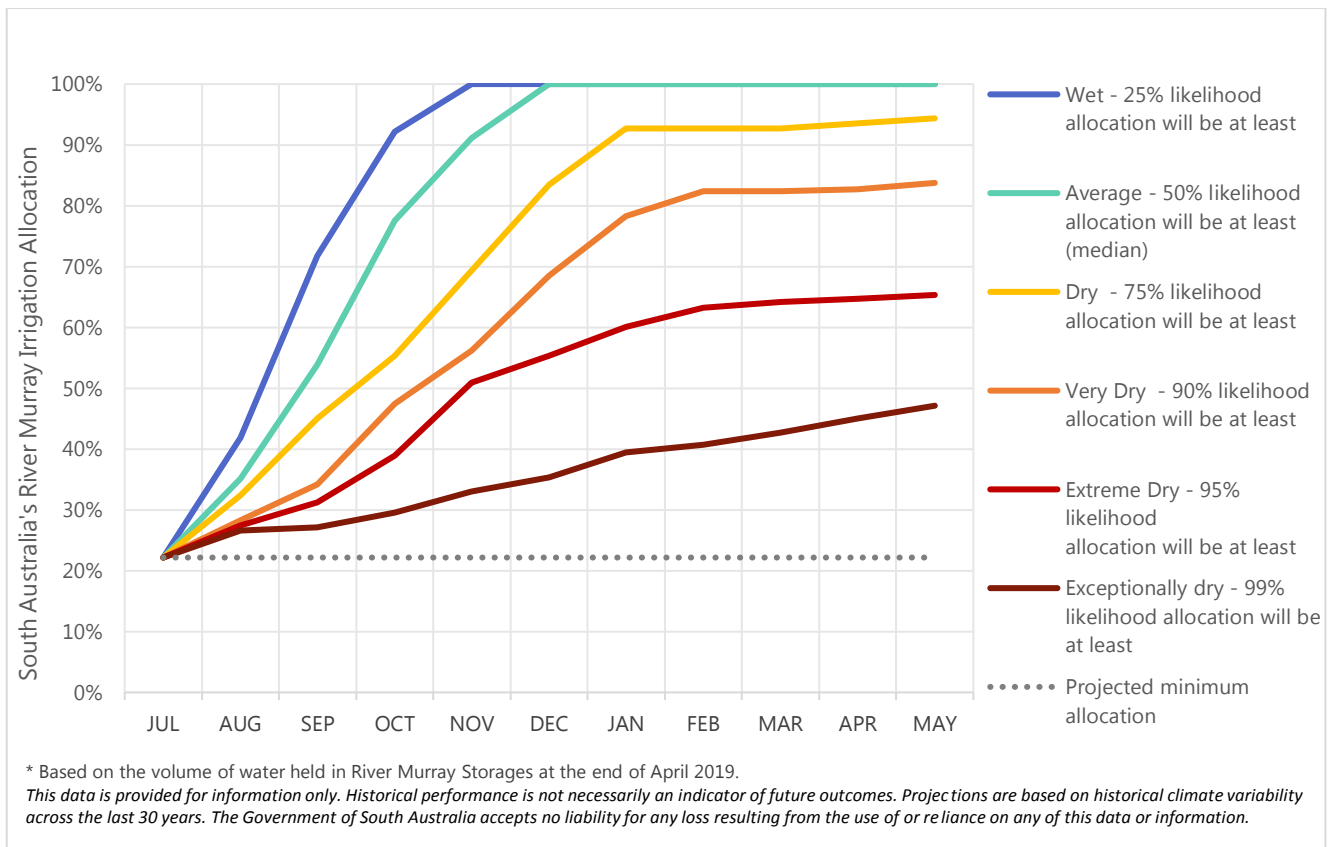
Correct as of 15 May 2019. Based on the volume of water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at the end of April 2019.

**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.

**Definitions:** Based on modelling of water availability that simulates historical variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings:

Exceptionally dry	There is a 99% likelihood your allocation will exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Extreme dry	There is a 95% likelihood your allocation will exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Very dry	There is a 90% likelihood your allocation will exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Dry	There is a 75% likelihood your allocation will exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Average	There is a 50% likelihood your allocation will exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Wet	There is a 25% likelihood your allocation will exceed the allocation in this scenario.

Figure 2 - Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 3 and 8) | 15 May 2019



## Next announcement

The next announcement will be provided by 15 June 2019.

Up until 1 July 2019, the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) will provide updated water availability projections monthly. Thereafter updated water allocation information will be provided every two weeks while water allocations are less than 100 per cent.

## Further Information

To speak with someone about your water allocation or account:

- drop into the water licensing office at 2 Wade Street, Berri SA
- call the water licensing office on (08) 8595 2053
- email water licensing on [DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au](mailto:DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au)

To speak with someone about water allocation projections contact:

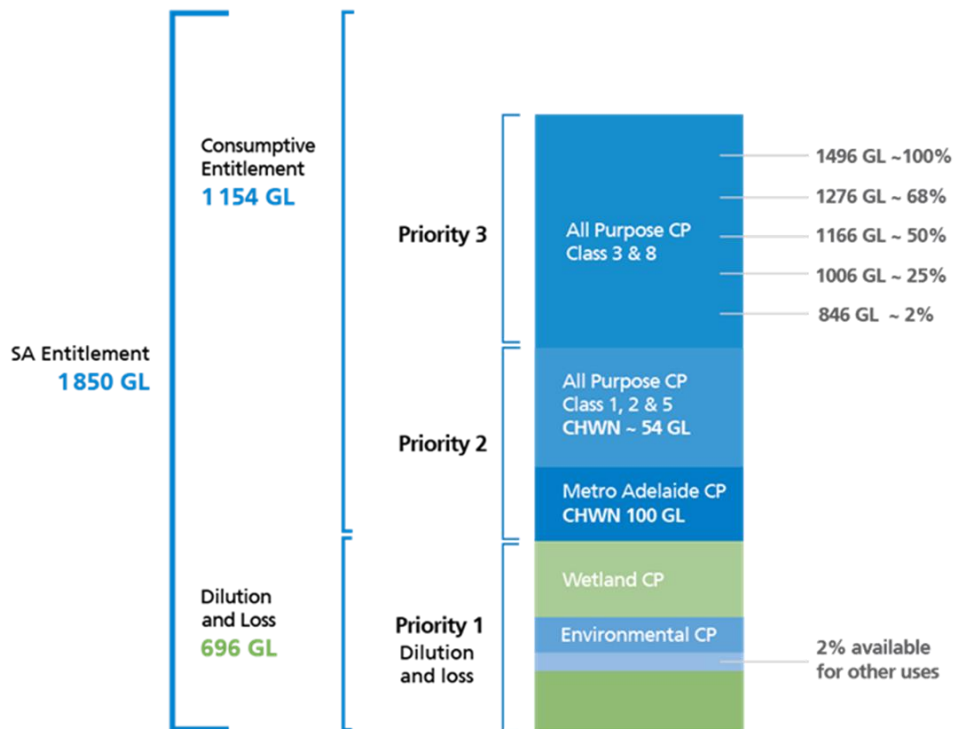
- Dr Ashley Kingsborough, Principal Policy Adviser  
T: (08) 8463 7991
- Mr Jarrod Eaton, Water Resource Operations Manager  
T: (08) 8463 7927

For more information on South Australia's water allocations:

- visit the [DEW website](http://www.dew.sa.gov.au)
- email [sarah.meins@sa.gov.au](mailto:sarah.meins@sa.gov.au) to receive the weekly River Murray Flow Report.

Figure 3 - 2019 River Murray Water Allocation Plan's allocation framework\*

\* This figure illustrates how water is prioritised and provides a guide as to how allocations will change with improvements in



South Australia's River Murray Entitlement. The Water Allocation Plan for the South Australian River Murray Prescribed Watercourse details how water is allocated. Water is made available to one or more Consumptive Pools (CP) and then shared in accordance with the principles in the water allocation plan.