South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

01 August 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, allocations, private carryover, water held in storage, climate outlook and projections of irrigation water allocations under a range of outlook scenarios for 2019-20.

Minimum Irrigation Allocation

The updated minimum irrigation allocation for the 2019-20 water year is 50 per cent. Minimum allocations for other classes of water are included in Table A.

Table A - Minimum allocations 2019-20

Water Product	Minimum Allocation
All Purpose - Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%
All Purpose – Class 2 (country towns)	68%
All Purpose - Class 3 (irrigation)	50%
All Purpose - Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
Metropolitan Adelaide – Class 6	29%
All Purpose - Class 8 (environmental land management)	50%

The last allocation announcement of 38 per cent, as announced on 15 July 2019, was gazetted on 18 July 2019.

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 eligible Class 3 entitlement holders, who submitted their meter reading by 31 July 2019.

An individual may carryover any water allocated to them and not used in the 2018-19 water year, up to 20 per cent of the volume of Class 3 entitlements held on 30 June 2019.

The maximum allocation against entitlements for a water year is 100 per cent, 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 1,170 gigalitres (GL).

This assumes that inflows in 2019-20 will be consistent with the lowest inflows on record.

Water held in storage

There were 3,800 GL held in Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) controlled storages (41 per cent of capacity) at 29 July 2019.

The MDBA active storage volume is 3,591 GL (42 per cent of active capacity).

The long-term average volume held in storage at the end of July is 6,659 GL (72 per cent of total capacity).

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

Table B - Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at 29 July 2019

Storage	Full Supply Volume	Current Volume Active Storage		South Australian Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,336	62	102
Hume Dam	3,005	987	33	0
Lake Victoria	677	268	46	0
Menindee Lakes	1,731	0	-	-
Total	9,269	3,591	42	102

For more information on Murray-Darling Basin storages visit the MDBA website.

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has recently updated its seasonal outlook for the three months from August to October. The new outlook indicates that it is still likely to be drier than average across the Murray-Darling Basin. A drier than average three months is likely for much of south-east Australia (Figure 1 left-hand side). Above average maximum temperatures are also likely (Figure 1 right-hand side).

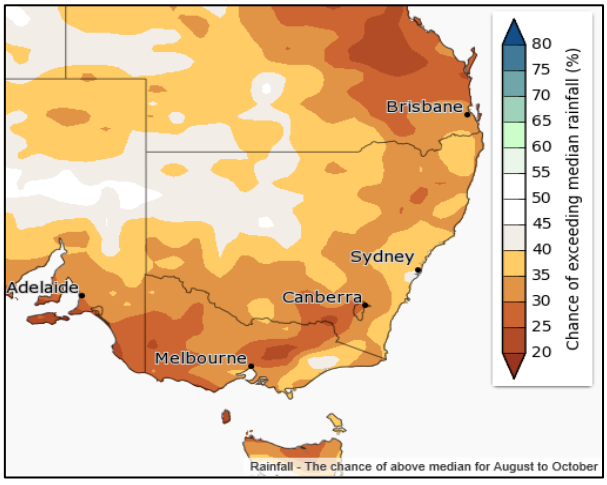
The *ENSO Outlook* is at El Niño INACTIVE. The immediate likelihood of El Nino developing has passed. However, Indian Ocean temperature forecasts show a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) through the southern winter, which is likely to be the dominant climate driver for Australia.

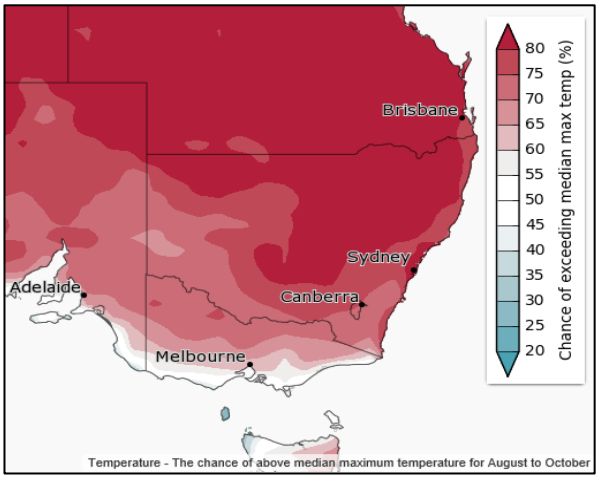
Typically, a positive IOD brings below average winter-spring rainfall for southern and central Australia. This is currently being reflected in the rainfall outlook for the coming months.

The current state of the drivers means that higher than average pressure is likely over southern and eastern Australia. This can act to keep cold fronts further south and reduce the number of cold fronts affecting the southern states, thereby reducing rainfall.

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), August-October 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.

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.

Water availability projections indicate that in 2019-20:

- under exceptionally dry conditions allocations are likely to get to at least 86 per cent;
- under all other scenarios, allocations are likely get to 100 per cent.

The projections do not incorporate information from the BoM's recently updated seasonal outlook, which indicates that it is likely to be drier than average across the catchment.

Table C - Water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 3 and 8) | 01 August 2019

SA River Murray Irrigation Allocation Scenarios All Purpose - Class 3 | 01 August 2019	Minimum Allocation for 2019-20	1 Sep 2019	1 Nov 2019	1 Jan 2020	1 Apr 2020
	Projected Allocation as a Percentage				
Exceptionally dry - 99% likelihood allocation will be at least	50	50	60	73	86
Extreme dry conditions - 95% likelihood allocation will be at least	50	51	70	92	100
Very dry conditions - 90% likelihood allocation will be at least	50	56	78	97	100
Dry conditions - 75% likelihood allocation will be at least	50	61	89	100	100
Average conditions - 50% likelihood allocation will be at least	50	68	100	100	100
Wet conditions - 25% likelihood allocation will be at least	50	74	100	100	100

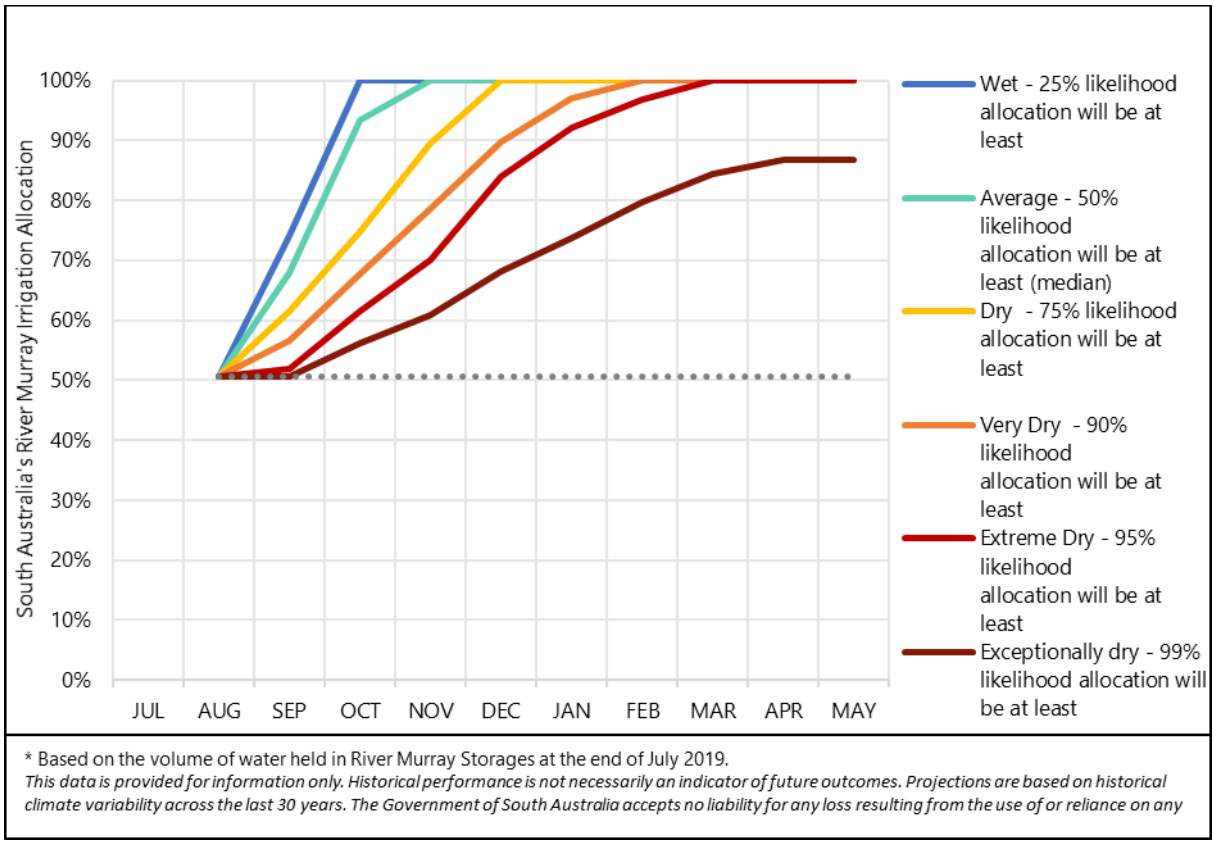
Based on forecast end-July 2019 water availability.

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) | 01 August 2019



* Based on the volume of water held in River Murray Storages at the end of July 2019.
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Next announcement

The next announcement will be provided on 15 August 2019.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) will provide water availability updates every two weeks during the 2019-20 water year 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

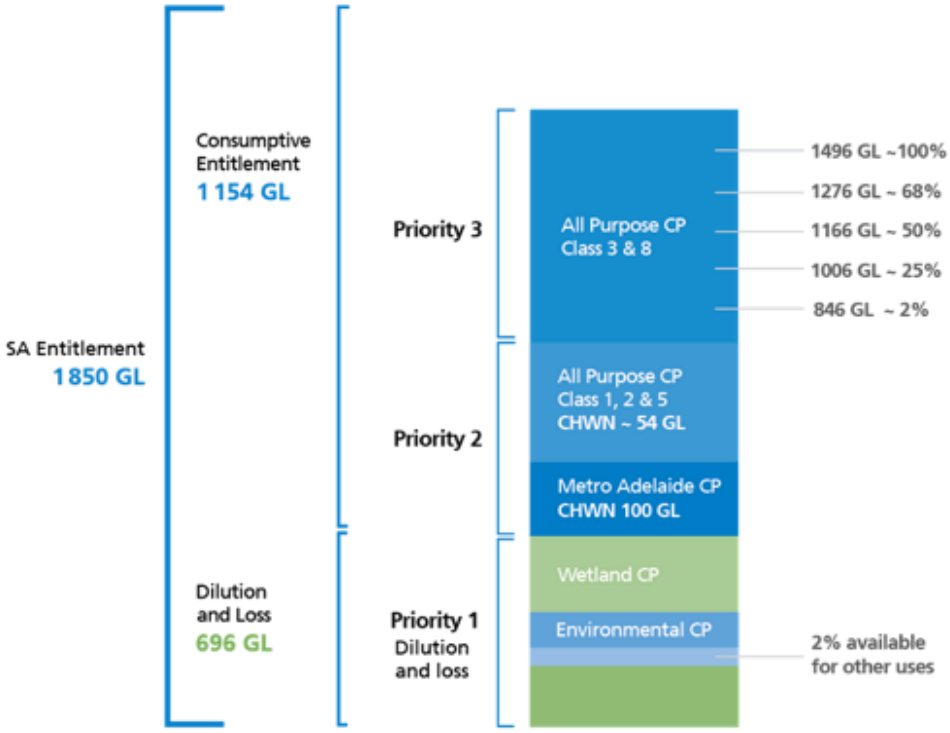
To speak with someone about water allocation projections contact:

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

For more information on South Australia's water allocations:

- visit the DEW website
- email 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.