

South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

Issued 15 June 2021



Key messages

- The opening allocation for South Australian River Murray irrigators for the 2021-22 water year is 100 percent.
- This is based on a worst case water availability assessment provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, which projects that the minimum amount of water that will be delivered to South Australia as part of its Entitlement in the 2021-22 water year is 1,560 gigalitres (GL).
- Now that allocations have reached 100 percent, there will be no more allocation announcements for the 2021-22 water year. The next allocation announcement will be on 15 April 2022 and will provide a projected minimum opening allocation for the 2022-23 water year.
- Carryover will not be available in 2021-22. As the projected minimum opening allocation announced on 15 April 2021 was greater than 50 percent, the carryover trigger for 2021-22 was not met. This means that any water rolled over from a previous year will no longer be available.
- To help irrigators manage their water, DEW has launched the [SA River Murray Water Calculator](#). This Calculator has two main features:
 - Personal Water Calculator – to help you better understand how much water you could have under different water availability circumstances to help you plan for the season ahead.
 - State Water Calculator – to help you better understand how the water available to South Australia is shared.

Interstate Allocations and Outlooks

Information on current River Murray allocations and projected allocations for 2021-22, in both New South Wales and Victoria, can be found at 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 2021-22 announced on 15 April 2021 was greater than 50 percent, **private carryover will NOT be available in the 2021-22 water year.**

South Australia's River Murray private carryover policy was updated in April 2020 to allow carryover volumes to 'rollover' into a future dry year. The policy states that water in a rollover account will only be available if the minimum opening allocation for following water year is 50 percent or less. As the worst case projected minimum opening allocation for 2021-22 announced on 15 April 2021 was 82 percent, **any water in a rollover account will no longer be available.**

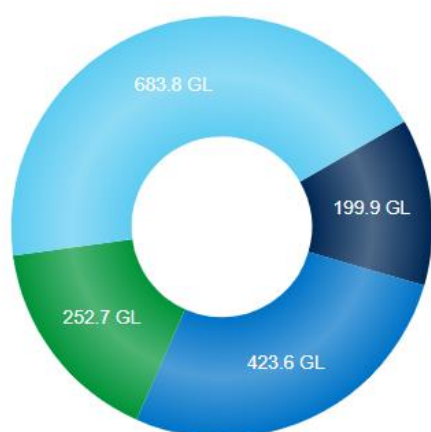
Further information on the carryover policy is available [here](#).



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 the transparency of water sharing arrangements within South Australia by showing how much water is allocated for different purposes (Figure 2).



Volume available 1560 GL

Figure 2 – Output from the SA River Murray Water Calculator illustrating how water is shared in South Australia when 1,560 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 11 June 2021, there was 5,299 GL (57 percent of capacity) held in the major Murray-Darling Basin storages. This is 16 percent more than the same time last year (3,815 GL) and slightly less than the long-term average held in storage at the end of May of 5,726 GL (62 percent of total capacity). Around 100.7 GL is currently held in storage for potential South Australian private carryover demand in future years.

Table 3 - Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages as at 11 June 2021

Storage	Full Supply Volume	Current Volume		SA Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,480	64	100.7
Hume Dam	3,005	1,420	47	0
Lake Victoria	677	320	47	0
Menindee Lakes*	1,731	1,079	62	-
Total	9,269	5,299	57	100.7

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

*The MDBA can access and manage water in the Menindee Lakes once the volume rises above 640 GL and until it falls below 480 GL. Once the water level falls below the 480 GL trigger point, New South Wales manages the water in accordance with its priorities, including to best meet local demands. For more information on Menindee Lakes visit this [MDBA webpage](#).

Significant rainfall occurred across the catchments of northern New South Wales and southern Queensland during late March 2021 and is continuing to provide substantial inflows into the Barwon-Darling system. This event will provide significant inflows to the Menindee Lakes system. For more information visit this [WaterNSW webpage](#).



Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's mid-range rainfall outlook across the Murray-Darling Basin shows that there is a strong chance that much of southern and eastern inland Australia will be wetter than average for the three months from June to August (Figure 3). From June to August, temperatures are likely to be warmer than average in the south of the Basin and below average in the north of the Basin (Figure 4). Recent rainfall over parts of eastern Australia has eased the dry conditions experienced over the last several years, as evident in the rainfall deficiencies map (Figure 5).

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral. Model outlooks indicate neutral ENSO conditions for the months ahead. A neutral ENSO state has little influence on Australian climate and means other climate drivers or more local effects are more likely to affect weather and climate. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also currently neutral. The Bureau's climate outlook model indicates negative IOD conditions for most of winter, although outlooks for the IOD have lower confidence at this time of year. A negative IOD increases the chances of above average winter-spring rainfall for much of southern Australia.

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

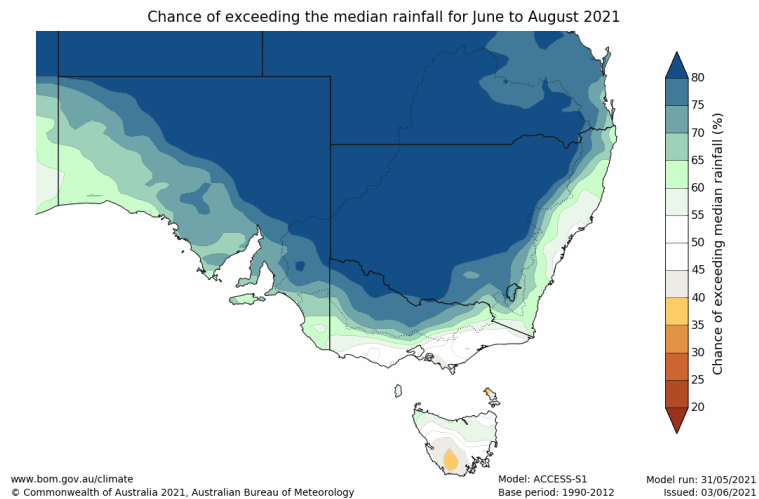


Figure 3 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall, June-August 2021

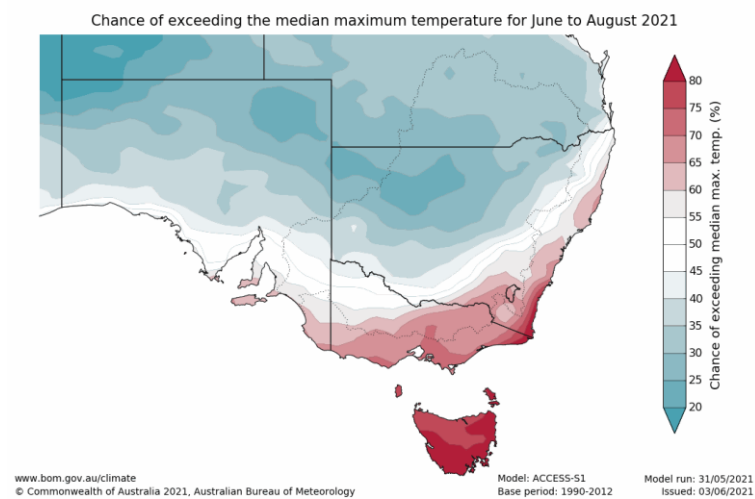


Figure 4 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Temperature, June-August 2021

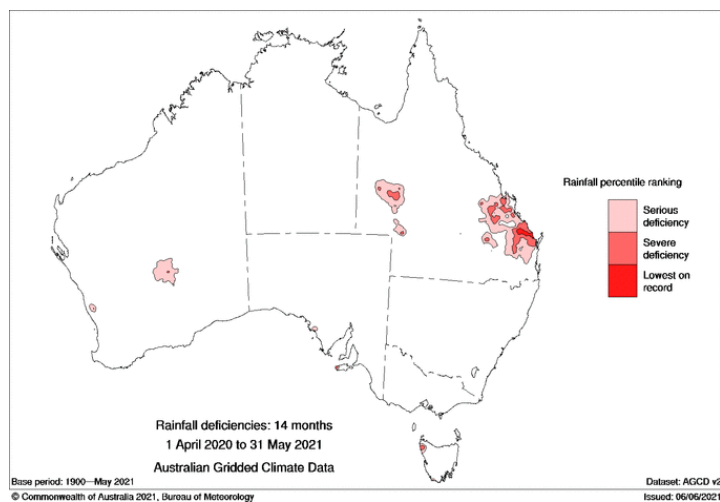


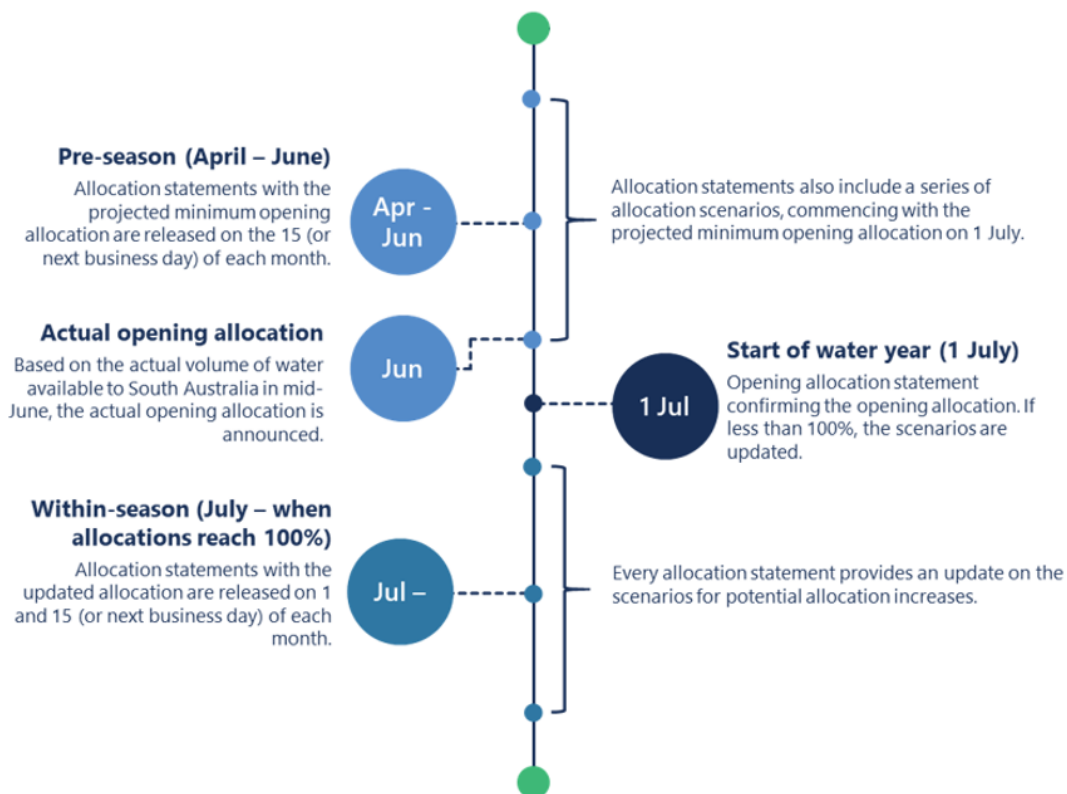
Figure 5 - Bureau of Meteorology rainfall deficiency April 2020 to May 2021



Next announcement

Now that allocations have reached 100 percent, there will be no further allocation announcements for the 2021-22 water year.

The projected minimum opening allocation for the **2022-23** water year will be provided on **Friday 15 April 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.