

# South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

01 July 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 31 percent. 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)	31%
All Purpose - Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
Metropolitan Adelaide - Class 6	29%
All Purpose - Class 8 (environmental land management)	31%

The allocation of 26 percent, as announced on 14 June 2019, has been gazetted. It will be available on accounts, for trade or use, as of 01 July 2019. Once the updated minimum allocations are gazetted they will be available on water users' accounts.

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 on 30 June 2019.

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 1050 gigalitres (GL).

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

## Water held in storage

There were 3453 GL held in Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) controlled storages (37 percent of capacity) at the 26 June 2019.

The MDBA active storage volume is 3243 GL (36 percent of active capacity).

The long-term average volume held in storage at the end of June is 6174 GL (62 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 26 June 2019

Storage	Full Supply Volume Active Storage	Current Volume Active Storage		South Australian Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3785	2400	63	102.1
Hume Dam	2982	672	23	0
Lake Victoria	577	171	30	0
Menindee Lakes	1731	0	-	-
Total	9075	3243	36	102.1

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

## Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) has recently updated its seasonal outlook for the three months from July to September. 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)

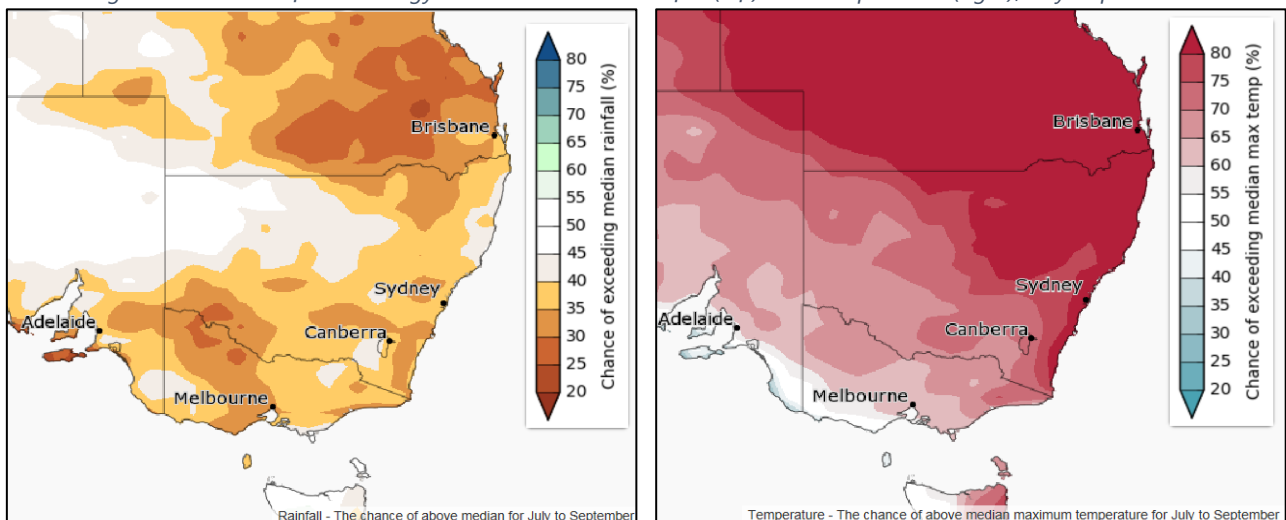
The *ENSO Outlook* is at El Niño INACTIVE. The immediate likelihood of El Nino developing has passed. However, Indian Ocean temperature forecasts show a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) through the southern winter, which is likely to be the dominant climate driver for Australia.

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 A - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall (left) and Temperature (right), July-September 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.

Water availability projections indicate:

- there is 90 percent likelihood that allocations will get to at least 91 percent; and
- there is just over an 85 percent likelihood that allocations will get to 100 percent.

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

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 July 2019

SA River Murray Irrigation Allocation Scenarios All Purpose - Class 3   01 July 2019	Minimum Allocation for 2019-20	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	31	36	42	49	54
Extreme dry conditions - 95% likelihood allocation will be at least		41	60	69	74
Very dry conditions - 90% likelihood allocation will be at least		43	65	87	91
Dry conditions - 75% likelihood allocation will be at least		54	78	100	100
Average conditions - 50% likelihood allocation will be at least		63	99	100	100
Wet conditions - 25% likelihood allocation will be at least		80	100	100	100

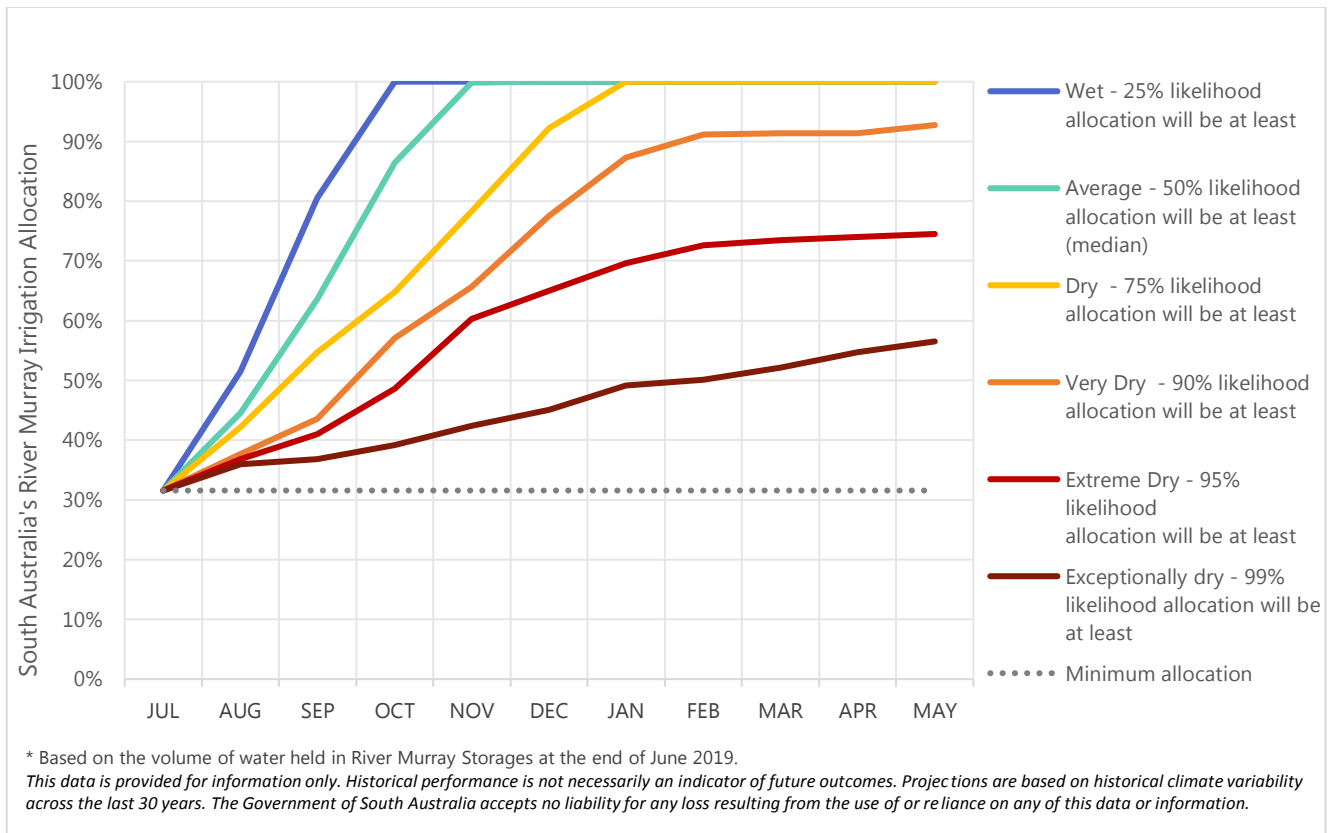
Based on forecast end June 2019 water availability.

*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 B - Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 3 and 8) | 01 July 2019



## Next announcement

The next announcement will be provided on 15 July 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](mailto:DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au)

To speak with someone about water allocation projections contact:

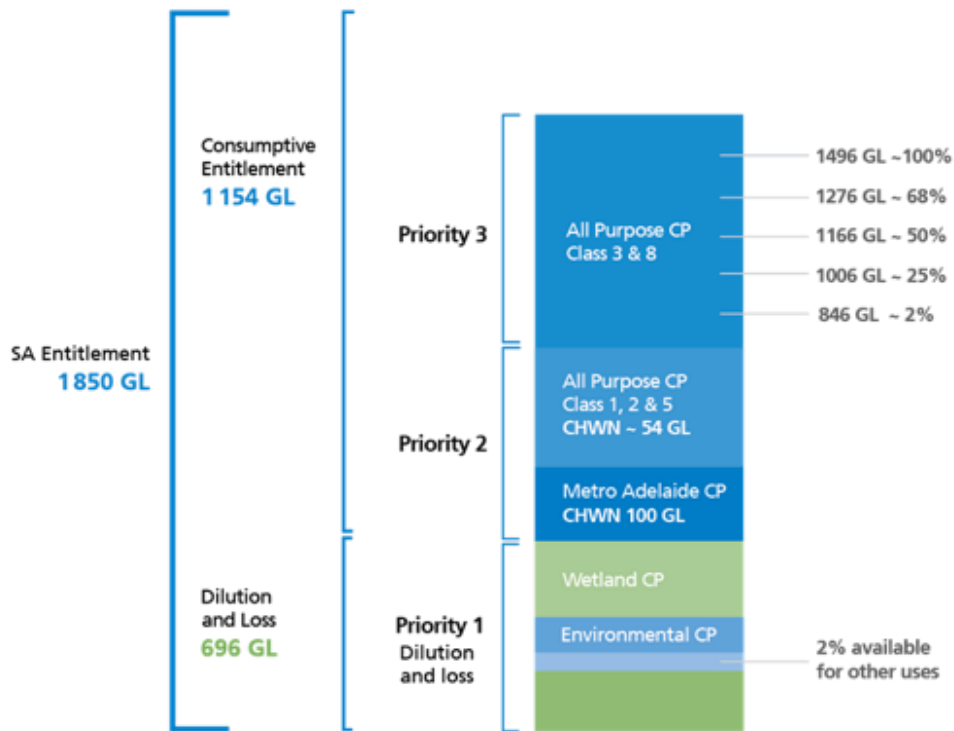
- Dr Ashley Kingsborough, Principal Policy Adviser  
T: (08) 8463 7991
- Mr Jarrod Eaton, Water Resource Operations Manager  
T: (08) 8463 7927

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.