

# Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse Aboriginal water interests

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## Background

To meet Basin Plan requirements for Indigenous values and uses, and to better reflect Aboriginal water interests, the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board (the Board) and the Department for Environment and Water have been working with Aboriginal nations to identify objectives and outcomes related to the management of the River Murray.

Changes have been made to the Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse (the Plan) to ensure that water planning processes recognise and promote Aboriginal cultural values and worldviews. Information has been included around Aboriginal water interests, cultural objectives, water needs and engagement.

Changes to the Plan complements information included in the SA River Murray Water Resource Plan. Water resource plans are required to be developed under the Basin Plan by all Basin States to show that Basin water resources are being managed sustainably and to a consistent standard.

The Board is committed to ongoing engagement with representative bodies of Aboriginal nations to ensure that Aboriginal water interests are equitably recognised along with other stakeholders in water planning.

## Why were the changes developed?

The Aboriginal information included in the 2017 Plan was limited and based on initial engagement with Aboriginal nations. More progress has since been made through ongoing meaningful engagement with Aboriginal nations as part of meeting Basin Plan requirements.



## How were the changes developed?

The Board worked with the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RRMAC), Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated (MACAI) and Ngarrindjeri Regional Authority (NRA) to prepare and update information within the Plan.

## What are the changes?

The 2017 Plan included sections on Aboriginal water needs and Aboriginal engagement in water planning. Both of these sections have been updated and more information has been added to recognise Aboriginal water interests and include Aboriginal cultural objectives.

The Plan now recognises Aboriginal people and nations as the State's first peoples and nations, and recognises Aboriginal peoples as traditional owners and occupants of land and waters in South Australia. The Plan adds more information as part of Basin Plan requirements on Aboriginal objectives and outcomes and identifies how policies in the Plan help to contribute to achieving their objectives and outcomes.

## How do the changes affect water users?

If you are an Aboriginal person that identifies with Aboriginal nations with an interest in the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse, it means that the Plan recognises your water interests and needs, and outlines the progress being made towards meeting Aboriginal cultural objectives and outcomes identified by nations.

The inclusion and promotion of Aboriginal water interests, cultural values, objectives and worldviews in the Plan does not affect other water users.

## I want to find out more about...

**The Aboriginal objectives and outcomes included in the Plan**, please refer to Chapter 2 of the Plan, available here:

[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/rivermurraywap](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/rivermurraywap)

**The South Australian River Murray Water Resource Plan**, please visit the DEW website:

[www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/basin-plan/water-resource-planning](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/basin-plan/water-resource-planning)

**The Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse:**

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Or visit:

[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/rivermurraywap](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/rivermurraywap)

