

# Amending the River Murray Water Allocation Plan

## Private Carryover

### What is private carryover?

Private carryover is a drought management measure to keep industries productive in dry years and help maintain resilient communities. Carryover increases the volume of water available for irrigation in dry years through underuse of available water in previous years.

The provision of private carryover is possible through arrangements in the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement, which allow the South Australian Government to defer and store unused water in upstream interstate storages. This water can be made available in a future water use year to individual water users for private carryover.

### Why are the amendments to private carryover being proposed?

In 2021, a targeted consultation was undertaken by the Department for Environment and Water and the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board about the current carryover policy. Stakeholders advised that the current policy is not fit for purpose.

The key concerns raised were that there is a high risk of carryover volumes being forfeited and that the 'rollover' provisions are complex and difficult to understand.

### How were the changes developed?

Proposed amendments to the Private Carryover Policy were developed in close consultation with stakeholder groups and the landscape board's Water Advisory Committee.

The proposed changes have been developed to meet the following objectives:

- Reduce or remove the risk of carryover forfeiture.
- No impact on the reliability of SA Murray Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlements.
- Support ongoing compliance with Basin Plan sustainable diversion limits.
- Reduce complexity and make it easy for stakeholders to understand.



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## What isn't being changed?

- Carryover is available to Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlement holders.
- Carryover will only be available when the projected minimum opening allocation for Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlements is 50 per cent or less.
- The maximum volume of carryover is 20 per cent of the Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlement shares held.

## What changes are proposed?

The proposed amendments to the River Murray Water Allocation Plan private carryover policy are:

- Remove 'rollover' and forfeiture of carryover volumes.
- Allow carryover to be used in the year that it is granted.
- Require an application and a current meter reading by 15 June to be eligible for carryover.
- Require unused allocation equal to the requested carryover volume to be available on water accounts at the time of application, and quarantine it from use for the remainder of the water use year (i.e. to 30 June).
- Remove the proportional reduction to carryover volumes when there is insufficient water available to meet total carryover requirements.
- Approve carryover applications on a first come, first served basis up to the total volume of water made available for the purpose of private carryover by the Minister.
- Where possible announce the availability of carryover prior to 15 April.

## How do the changes affect water users?

The proposed changes will enable water users to access their full volume of granted carryover irrespective of allocations in years when carryover is available. This means carryover will be available for use in more years as it will not be rolled over or forfeited.

Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlement holders will no longer be automatically granted carryover. To be eligible for carryover, Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlement holders will be required to:

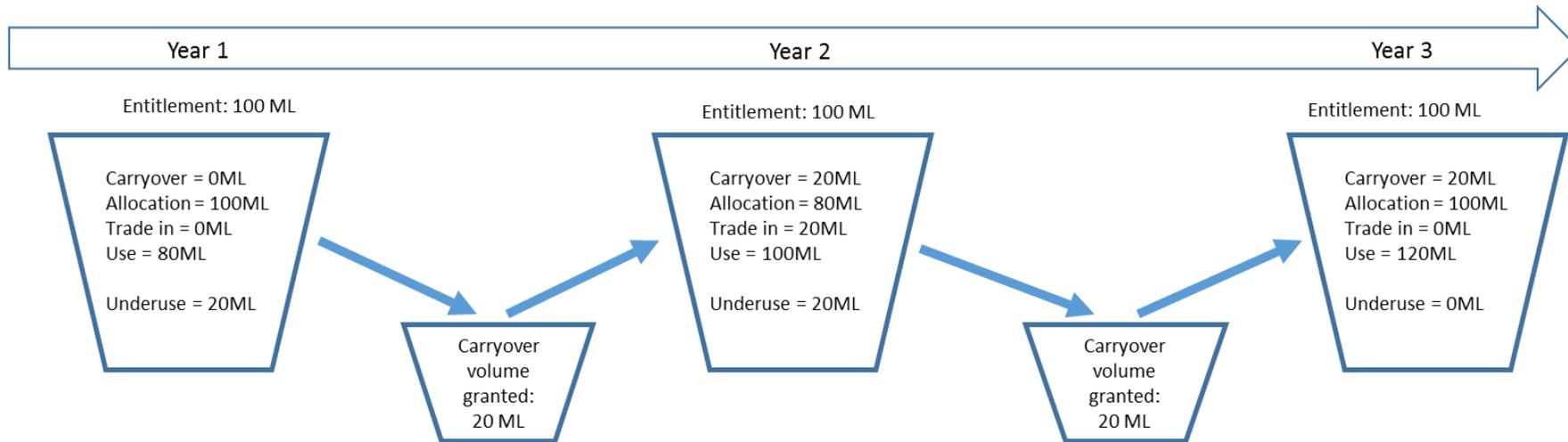
- lodge an application and pay any associated fees by 15 June
- have unused allocation equal to the requested carryover volume at the time of application, and quarantine this volume from use for the remainder of the water use year
- hold sufficient Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlement shares at 30 June to support the carryover volume requested (e.g. maximum of 0.2kl carryover per unit share)
- provide a current meter reading with their application.

The changes to carryover will not affect the reliability of Class 3 (High Security) water access entitlements or compliance with Basin Plan sustainable diversion limits, as any increased water usage associated with carryover must be first offset by a corresponding underuse in a previous water use year.



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# Example of how the proposed carryover policy will operate



- Year 1**
- Carryover not available in year 1
  - Allocations reach 100%
  - 100 ML available for use
  - Water use is 80ML
  - Forecast opening allocation for year 2 is <=50% allocation
  - Licensee applies and is granted 20ML carryover

- Year 2**
- Carryover available in year 2
  - Allocations reach 80%
  - 120 ML available for use (80ML allocation, 20ML purchase, and 20 ML carryover)
  - Water use for year 2 is 100ML
  - Forecast opening allocation for year 3 is <=50% allocation
  - Licensee applies and is granted 20ML carryover

- Year 3**
- Carryover available in year 3
  - Allocations reach 100%
  - Licensee has 120 ML available for use (allocation 100 ML and 20ML carryover)
  - Water use for year 3 is 120ML
  - Forecast opening allocation for year 4 is announced at >50% allocation.



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## I want to find out more about the proposed changes....

**Consultation events will be taking place during February and March 2022**

For the latest information please check the landscape board website, choose either an online or face-to-face event and register your interest to attend:

<https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/river-murray-wap>

Alternatively, you can contact the Water Resource Manager, Melissa White via

Email: [Melissa.White@sa.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.White@sa.gov.au)

Phone: 0428 113 442

## I want to provide feedback on the proposed changes....

**You can provide feedback on the proposed changes to private carryover the following ways:**

Online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8C27SCZ>

Email: [rmwap.feedback@sa.gov.au](mailto:rmwap.feedback@sa.gov.au)

### More information

**Melissa White**

**Water Resource Manager**

Email: [Melissa.White@sa.gov.au](mailto:Melissa.White@sa.gov.au)

Phone: 0428 113 442

[landscape.sa.gov.au/mr](https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr)



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