

# Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan



Ref: DEW-D0034672

Prepared for Adoption from 1 April 2026

## Purpose

Under Schedule G of the *Murray-Darling Basin Agreement 2008* (the Agreement), the Basin Officials Committee Member for South Australia must provide to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA), New South Wales and Victoria by the first day of each month, a draft Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan (the Plan) for at least the following 12 months. The Plan contained herein fulfils South Australia's requirements under this Schedule.

## Draft Plan Requirements

Under clause 7(1) in Schedule G of the Agreement, the Plan for at least the following 12 months is required to estimate the deferred water to be stored and delivered in each of those months under either:

- a) worst case inflow conditions; or
- b) other inflow conditions specified in the Plan.

It must:

- a) nominate how much of the deferred water held in storage at the commencement of the Plan is for the purpose of meeting critical human water needs (CHWN);
- b) for each month of the Plan, provide for the delivery of deferred water for the purpose of meeting either or both CHWN and private carryover (PC);
- c) for each month of the Plan, nominate one or more preferred major storages in which water set aside as deferred water in that month might be stored;
- d) for each month of the Plan, nominate one or more preferred major storages from which deferred water might be delivered;
- e) for each month of the Plan, nominate any preferred transfers and substitutions of deferred water between major storages; and
- f) not provide for deferred water to be delivered in the same month as that water became deferred water.

## Draft Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan

A summary of the volumes proposed by South Australia for deferral and delivery are presented in **Attachment B** and discussed in this Plan.

## Plan Duration

This Plan has been prepared for the period 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 (12 months).

## Inflow Assumption

This Plan is based on South Australia receiving its full Entitlement Flow of 1,850 gigalitres (GL) during 2025-26. The 12-month plan has been amended for the 2026-27 water year and assumes less than full entitlement at the commencement of the water year. If water resource availability improves in the 2026-27 water year, then South Australia reserves the right to re-commence deferral ahead of any given month.

## Expected Volume Held at Commencement of Plan

At the commencement of this Plan, it is expected that South Australia will hold a total volume of 314.39 GL of deferred Entitlement Flow (**Attachment A**). This is based on the MDBA confirmed 9 March 2026 volume (295.49 GL) and any planned or expected deferrals (18.9 GL), losses, spills and/or deliveries (0 GL) over the month of March 2026.

### Deferred Water

The plan proposes to defer a total of 53.5 GL from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 (18.0 GL CHWN and 35.5 GL PC). As compared with the previous plan, there are small increases in the net volumes proposed to be deferred in April, May and June 2026, which relate to private carryover only; there are no increases to proposed deferrals for critical human water needs (only proposed decreases to zero in June and July). In terms of the total volume of water proposed to be deferred over 12 months in this Plan (53.5 GL), this represents a reduction against the 12 month deferral volume proposed in the previous Plan (129.7 GL), which reflects current water availability. South Australia would revisit the deferral volumes proposed in this plan for 2026-27 in the event that water availability improves significantly.

### Delivery of Deferred Water

No requests for delivery of stored water are made in this plan. Delivery requests may be altered in future plans subject to formal advise pertaining to the South Australia's Entitlement Flow for 2026-27.

### Transfers and Substitutions

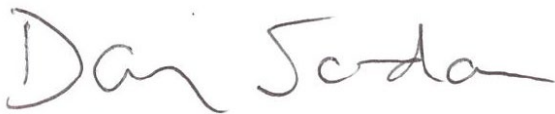
SA's preference is for the storage of deferred water to ultimately be in Dartmouth Dam. It is requested that the deferred water be moved from Lake Victoria to Hume Dam at the earliest possible convenience, until it can be moved to Dartmouth Dam. Transfers and substitutions will be detailed in future plans, if delivery of the storage right is required.

### Proposed Net Flow to South Australia

The net flow delivery at the South Australian border is to be delivered as outlined in the *Proposed SA Entitlement Volume for Deferral and Delivery* table in **Attachment B**.

### Plan Review

As provided for in Schedule G of the Agreement, the Plan will be reviewed monthly and South Australia reserves the right to seek variation to any of the elements contained in this Plan if water resource availability conditions change. South Australia reserves the right to re-commence deferral ahead of any given month if water resource availability improves.



**DAN JORDAN**

**BASIN OFFICIALS COMMITTEE MEMBER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

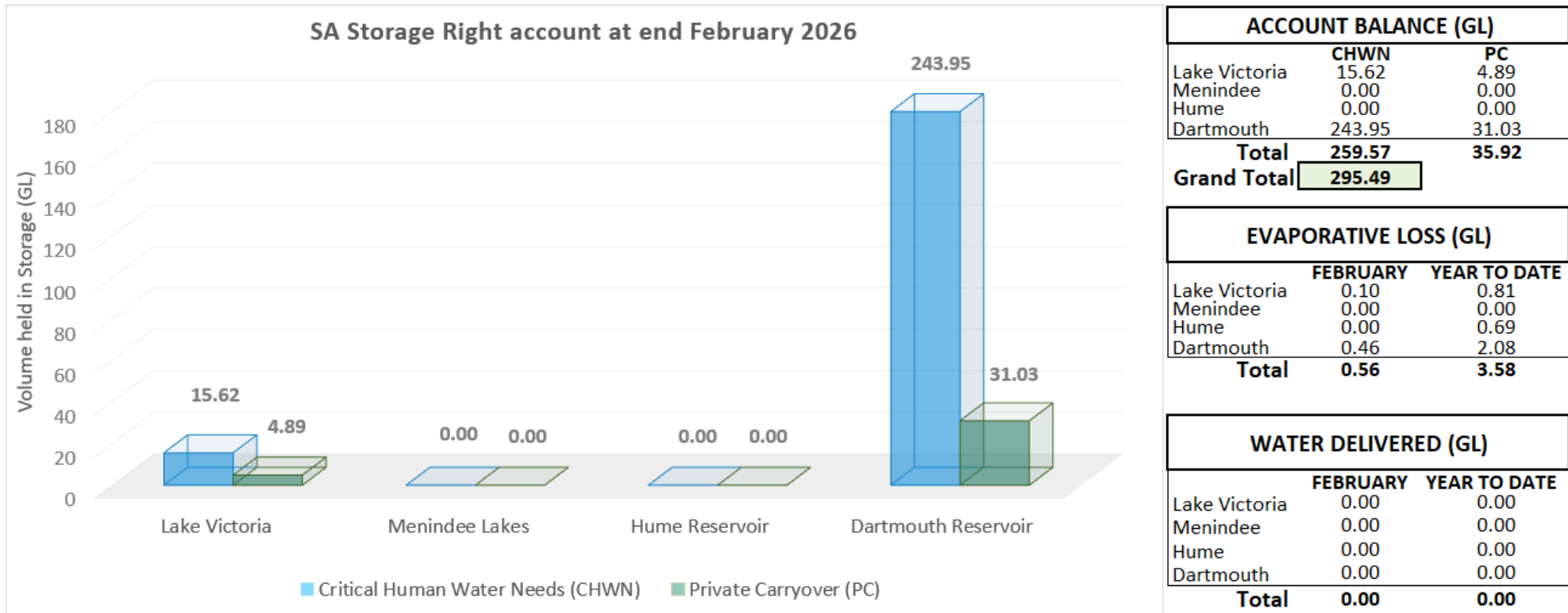
**Date: 1 April 2026**

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Date effective: 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027

Assumed Inflow Conditions: 1,850 GL (full entitlement) for 2025-26 and less than entitlement for 2026-27

Expected Volume Held in Storage at commencement: **314.39 GL** – This volume is comprised of the MDBA accounted volume of 295.49 GL at 9 March plus planned deferral through March (14.4 GL CHWN, 4.5 GL PC), minus deliveries (0.0) and spills (0.0). This expected volume does not include assumed evaporative losses through March.



ACCOUNT BALANCE (GL)		
	CHWN	PC
Lake Victoria	15.62	4.89
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.00	0.00
Dartmouth	243.95	31.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>259.57</b>	<b>35.92</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>295.49</b>	

EVAPORATIVE LOSS (GL)		
	FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Lake Victoria	0.10	0.81
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.00	0.69
Dartmouth	0.46	2.08
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.56</b>	<b>3.58</b>

WATER DELIVERED (GL)		
	FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Lake Victoria	0.00	0.00
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.00	0.00
Dartmouth	0.00	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

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## Proposed SA Entitlement Volume for Deferral and Delivery\*

### MONTHLY DEFERRALS

	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Total
<b>CHWN (GL)</b>	10.5	7.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>18.0</b>
<b>PC (GL)</b>	17.2	5.4	12.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	<b>35.5</b>
<b>Preferred Storage</b>	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth	Dartmouth

### MONTHLY DELIVERIES

	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Total
<b>CHWN (GL)</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>PC (GL)</b>	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Preferred Storage</b>	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic	Lake Vic

### SA ENTITLEMENT FLOW

	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Mar-27	Total
<b>Monthly Entitlement (GL)</b>	135	93	90	108.5	124	135	170.5	180	217	217	194	186	<b>1850</b>
<b>Adjusted Monthly Entitlement (GL)</b>	107.3	80.1	77.1	108.5	124	135	170.5	180	217	217	194	186	<b>1796.5</b>

\* assumes 1850 GL delivery of Entitlement Flow during 2025-26 and less than entitlement flow in 2026-27.