

Deferred Water Storage and Delivery Plan



Ref: DEW-D0034426

Prepared for Adoption from 1 March 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 March 2026 to 28 February 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 and 2026-2027. Should the inflow assumption outlined in this Plan not eventuate, South Australia may not defer and/or deliver the volumes of water identified in this Plan.

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 296.42 GL of deferred Entitlement Flow (**Attachment A**). This is based on the MDBA confirmed 9 February 2026 volume (275.82 GL) and any planned or expected deferrals (20.6 GL), losses, spills and/or deliveries (0 GL) over the month of February 2026.

Deferred Water

The plan proposes to defer 129.7 GL from 1 March 2026 to 28 February 2027 (44.0 GL CHWN and 85.7 GL PC).

Delivery of Deferred Water

No requests for delivery of stored water are made in this plan.

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.

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. The draft 12 month plan may be revised for the 2026-27 water year after formal advice is received from the MDBA pertaining to water resource availability and South Australia's entitlement flow.



DR THERESA HENEKER

BASIN OFFICIALS COMMITTEE ALTERNATE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

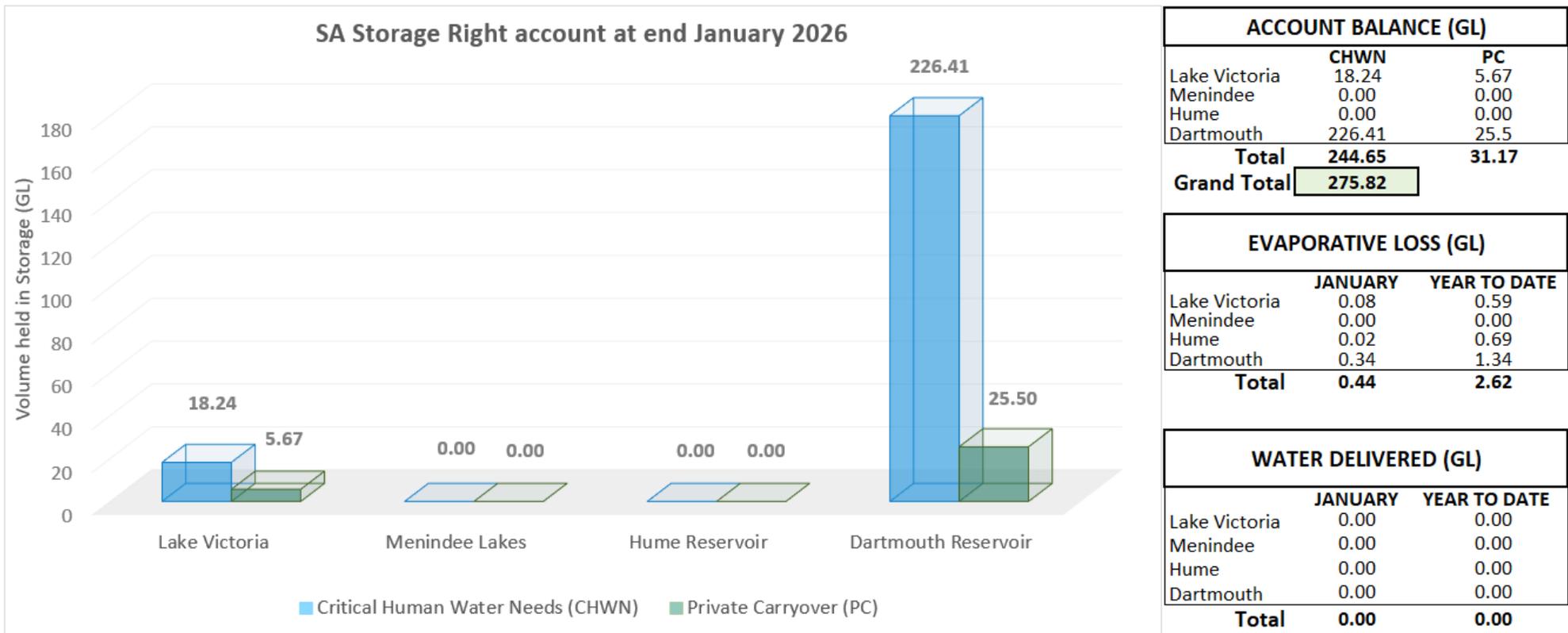
Date: 27 February 2026

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Date effective: 1 March 2026 to 28 February 2027

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

Expected Volume Held in Storage at commencement: **296.42 GL** – This volume is comprised of the MDBA accounted volume of 275.82 GL at 9 February plus planned deferral through February (15.7 GL CHWN, 4.9 GL PC), minus deliveries (0.0) and spills (0.0). This expected volume does not include assumed evaporative losses through February.



ACCOUNT BALANCE (GL)		
	CHWN	PC
Lake Victoria	18.24	5.67
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.00	0.00
Dartmouth	226.41	25.5
Total	244.65	31.17

Grand Total	275.82
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EVAPORATIVE LOSS (GL)		
	JANUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Lake Victoria	0.08	0.59
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.02	0.69
Dartmouth	0.34	1.34
Total	0.44	2.62

WATER DELIVERED (GL)		
	JANUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Lake Victoria	0.00	0.00
Menindee	0.00	0.00
Hume	0.00	0.00
Dartmouth	0.00	0.00
Total	0.00	0.00

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Proposed SA Entitlement Volume for Deferral and Delivery*

MONTHLY DEFERRALS

	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Total
CHWN (GL)	14.4	10.5	7.5	7.5	4.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44.0
PC (GL)	4.5	3.3	0	0	4.6	12.1	13.8	17.2	18.9	11.3	0	0	85.7
Preferred Storage	Dartmouth												

MONTHLY DELIVERIES

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

SA ENTITLEMENT FLOW

	Mar-26	Apr-26	May-26	Jun-26	Jul-26	Aug-26	Sep-26	Oct-26	Nov-26	Dec-26	Jan-27	Feb-27	Total
Monthly Entitlement (GL)	186	135	93	90	108.5	124	135	170.5	180	217	217	194	1850
Adjusted Monthly Entitlement (GL)	167.1	121.2	85.5	82.5	99.8	111.9	121.2	153.3	161.1	205.7	217	194	1720.3

* assumes 1850 GL delivery of Entitlement Flow during 2025-26 and 2026-27