South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

Issued 1 November 2019

This statement provides River Murray irrigators with information about water availability for the 2019-20 water year to inform business planning. It supersedes the previous statement issued by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) on 15 October 2019.

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 water allocation for the 2019-20 water year is 94 per cent. 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)	94%
All Purpose – Class 3 (irrigation)	94%
All Purpose – Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
Metropolitan Adelaide – Class 6	90%
All Purpose – Class 8 (environmental land management)	94%

The last water allocation announcement of 87 per cent (announced on 15 October 2019) was gazetted on 17 October 2019.

Water 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

The maximum allocation against entitlements for a water year is 100 per cent, including private carryover.

In 2019-20, private carryover has been made available for eligible Class 3 entitlement holders. Letters have been sent to license holders who have been granted private carryover in 2019-20 and carryover has been endorsed on water accounts.

South Australia's River Murray Entitlement

The projected minimum amount of water that will be delivered to South Australia as Entitlement flow in 2019-20 is 1,460 gigalitres (GL).

This volume assumes that future inflows in 2019-20 will be consistent with the lowest inflows on record and takes into account improvements (shared releases) from the Snowy Hydro Scheme.

Water held in storage

At 28 October 2019, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) controlled storages were holding 3,823 GL (41 per cent of total capacity).

The long-term average volume held in storage at the end of October is 7,498 GL (81 per cent of total capacity).

A total of 102 GL of water is currently held in storage for South Australian private carryover.

Table B Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at 28 October 2019

Storage	Full Supply Volume	Current Volume		South Australian Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,140	55	102
Hume Dam	3,005	1,175	39	0
Lake Victoria	677	497	73	0
Menindee Lakes	1,731	11	1	0
Total	9,269	*3,823	41	102

* includes water for carryover purposes and reserves

For more information on Murray-Darling Basin storages visit the MDBA website.

Climate outlook

The latest Bureau of Meteorology weather outlook for November 2019 to January 2020 indicates below average rainfall (Figure 1 left-hand side) with warmer than average temperatures (Figure 1 right-hand side) across most of the Murray-Darling Basin. Rainfall is likely to be below average in November (end of spring), with a chance that some parts of the Basin could receive average rainfall by January (mid-summer).

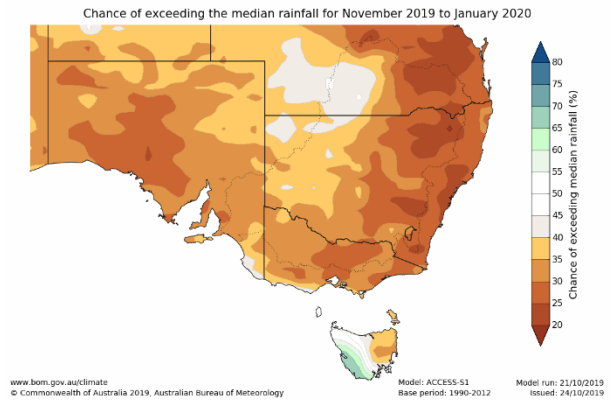
The outlook is being influenced by a strong, positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD). A positive IOD usually brings below average spring rainfall, with above average temperatures to southern Australia.

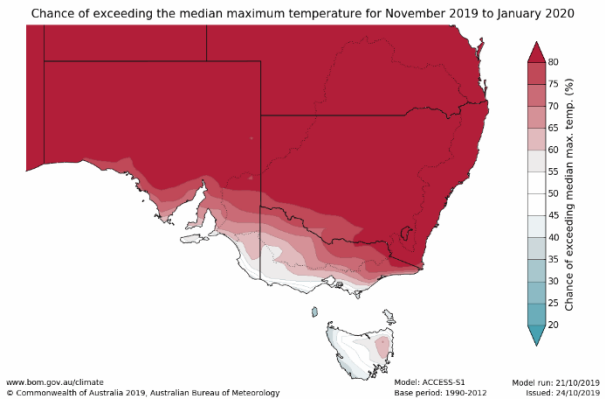
The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is experiencing a negative phase, which is expected to persist during November. A negative SAM in spring tends to bring warmer and drier conditions to much of the southern mainland during spring. It also increases the chance of spring heatwaves occurring across southern and eastern Australia.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral, which means the Australian climate is not being influenced by El Niño nor La Niña.

For more information on seasonal rainfall and temperature outlooks go to the BoM website.

Figure 1 Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall (left) and Temperature (right), November-January 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.

The range of water availability conditions included in the table and graph (see Table C and Figure 2) are based on *historical* variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings.

According to the projections, unless improvements in water availability for the remainder of 2019-20 are worse than for any year in the last 30, water allocations remain likely to get to 100 per cent by the end of the water year.

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 (Class 3)

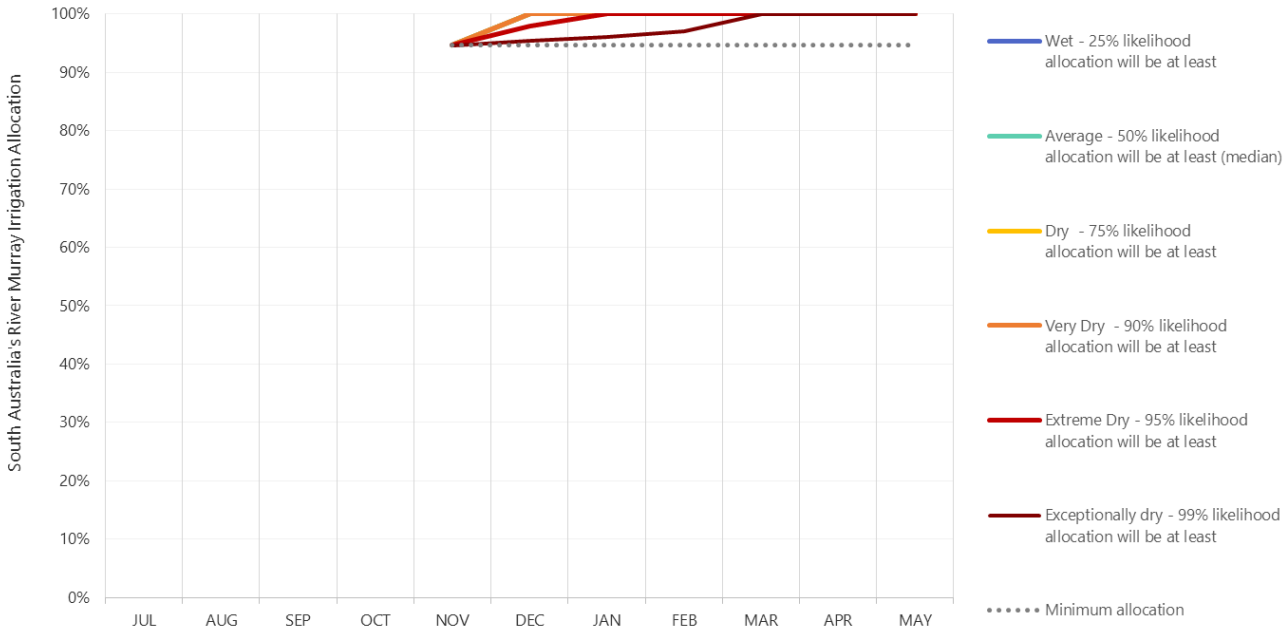
SA River Murray Irrigation Allocation Scenarios* All Purpose – Class 3 1 November 2019	**Minimum Allocation for 2019-20**	**1 Jan 2020**	**1 Apr 2020**
	Projected Allocation as %		
Exceptionally dry - 99% likelihood allocation will be at least	94	96%	100%
Extreme dry conditions - 95% likelihood allocation will be at least	94	100%	100%
Very dry conditions - 90% likelihood allocation will be at least	94	100%	100%
Dry conditions - 75% likelihood allocation will be at least	94	100%	100%
Average conditions - 50% likelihood allocation will be at least	94	100%	100%
Wet conditions - 25% likelihood allocation will be at least	94	100%	100%

Based on data provided by MDBA on 29 October 2019.

*Based on modelling of water availability that simulates historical variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings.

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.

Figure 2 Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 2, 3 and 8)



* Based on the volume of water held in River Murray Storages at 29 October 2019.

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Next announcement

The next announcement will be provided on 15 November 2019.

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) will provide water availability updates twice per month 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

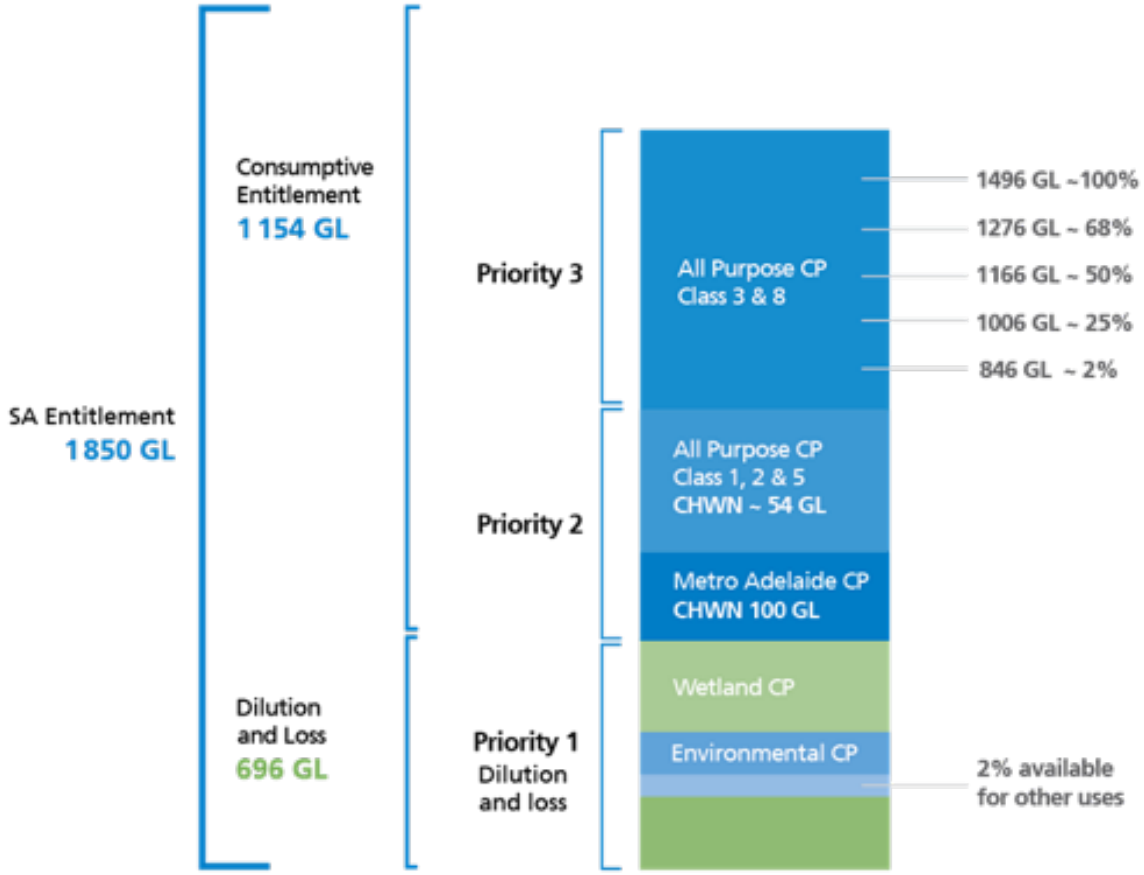
To speak with someone about water allocation projections contact:

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

For more information on South Australia's water allocations:

- visit the DEW website
- email 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.