South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Statement

Issued 15 July 2020

Key Messages

- The 2020-21 minimum allocation for South Australian Class 3 (High Security) and Class 8 River Murray water has increased to 77 percent.
- The updated projections indicate that even if an exceptionally dry scenario plays out over the next six months, South Australian Class 3 (High Security) and Class 8 allocations are likely to reach 100 percent by October 2020. In other words, allocations are projected to reach 100 percent if inflow conditions in 2020-21 correspond to, or are better than, the worst one percent of years in the recent historical record.
- Continued inflows across the River Murray System have resulted in South Australia's minimum River Murray Entitlement increasing to 1,340 gigalitres (GL).
- The Bureau of Meteorology's three month outlook indicates further rainfall is likely over the coming months. Most inflows to the River Murray system historically occur between July and November. This should provide water users with a degree of confidence that we will see further improvements to South Australia's water availability for 2020-21.

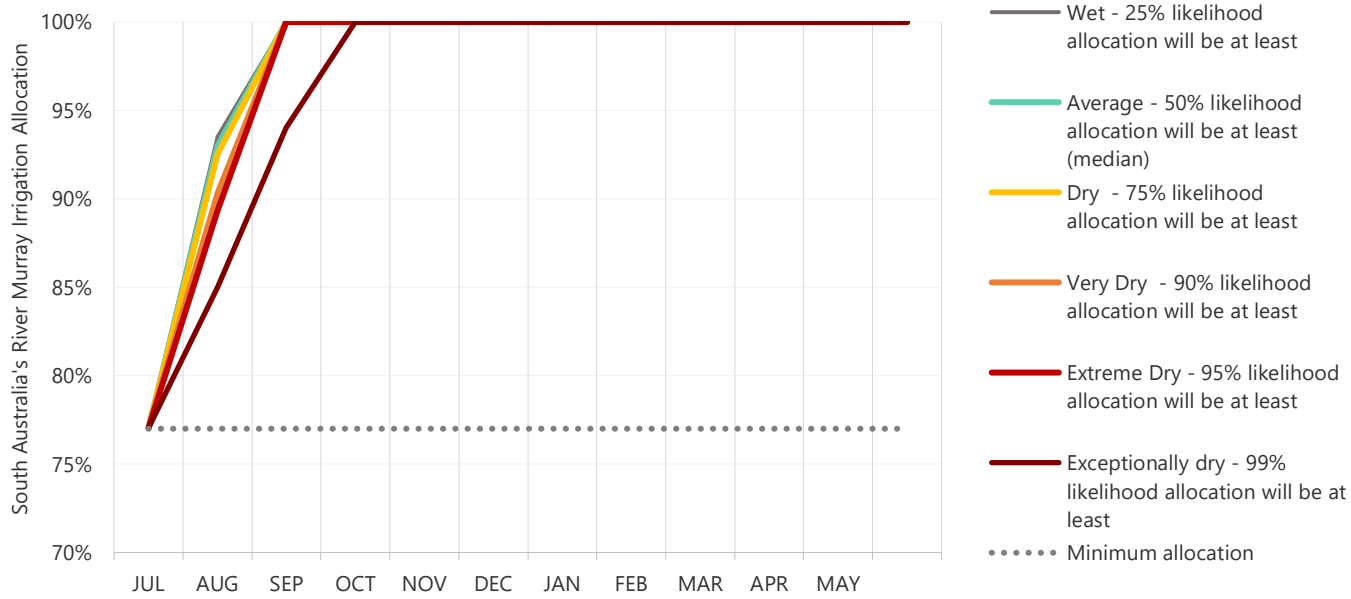
Table 1 – Updated allocations for 2020-21 assuming 1,340 GL Entitlement, as at 15 July 2020.

Water Product	Minimum Allocation
All Purpose - Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%
All Purpose - Class 2 (country towns)	77%
All Purpose - Class 3 (High Security)	77%
All Purpose - Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
Metropolitan Adelaide - Class 6	50%
All Purpose - Class 8 (environmental land management)	77%

Water availability projections

Water availability projections help water users better understand the likelihood of future water allocations and provide a guide about future allocation increases based on River Murray system modelling and South Australia's River Murray Water Allocation Framework. By comparing allocation forecasts to the climate outlook, water users can make informed choices for planning purposes, depending on the level of risk that they are comfortable with.

The reliability of the water availability projections will generally improve as the forecast period reduces. These projections are best estimates only and not guaranteed water availability. They should be used with caution, particularly when projecting many months ahead. 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 Figure 1 and Table 2) are based on historical variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings.



* Based on the volume of water held in River Murray Storages at end June 2020

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 1 - Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for South Australian River Murray entitlements (Class 3 (High Security) and Class 8) | 15 July 2020.

Table 2 - Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for South Australian River Murray entitlements (Class 3 (High Security) and Class 8) | 15 July 2020.

SA River Murray Irrigation Allocation Scenarios Class 3 (High Security) and Class 8 | July 2020	15 Jul 2020	1 Sep 2020	1 Nov 2020	1 Jan 2021	1 Apr 2021
	Projected Allocation as a Percentage				
Exceptionally dry - 99% likelihood allocation will be at least	77	94	100	100	100
Extreme dry conditions - 95% likelihood allocation will be at least	77	100	100	100	100
Very dry conditions - 90% likelihood allocation will be at least	77	100	100	100	100
Dry conditions - 75% likelihood allocation will be at least	77	100	100	100	100
Average conditions - 50% likelihood allocation will be at least	77	100	100	100	100
Wet conditions - 25% likelihood allocation will be at least	77	100	100	100	100

Correct as of 15 July 2020. Based on the volume of water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at end-June 2020.

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.

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

Exceptionally dry	There is a 99% likelihood your allocation will meet or exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Extreme dry	There is a 95% likelihood your allocation will meet or exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Very dry	There is a 90% likelihood your allocation will meet or exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Dry	There is a 75% likelihood your allocation will meet or exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Average	There is a 50% likelihood your allocation will meet or exceed the allocation in this scenario.
Wet	There is a 25% likelihood your allocation will meet or exceed the allocation in this scenario.

Private Carryover

Private carryover will be available for eligible water users in the 2020-21 water year. This means that an individual may carryover allocation volumes that are available to them and not used by the end of the 2019-20 water year, up to 20 percent of the volume of their Class 3 (High Security) entitlement.

The existing 100 percent limit on the combined allocation and carryover volumes granted under Class 3 (High Security) entitlements will continue to apply in 2020-21. However, under a rule change that applies from 1 July 2020, allocation volumes that would take an account above this 100 percent limit in 2020-21 will be 'rolled over' into 2021-22 if carryover is also triggered for that year (i.e. if the first minimum opening allocation announced in April 2021 is 50 percent or less). For example, if you have carried over 20 percent of your allocation, any allocation improvements above 80 percent in 2020-21 will go into your rollover account. Rollover volumes would only be available if carryover is then triggered for 2021-22.

Further information on the new carryover policy is available here.

Water Allocation Framework

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. Figure 2 (below) illustrates how water is prioritised and provides a guide as to how allocations will change with improvements in South Australia's River Murray Entitlement.

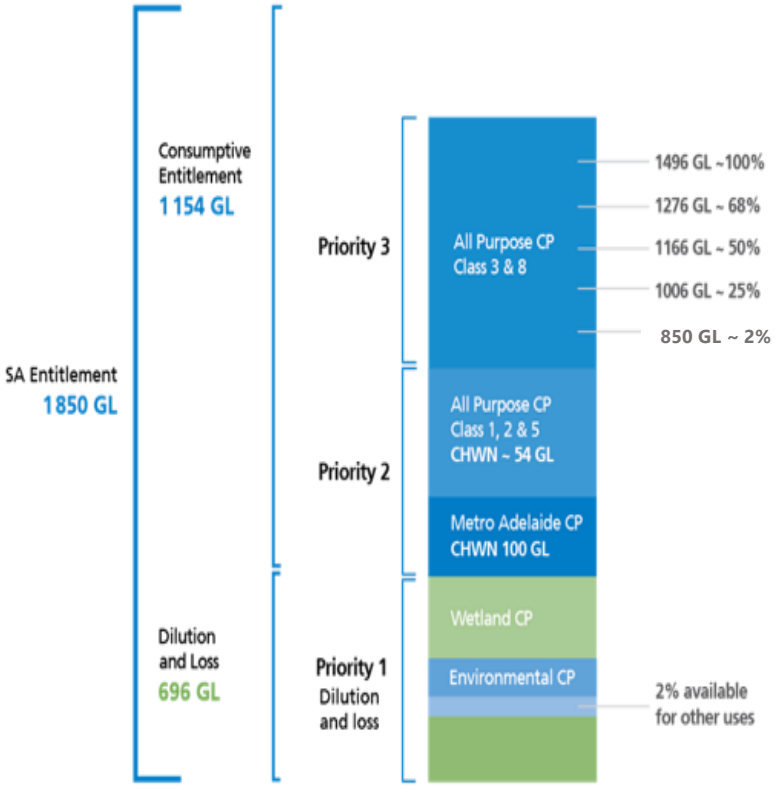


Figure 2: 2019 River Murray Water Allocation Plan's allocation framework

Water held in storage

At 13 July 2020, there was 4,429 GL (48 percent of capacity) held in Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) controlled storages. This is 10 percent more than the same time last year, but significantly less than the long-term average held in storage at the end of July of 6,659 GL (72 percent of total capacity). 101.4 GL of water is currently held in storage for South Australian private carryover.

Table 3 - Water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at 13 July 2020

Storage	Full Supply Volume	Current Volume		SA Private Carryover Volume
	GL	GL	%	GL
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,030	53	101.4
Hume Dam	3,005	1,295	43	0
Lake Victoria	677	630	93	0
Menindee Lakes	1,731	474	27	-
Total	9,269	4,429	48	101.4

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

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's mid-range rainfall outlook across the Murray-Darling Basin shows around a 60-80% chance that most regions of the Basin will be wetter than average for the three months from August to October 2020 (Figure 3). While recent rainfall over parts of eastern Australia has eased the dry conditions in many areas, long-term rainfall deficiencies remain in many regions. Several months of above average rainfall may be required to increase stream flows and replenish water storages. There is an increased chance of warmer days for the southern Basin (Figure 4).

The central and eastern tropical Pacific is expected to continue to cool in the coming months and the majority of models anticipate this cooling will reach or exceed the threshold for La Niña by the end of spring.

While waters to the northwest of Australia and in the tropical eastern Indian Ocean are forecast to warm (a typical component of a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event) the Bureau's model suggests a neutral IOD is most likely for the coming months. Half of the international models surveyed by the Bureau suggest a negative IOD may develop during spring.

A negative IOD typically brings above average winter-spring rainfall to southern Australia, while La Niña favours above average winter-spring rainfall for much of eastern, central, and northern Australia.

For more information on seasonal rainfall and temperature outlooks please visit the BoM website.

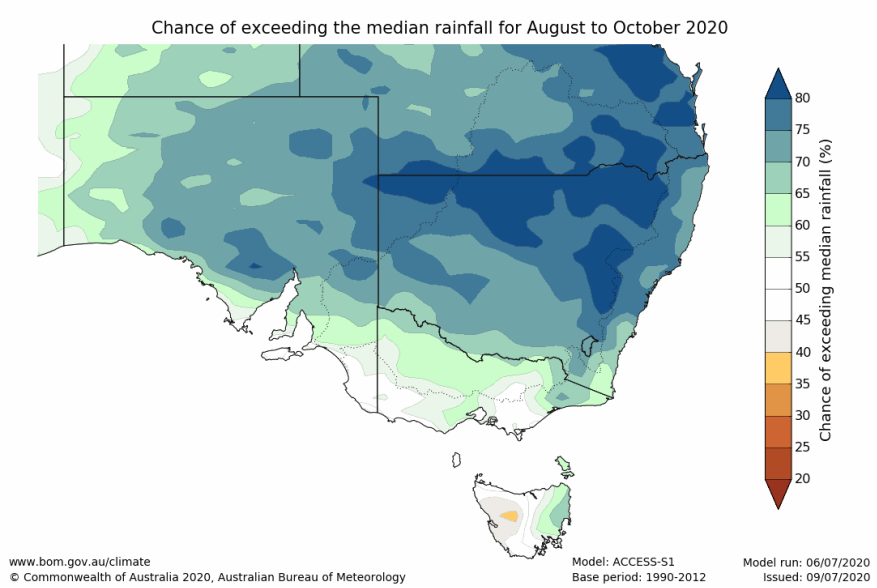


Figure 3 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall, August-October 2020

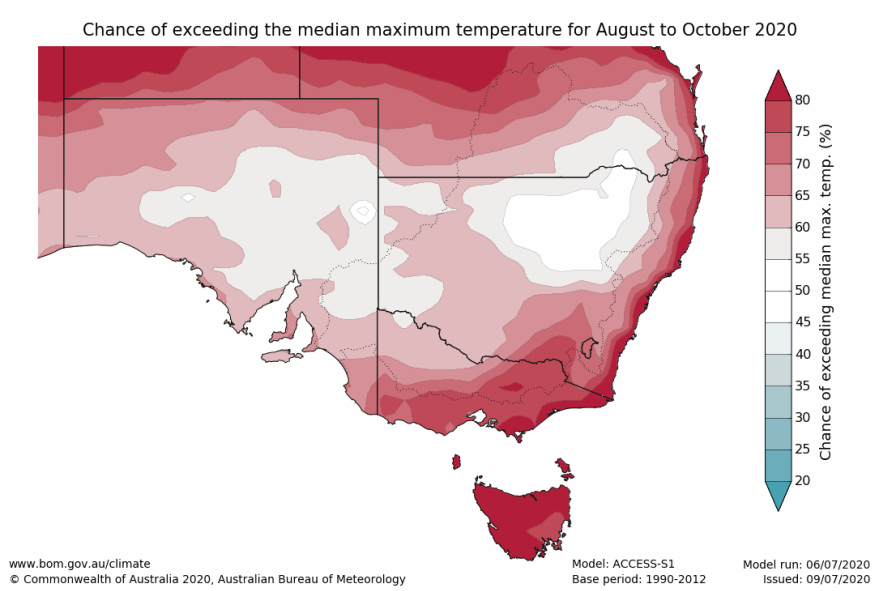


Figure 4 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Temperature, August-October 2020

Next announcement

The next announcement will be provided on **Monday 3 August 2020**. Updated water allocation information will be provided every two weeks while water allocations are less than 100 percent.

Further Information

For more information on South Australia's water allocations or to sign up to receive the weekly River Murray Flow Report:

- Visit the DEW website
- Email DEW:RiverMurrayOps@sa.gov.au

To speak with someone about your water allocation or account:

- Call the water licensing office on (08) 8595 2053
- Email water licensing on DEW.WaterLicensingBerri@sa.gov.au