

# Allocation Announcements for SA River Murray Irrigators

---

## New Water Market Rules in South Australia

The South Australian Government has recently made changes to improve the SA River Murray Water Allocation Planning Process which affects:

- Allocation Announcements
- Carryover Arrangements

## Changes to Allocation Announcements

Minimum opening allocation announcements will be made by no later than mid-April, based on the 'worst case' forecast of water availability for the next water year as provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA).

This approach aims to minimise the risk that allocations may be reduced within a water year, as was the case in 2006-07.

Entitlement holders will receive a range of water allocation outlook information, including:

- the projected minimum opening allocation
- the projected minimum amount of water that will be delivered to South Australia as part of its Entitlement for the following water year
- information on how much water is held in storage for private carryover
- updated rainfall outlook information across the Murray-Darling Basin from the Bureau of Meteorology
- information on potential allocations for a range of probability scenarios at specified points in time
- probability scenarios will represent possible allocations under different water availability and operational conditions.

## Opening Allocations and Updates

Beginning in mid-April, when opening allocations are projected to be less than 100 per cent, the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) will update projected minimum opening allocations on a monthly basis and provide updated allocation outlook information.

Actual opening allocations would be announced on 15 June (or the next business day).

During a water year when irrigation allocations are less than 100 percent, DEW would provide updates to allocations on a fortnightly basis and updated water outlook information on a monthly basis.

Changes do not affect the reliability of entitlements and will provide increased certainty about the timing of allocation announcements.

This will also provide greater consistency with the approach adopted in New South Wales and Victoria.

*Fact sheet content sourced from DEW ['Improved allocation announcements for River Murray irrigators'](#) & ['Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse Private Carryover'](#).*

## Private Carryover for River Murray Irrigators

The Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse includes a private carryover policy that sets out how it is calculated and who is eligible.

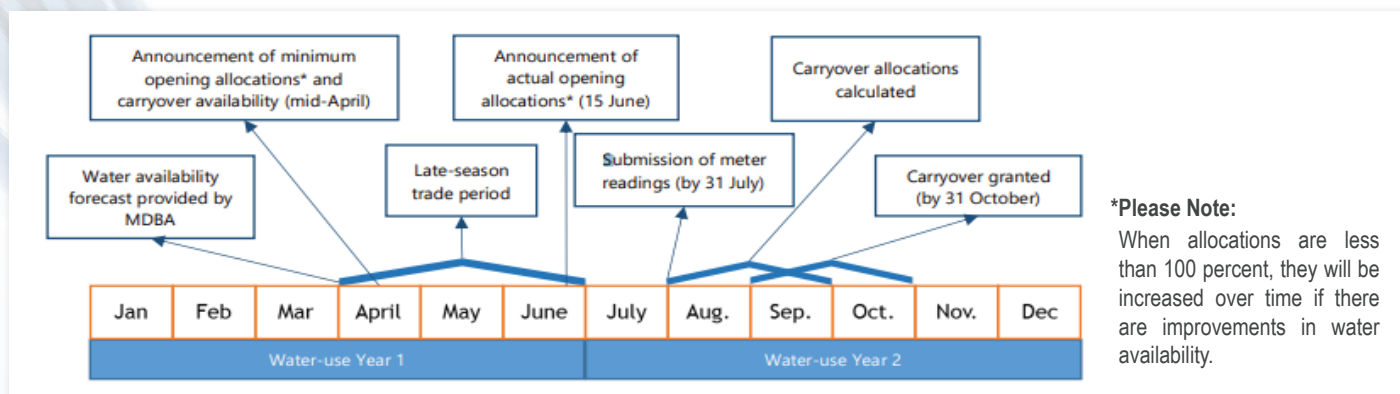
Private carryover availability will be announced by no later than mid-April to align with the announcement of minimum opening allocations.

Any changes to carryover will be in line with the Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse. Allocations in the probability scenarios do not include carryover.

### Key Points

- private carryover is a form of insurance that is available to boost allocations in dry years
- it will be granted when minimum opening irrigation allocations in April are 50% or less
- you can carryover any unused water on your account, up to 20% of the volume of Class 3 water access entitlements you hold
- you must provide your final water meter reading by 31 July to be eligible for carryover
- after carryover has been announced, if conditions improve and allocations increase to 100%, your total allocation (against your entitlements plus carryover allocation) cannot exceed 100%
- if there is not enough water available to meet the total carryover demand for all eligible users, the volume of water granted to an individual will be reduced proportionally
- application is free and carryover water is not subject to losses.

## Revised Allocation and Carryover Announcements Timeline



## Carryover Example

- If minimum opening allocations for Year 2 are 45%, carryover will be announced in April of Year 1. If you hold 100 ML of Class 3, you can then carryover any unused water from Year 1 into Year 2 up to a maximum of 20 ML.
- If your underuse from Year 1 was 15 ML, and there is sufficient water available to meet all irrigators carryover demands, your effective opening allocation would be 60 ML (from the combination of carryover (15 ML) and allocations against your entitlements (45 ML)).
- If allocations against entitlements increase during Year 2 up to a maximum of 100%, your maximum allocation would be 100 ML. You can only have 100 ML allocation against your entitlement, NOT 100 ML against your entitlement PLUS the 15 ML carryover.

## Further Information

Contact Waterfind to find out more about SA River Murray Allocations and carryover opportunities.

Phone 1800 890 285

Fax 1800 890 248

Web [waterfind.com.au](http://waterfind.com.au)