

SA River Murray Water Allocation Statement 2019-20

Water Availability Statement for River Murray Irrigators

This fact sheet provides River Murray irrigators with information about water availability for the 2019-20 water year to inform business planning.

It contains information on South Australia's River Murray Entitlement, projected minimum opening allocations, private carryover, water held in storage, climate outlook and projections of irrigation water allocations under a range of outlook scenarios for 2019-20.

Projected Minimum Opening Irrigation Allocation

The projected minimum, or worst case, opening irrigation allocation for the 2019-20 water year is 14 percent. Projected minimum opening allocations from South Australia's Entitlement for other classes of water are included in Table 1.

Table 1 Projected Minimum Opening Allocations for South Australia River Murray

On 15 April 2019	
Water Product	Projected Minimum Opening Allocation
All Purpose - Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%
All Purpose - Class 3 (irrigation)	14%
All Purpose - Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
All Purpose - Class 8 (environmental land management)	14%

However, if there was to be a repeat of historically average inflow conditions for the remainder of 2018-19, then the actual opening allocation for classes 3 and 8 could be as high as 21 percent (see Table 2). Current inflow conditions are slightly better than the extreme dry scenario.

Table 2 Range of Projected Opening Allocations

On 15 April 2019			
Scenario for remainder 2018-19	Extreme Dry	Dry	Average
Classes 3 and 8	14%	16%	21%

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](#).

Private Carryover

Private carryover will be available in 2019-20 for Class 3 entitlement holders.

An individual may carryover any water allocated to them and not used in the 2018-19 water year, up to 20 percent of the volume of Class 3 entitlements held.

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

South Australia's River Murray Entitlement

The projected minimum amount of water that will be delivered to South Australia as part of its Entitlement in 2019-2020 is 940 gigalitres (GL). This assumes that:

- the remainder of the current year will be extremely dry
- use of available water across the remainder of the current year will be high
- inflows in 2019-2020 will be consistent with the lowest inflows on record.

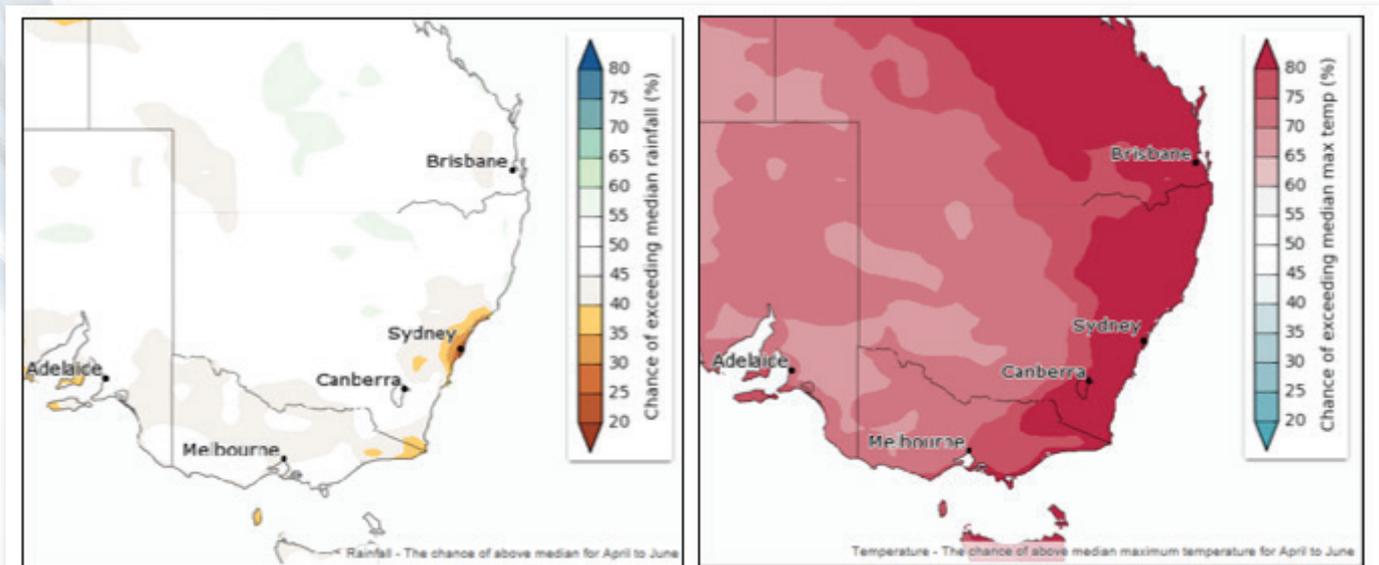
Climate Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's (BoM) mid-range outlook across the Murray-Darling Basin shows there is no strong indication either way towards a wetter or drier than average three months ahead. See Figure 1 (left hand side).

Both days and nights are likely to be warmer than average. Figure 1 (right hand side) shows the chance of exceeding median maximum temperatures.

The main climate drivers for Australia (e.g., El Niño/La Niña and the Indian Ocean Dipole) are neutral, which is why the rainfall outlook is not showing a tendency towards a wetter or drier than average three months ahead.

Fig 1 - Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook. Rainfall and Temperature, April-June 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. It also assumes a worst case actual opening allocation (14 percent for classes 3 and 8).

Based on these projections, there is a just under 60 percent likelihood that allocations will increase to 100 percent during 2019-20.

The range of water availability conditions included in the table and graph (see Table 3 and Figure 2) are based on historical variability in rainfall and temperature, in combination with current policy and operational settings.

Table 3 - South Australian 2019/20 Projected Water Allocations and Scenarios - SA Class 3

1 Jul 2019	1 Sep 2019	1 Nov 2019	1 Jan 2020	1 Apr 2020
EXCEPTIONALLY DRY: 99% likelihood allocation will be at least				
14%	19%	25%	32%	37%
EXTREME DRY: 95% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	23%	43%	52%	57%
VERY DRY: 95% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	26%	48%	71%	75%
DRY: 75% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	37%	62%	85%	86%
AVERAGE: 50% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	46%	84%	100%	100%
WET: 25% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	64%	100%	100%	100%

Correct as of 15 April 2019. Based on the volume of water held in Murray-Darling Basin storages at the end of March 2019.
 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.

Fig 2 - Projected water allocation scenarios under a range of water availability conditions for SA River Murray entitlements (Classes 3 and 8) | 15 April 2019

