

MURRAY DARLING BASIN ALLOCATIONS & OUTLOOKS

Waterfind’s Murray Darling Basin Allocations and Outlooks Statement has been updated to include current water and entitlement information, along with seasonal water allocations and outlooks for the forthcoming 2019-20 season across South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria.

South Australia River Murray Water Allocation Statement for 2019-20 Season

Projected Minimum Opening Irrigation Allocation

The revised projected minimum, or worst case, opening irrigation allocation for the 2019-20 water year for SA is 22 percent.

Projected minimum opening allocations from South Australia’s Entitlement for other classes of water are included in Table 1 with projected opening SA water allocations and scenarios in Table 2.

Table 1 Projected Minimum Opening Allocations for South Australia River Murray

On 15 May 2019	
Water Product	Projected Minimum Opening Allocation
All Purpose - Class 1 (stock and domestic)	100%
All Purpose - Class 3 (irrigation)	22%
All Purpose - Class 5 (industrial and dairy)	100%
All Purpose - Class 8 (environmental land management)	22%

Table 2 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				
22%	27%	33%	39%	45%
EXTREME DRY: 95% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	31%	50%	60%	64%
DRY: 75% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	45%	69%	92%	93%
AVERAGE: 50% likelihood allocation will be at least				
	53%	91%	100%	100%

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.

For further information visit the Department for Environment and Water [Allocations and Announcements](#).

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.

Allocations & outlooks for major irrigation districts

Table 3 Current Allocations for Major Irrigation Districts

On 15 May 2019					
Confirmed Allocations					
NEW SOUTH WALES		VICTORIA		SOUTH AUSTRALIA	
Murrumbidgee HS	95%	Goulburn HR	100%	SA Irrigation (Class 3)	100%
Murrumbidgee GS	7%	Campaspe HR	100%	Stock & Domestic (Class 1)	100%
NSW Murray HS	97%	Murray HR	100%	Country Towns (Class 2)	100%
NSW Murray GS	0%	Loddon HR	100%	Industry (Class 5)	100%
Lachlan HS	100%	Campaspe LR	0%		
Lachlan GS	0%				
Macquarie HS	100%				
Macquarie GS	0%				

Table 4 New South Wales General Security Outlooks

	1 Sep 2019			1 Nov 2019		
	Average	Dry	Very Dry	Average	Dry	Very Dry
NSW Murray GS	0%	0%	0%	30%	6%	0%
NSW Murrumbidgee GS	28%	17%	0%	47%	25%	0%

New South Wales Preliminary Water Allocations Outlook 2019-20

NSW Murray

It is estimated that NSW Murray carryover will be less than last year, potentially in the range of 15-20% on average. Maximum general security carryover in the valley is 50% of entitlement.

As usual, the Barmah Choke trade balance will be reset on 1 July and reflect the volume of annual Snowy Savings above the choke that will not need to be delivered downstream.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2019 - Lower Darling

- Opening allocations are likely to be 20% for high security and 0% for general security
- Carryover water can remain in accounts and trade within the Lower Darling water source can occur
- Lower Darling IVT can resume once the system recovers above 640GL
- Restrictions on water usage in the Lower Darling are likely to continue until there is sufficient recovery of the Menindee Lakes system.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2019 - NSW Murray

- Supplementary access licence holders can receive a full allocation, however diversion will only be allowed during periods of announced supplementary access
- It is expected that all high priority commitments - including high security (97%) and carryover - can be met on 1 July 2019. The shortfall volume in earlier assessments has been met from small improvements in recent months
- It is likely that opening allocations for conveyance entitlements will be very low and would need to build as a priority in 2019/20. Conveyance entitlements are to receive 165GL before general security begins to receive allocation
- Payback of the borrowed Barmah Millewa EWA volume will need to commence when general security allocations reach 30%.

NSW Murrumbidgee

General security and conveyance licenses can carryover up to 30% of entitlement, and the account limit (allocation plus carryover) is 100% of entitlement. Private carryover will be fully deliverable.

At this early stage it is predicted that carryover will be around 5% (100,000ML), which is much lower than last year.

Access to IVT in 2019/20 is dependent on the IVT account balance. The 30 June balance will carry forward unchanged to 1 July 2019.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2019

- Murrumbidgee high security access licences can receive an initial allocation of 95%
- Private carryover can be fully deliverable. At this stage, it is estimated that the average carryover across the valley will be close to 7%
- It is likely that general security entitlements will open at 0%

Table 5 Victorian 2019/20 Outlooks

1 Jul 2019		15 Aug 2019		15 Oct 2019		17 Feb 2020	
EXTREME DRY: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 99 years out of 100							
Murray HR	0%	Murray HR	18%	Murray HR	19%	Murray HR	26%
Goulburn HR	0%	Goulburn HR	2%	Goulburn HR	9%	Goulburn HR	15%
Loddon HR	0%	Loddon HR	0%	Loddon HR	0%	Loddon HR	0%
DRY: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 90 years out of 100							
Murray HR	0%	Murray HR	30%	Murray HR	45%	Murray HR	64%
Goulburn HR	1%	Goulburn HR	16%	Goulburn HR	36%	Goulburn HR	45%
Loddon HR	0%	Loddon HR	12%	Loddon HR	34%	Loddon HR	38%
AVERAGE: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 50 years out of 100							
Murray HR	9%	Murray HR	41%	Murray HR	78%	Murray HR	100%
Goulburn HR	11%	Goulburn HR	40%	Goulburn HR	73%	Goulburn HR	100%
Loddon HR	9%	Loddon HR	40%	Loddon HR	73%	Loddon HR	100%

Northern Victorian Resource Manager Seasonal Determination Outlook 2019/20

Seasonal determinations against high-reliability water shares (HRWS) at the start of the 2019/20 water year will depend on flows received into the major storages during autumn and early winter.

A repeat of the flows into the major storages observed in 2018/19 would result in the Goulburn system reaching about 65% HRWS in February 2020 and the Murray system would be about 60%.

Broken and Bullarook systems will be influenced by the volume carried over and catchment conditions. Both systems are likely to start at 0% HRWS.

Carryover will be deliverable under all scenarios in the Murray, Goulburn, Campaspe and Loddon systems.

At this stage, there is currently insufficient water to operate the Broken and Bullarook systems as usual for the entire 2019/20 season. Carryover will be deliverable early in the season and extended as resource improvements occur.

Based on assumed use to the end of 2018/19, allocation carried over into 2019/20 and climate-adjusted flow records, the risk of spill in the Goulburn system during 2019/20 is currently estimated to be less than 10%.

Future Water Allocation Outlooks and Announcements for the 2019-20 Season

Next opening state-wide water allocation statement for NSW will be made Monday 1 July 2019.

The first seasonal determination announcement for VIC will be released on Monday 1 July 2019.

The next SA allocation announcement will be provided by 15 June 2019.