

Water Allocation Plan

River Murray Prescribed Watercourse



Consumptive Pools

The River Murray is a limited resource and it is important to make sure the available water in the river is shared between all water users, including the environment, in a balanced and transparent manner.

The approach to allocating South Australia's Entitlement is outlined in the Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse (the Plan). There are two key steps: (1) A volume of water that is made available to each consumptive pool or purpose; (2) Water is then allocated to licence holders within each consumptive pool.

In a change from the previous WAP, the Plan sets out a number of consumptive pools for the river. Consumptive pools are a mechanism that assist in enabling water to be allocated to water users. Different rules apply to each consumptive pool, including whether the water can be traded or 'carried over'.

There are four consumptive pools. The consumptive pools refer to classes so that, if necessary, water can be prioritised within a pool.

If you hold water access entitlements (shares) the advent of consumptive pools will not affect the number of shares that you hold. It will, however, mean that **water management authorisations will be reissued** to reflect the new terminology. Water management authorisations include water licences, water resource works approvals and site use approvals.

What are the new consumptive pools and how do these relate to the previous 'classes'?

Table 1 below shows the new consumptive pools, purpose and classes compared to the previous classes. The number of shares available from the River Murray has not changed but the classes have been grouped where characteristics are shared. If you hold water access entitlements you will still have the same number of entitlements in the new consumptive pool and class. Your water management authorisation will be reissued after 1 July 2018 to reflect this change. You don't need to do anything and your current authorisation will remain valid until you are reissued with the new authorisation.

Each consumptive pool has one or more classes, reflecting the previous classes which water users are familiar with. This provides consistency with the previous Plan and aims to make it easier to adjust to the change.

Separating the All Purpose Consumptive Pool into classes is important to allow the different classes to be prioritised during dry periods. Class 1, 2 and 5 are recognised as being for critical human water needs and these will be prioritised first in a dry period (see Fact Sheet: Allocating South Australia's Entitlement, including during dry conditions for more information). The Metropolitan Adelaide Consumptive Pool (Class 6) is also for critical human water needs. More information about critical human water needs is provided under the heading 'Critical Human Water Needs'.



The former Class 9 is now contained in two consumptive pools – the Wetland Consumptive Pool and the Environmental Consumptive Pool. Water access entitlements currently on licence are included in a consumptive pool as they relate to wetlands that can be actively managed through regulating infrastructure. The remaining water for unmanaged wetlands is not included in the consumptive pools. Managed wetlands arise from the construction of regulating infrastructure on wetlands.

The Wetland Consumptive Pool relates to the volume required to operate South Australia’s managed wetlands. Allocations against entitlements that have been recovered as part of wetland evaporative savings via the Riverine Recovery Program (RRP) may be allocated to the Environment Consumptive Pool. In years when South Australia does not receive its full Entitlement, the water made available to this pool will also come from the Dilution and Loss Entitlement, consistent with the original source of

the water savings. When this occurs, the allocations must be used within South Australia.

The number of water access entitlements in both consumptive pools may increase as more wetlands are managed through the RRP.

Why have the classes been grouped this way?

Classes have been grouped based on characteristics, such as whether they are eligible for carryover and if they can be traded, with the exception of ELMA. The consumptive pools also help prioritise water when South Australia is facing dry conditions. ELMA has been included in the All Purpose Consumptive Pool to increase clarity around prioritising water in dry times. Table 2 outlines the characteristics of each class/consumptive pool.

Table 1: Consumptive Pools

New Consumptive Pool	New Purpose	New Class	Previous Class	Previous Purpose (2002 Plan)
Metropolitan Adelaide	<i>Water supply purposes to Metropolitan Adelaide and associated country areas</i>	Class 6*	Class 6	Water supply purposes to Metropolitan Adelaide and associated country areas
All Purpose	<i>All purposes including, but not limited to:</i> <i>- Licensed purposes such as country towns, stock and domestic, industrial, dairy, irrigation, recreational, ELMA</i>	Class 1*	Class 1	Stock & domestic
		Class 2*	Class 2	Urban water use – country towns
		Class 3	Class 3a Class 3b Class 4 Class 7	Irrigation (non-Qualco) Irrigation (Qualco) Recreation Environment
		Class 5*	Class 5	Industrial & Dairy
		Class 8	Class 8	ELMA
Wetlands	<i>Management of wetlands within the 1956 flood boundary that can be managed through a wetting and drying regime</i>	Class 9	Class 9	Wetlands
Environmental	<i>Environmental purposes as specified by the Water Act 2007 (Cth)</i>	Class 9	Class 9	Wetlands

*These classes are recognised as Critical Human Water Needs (CHWN)



Table 2: Characteristics of each Consumptive Pool

Consumptive Pool & Class	Previous Class	Characteristics				Change from Class characteristics
		CHWN	Tradeable	Eligible for Carryover	Specific Purpose on Use	
Metropolitan Adelaide Consumptive Pool (Class 6)	Class 6	Yes	No (pursuant to Schedule E of the MBD Agreement)	No	Yes - Water supply purposes to metropolitan Adelaide and associated country areas	No change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 1)	Class 1	Yes	Yes	No	No	No Change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 2)	Class 2	Yes	Yes	No	No	No Change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3)	Class 3a	No	Yes	Yes	No	No Change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3)	Class 3b	No	Yes	Yes	No	No Change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3)	Class 4	No	Yes	Yes	No	No Change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3)	Class 7	No	Yes	Yes	No	No Change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 5)	Class 5	Yes	Yes	No	No	No Change
All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 8)	Class 8	No	No (pursuant to Schedule E of the MDB Agreement)	No	To be used for protecting environmental land assets in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Area	Clarity provided that these water rights cannot be traded
Wetland Consumptive Pool (Class 9)	Class 9	No	Yes	No	Yes - Management of wetlands within the 1956 flood boundary that can be managed through a wetting and drying regime	No change – tradeable but must be used for specified purpose
Environmental Consumptive Pool (Class 9)	Class 9	No	Yes	No	Yes - Environmental purposes as specified by the Water Act 2007 (Cth)	No change – tradeable but must be used for specified purpose



What has changed since consultation?

The consumptive pools look different to what was included in the draft Plan provided for consultation because more work was undertaken on consumptive pools and how to allocate water during dry conditions as a result of community comments. Most of the changes were made so that water can be prioritised between different classes in dry periods, and to ensure that flexibility in use and the ability to trade water was maintained. It was noted that water users are familiar with the classes of water and maintaining a reference to the class will help in the change to the new consumptive pools.

For information on how water is prioritised in dry times, please refer to the Fact Sheet: Allocating South Australia's Entitlement, including during dry conditions.

Changes to the Wetland Consumptive Pool have also been made since consultation. There are now two consumptive pools that relate to water for wetlands; this reflects that some of the water (as a result of water savings from regulated wetlands) is now managed by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the use is governed by Commonwealth legislation (*Water Act 2007* (Cth)). Another change is that the volume of water required for unmanaged wetlands is not included in a consumptive pool. The total volume used by wetlands, whether managed or unmanaged, is still 200 GL. This does not change the number of water access entitlements granted for wetlands. The unmanaged wetland water is not licensed and does not need to be contained within a consumptive pool.

For information on wetlands and how they are managed through the Plan, please refer to the Fact Sheet: Managing Water for Ecological Outcomes.

Critical Human Water needs

Critical Human Water Needs (CHWN) is the volume of water required to meet core human consumption requirements for those that rely on the River Murray. CHWN are the highest priority after dilution and loss. In South Australia, the All Purpose Consumptive Pool (via classes 1, 2 and 5) and the Metropolitan Adelaide Consumptive Pool provide water for CHWN.

The actual volume of CHWN required in the current year and the next year will be determined following an assessment of metropolitan Adelaide's water resource availability. Up to 204 GL may be allocated from the River Murray to CHWN in South Australia in a given year.

How will the change affect water trading?

The change to the new consumptive pools and classes will have no impact on water trading. The same trading rules that apply to the previous classes will apply to the new consumptive pools and classes.

The transfer criteria now clarify, consistent with the existing policy, that ELMA water rights cannot be transferred. This is because ELMA is specifically for land management in the Lower Murray Reclaimed Irrigation Areas and is not able to be transferred under Schedule E of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.

Examples

1. I currently hold class 3a shares on licence. What does this mean for me?

You will now hold the same number of shares in the All Purpose Consumptive Pool (class 3).

2. I currently hold class 1 shares and class 3a shares on licence. What does this mean for me?

You will now hold the same number of shares in the All Purpose Consumptive Pool (class 1 and 3) respectively.

3. I am looking to buy additional allocation on the market for my irrigation development. What water can I buy?

You can buy allocations from classes 1, 2, 3 or 5 within the All Purpose Consumptive Pool.

