

Murray-Darling Basin Regulated Water Charges



**Government
of South Australia**

Department for
Environment and Water

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Murray-Darling Basin Regulated Water Charges

To improve transparency of pricing in relation to water planning and water management activities within the Murray-Darling Basin and to improve the availability of information about charges relating to water planning and water management activities, the South Australian Government has released the following information relating to Water Charges in South Australia.

This information is available on the Department for Environment and Water's website at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/water-charges-and-how-they-are-spent>

Water Levy (Division 2)

The Water Levy is legislated and governed under the [Landscape South Australia Act 2019](#) (Landscape SA Act) and is applicable to all licence holders within the South Australian proportion of the Murray-Darling Basin. The South Australian proportion of the Murray-Darling Basin covers 70 000 square kilometres with a varying landscape from the low-lying coastal plains of the Coorong to the flat expanse of the Mallee and slopes of the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges. The management of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin (SA MDB) as of 1 July 2020 will be divided among the three Landscape Boards established under the Landscape SA Act: the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board and Northern and Yorke Landscape Board. Please confirm all levy charges by referring to the levy notices published in the Government Gazette, available at: <http://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/>

Details of the charge

Landscape SA Act Water Levy (Division 2) – Prescribed Resources	2020-21	Type of Entitlement Applicable
River Murray All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 2) & Metropolitan Consumptive Pool (Class 6) water access entitlements ¹	2.098c/unit share	Water Access Entitlement
River Murray All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3 & Class 5) water access entitlements ¹	0.675c/unit share	Water Access Entitlement
River Murray All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3 Qualco Sunlands) water access entitlements ¹	0.642c/unit share	Water Access Entitlement
Angas Bremer 2	\$6.75/ML	Water Allocation
Mallee - reticulated ¹	\$20.98/ML	Water Allocation
Mallee ¹	\$6.75/ML	Water Allocation
Peake, Sherlock & Roby 1	\$6.75/ML	Water Allocation
Marne Saunders ^{1,3}	\$6.75/ML	Water Allocation
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges ^{1,2}	\$6.75/ML	Water Allocation
Taking Lower Angas Bremer Allocation (Flood) 1	\$1.61/ML	Water Allocation

1. Charges raised by Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board
2. Charges raised by Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board

3. Charges raised by relevant Landscape Boards

For the current period, the Minister for Environment and Water has the legislated authority under Part 5 Division 2 section 76 of the Landscape SA Act to declare a levy or levies (a water levy or levies) payable by persons who, are the holders of any water management authorisation granted in relation to a water resource within a specified Landscape Region, or are the holders of imported water permits and/or are authorized under section 105 of the Landscape SA Act to take water from a water resource within a specified landscape management region.

The landscape boards established the following principles when setting the levy:

- user/beneficiary pays and equity
- shared responsibility
- certainty
- resource use efficiency
- administrative efficiency
- governance (accountability, transparency, reasonable basis).

The Levy is included in landscape boards' Business Plans which are governed by the requirements of the Landscape SA Act. A landscape board is required to develop a business plan annually, and unless there is a proposal for an increase in the levy greater than CPI it can be approved by the Board, otherwise it needs to seek ministerial approval and be tabled in parliament.

The Water Levy is payable by all licence holders of water allocation and/or water access entitlements throughout the SA MDB.

For all prescribed resources a single invoice is issued to each licence holder (generally in the period between July and August) and payable within 30 days. The Department for Environment and Water subsequently pays the collected levies to the landscape board to partially fund the required priorities and projects outlined in the landscape boards' Business Plans.

The Water levy is based on the quantity of water allocated for the following prescribed water resources:

- Angas Bremer
- Mallee
- Peake, Roby and Sherlock
- Marne Saunders
- Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges

For the River Murray water resource the basis for the levy is the share of the water that makes up the relevant water resource.

The regulated charges contribute to the implementation of the the SA MDB Natural Resources Management Strategic plan, which has been adopted by the three relevant landscape boards until such time as new 5-year Landscape Plans are developed. The implementation of the existing Strategic plan is monitored with regular reporting on progress towards achievements of the goals, outcomes and targets. The Strategic plan provides comprehensive information on the management of natural resources in the SA MDB and outlines strategies and actions that will help address the many challenges facing the region's natural resources such as climate change, threats to water resources and pressures on biodiversity and productive land.

Program Delivery

Each landscape board's 2020-21 Business Plan is focused on the five priorities of the Strategic Plan. The priorities are:

1. Sustainable Production
2. Managing water resources
3. Biodiversity
4. People and Communities
5. Climate adaptation

The Water levies will be used (but not limited) to fully or partially fund the listed water planning and water management activities in 2020-21:

- Water resource management for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, Mallee, Marne Saunders, Peake, Angus Bremer, Roby and Sherlock and River Murray prescribed resources
- Floodplain and wetland management
- Implementation of alter Affecting Activities policies
- Sustainable production - on-farm support and engagement
- Monitoring and evaluation programs
- Landscape planning and research
- Community engagement in managing natural resources
- Landscape management programs
- The Board's contribution to the State Water Planning and Management costs.

The estimated costs associated with the delivery of the water planning and water management activities in the SA MDB are \$8.9 million.

For further information about the Water Levy (Division 2) and water planning and water management activities undertaken by the landscape boards please visit:

www.landscape.sa.gov.au

[Landscape SA Act](#)

Licence, permit, Metering & approval fees

The stipulated fees are regulated by the requirements of the Landscape SA Act and the Landscape South Australia (Fees) Notice 2020. In addition, they specifically relate to water licensing transactions in accordance with the Landscape Plan and Water Allocation Plans for the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Region. Please confirm all fee amounts by referring to the Government Gazette (2020-21 Schedule of Fees), available at: <http://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/>

Details of the charge

Water

Name of charge	Details of the rates and charges	Water resource, region or catchment applicable to the fee	Applicable section of the Landscape SA Act 2019	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Application for a Water Licence	\$254.00	Relevant Landscape region	Part 8, Division 3, Section 122	Water Licence
Application to transfer a Water Licence	\$471.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$317.00	Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Region	Part 8, Division 3, Section 125	Water Licence
Application to transfer a water allocation or a quantity of water which is taken to constitute a water access entitlement, other than in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$471.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$317.00	Marne Saunders and Mallee prescribed water resources areas (rivers within the MDB other than the River Murray)	Part 8, Division 3, Section 124	Water Licence
Application to transfer a water access entitlement in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$471.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Part 8, Division 3, Section 125	Water Access Entitlement
Additional fee where Minister directs an assessment by an expert under the Act (and the expenses of the assessment are to be paid by the applicant in addition to this fee)	\$208.00	Relevant Landscape region	Part 8, Division 3, Section 126 or Section 133	Water Licence
Application to vary a licence for any other reason	\$471.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$317.00	Marne Saunders and Mallee prescribed water resources area	Part 8, Division 3, Section 124	Water Licence
Application to vary a water allocation in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$277.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Part 8, Division 3, Section 131	Water Allocation

Name of charge	Details of the rates and charges	Water resource, region or catchment applicable to the fee	Applicable section of the Landscape Act 2019	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Application to transfer a water allocation in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$277.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Part 8, Division 3, Section 132	Water Allocation
Application to register a transfer of a water allocation undertaken under an Interstate Water Entitlements Transfer Scheme	\$277.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Regulation 32(1) of Landscape South Australia (Water Management) Regulations 2020	Water Allocation

Well Driller's Licence and Permit Fees

Name of charge	Details of the rates and charges	Water resource, region or catchment applicable to the fee	Applicable section of the Landscape Act 2019	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Application for a permit under Part 8 of the Act, other than an application for a permit to drill a well or to undertake work on a well	\$60.00	Relevant Landscape region	Part 8, Division 2, Section 112	Permit
Application for a new Well Driller's licence	\$282.00	Relevant Landscape region	Part 8, Division 2, Section 115	Well Driller's Licence
Application for a renewal of a Well Driller's Licence	\$146.00	Relevant Landscape region	Part 8, Division 2, Section 116	Well Driller's Licence
Application for the variation of a Well Driller's licence	\$214.00	Relevant Landscape region	Part 8, Division 2, Section 115	Well Driller's Licence
Application for a permit to drill a well or to undertake work on a well	\$95.50 Plus a technical assessment fee of an amount not exceeding \$163.00 determined by the Minister after taking into account any advice from the Department about the costs associated with assessing the application.	Relevant Landscape region	Part 8, Division 2, Section 112	Permit

Metering Charges

Name of charge	Details of the rates and charges	Water resource, region or catchment applicable to the fee	Applicable section of the Landscape Act 2019	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Rent for a meter for a period of 12 months or less ending on 30 June Nominal size of meter-	a) \$232 b) \$335 c) \$495 d) \$566 e) \$679	Relevant Landscape region	Schedule 1, Section 6	Metering
a) Less than 50 mm b) 50 to 100 mm c) 150 to 175 mm d) 200 to 380 mm e) 407 to 610 mm				
Fee for testing meter under section 79(4) of the Act	Estimated cost determined by the Minister	Relevant Landscape region	Part 5, Division 2, Section 79(4)	Metering
Fee for reading meter at request of licensee	Estimated cost determined by the Minister	Relevant Landscape region	Part 5, Division 2, Section 79	Metering

Approval Fees and Other Associated fees

Name of charge	Details of the rates and charges	Water resource, region or catchment applicable to the fee	Applicable section of the Landscape Act 2019	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Application for a water resource works approval in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$471.00 plus a technical assessment fee of an amount not exceeding \$317.00 determined by the Minister after taking into account any advice from the Department about the costs associated with assessing the application	River Murray prescribed water resource	Part 8, Division 3, Section 134	Water Resource Works Approval

Name of charge	Details of the rates and charges	Water resource, region or catchment applicable to the fee	Applicable section of the Landscape Act 2019	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Application to vary a water resource works approval in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$471.00 plus a technical assessment fee of an amount not exceeding \$317.00 determined by the Minister after taking into account any advice from the Department about the costs associated with assessing the application	River Murray prescribed water resource	Part 8, Division 3, Section 136	Water Resource Works Approval
Application for a Site Use Approval in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$471.00 plus a technical assessment fee of an amount not exceeding \$317.00 determined by the Minister after taking into account any advice from the Department about the costs associated with assessing the application	River Murray prescribed water resource	Part 8, Division 3, Section 141	Site Use Approval
Application to vary a Site Use Approval in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$471.00 plus a technical assessment fee of an amount not exceeding \$317.00 determined by the Minister after taking into account any advice from the Department about the costs associated with assessing the application	River Murray prescribed water resource	Part 8, Division 3, Section 143	Site Use Approval
Application for notation on Landscape Scheme Register or removal of notation	\$9.80	Relevant Landscape region	Schedule 4, Part 1, Section 4(2)	This may relate to any Water Management Authorisation (WMA), namely a Water Licence, or a Water allocation, or a water resource works approval, or a site use approval.

For the current period, the Minister for Environment and Water has the legislated authority under the applicable sections of the Landscape SA Act to declare a nominal fee associated with the application, assessment or documentation of a licence, permit or approval fee.

On completion of the relevant application, the applicant is responsible for paying the full amount of the associated fee and ensuring that payment accompanies the application when submitted to the Department for Environment and Water.

Water Planning and Water Management activities

The Department for Environment and Water has responsibility for Water Licensing regulatory functions, customer service and metering associated with prescribed water resources and for the support, operation, maintenance and development of water licensing systems state wide.

Total operational costs for water licensing functions in South Australia will be approximately \$5.9 million for the 2019-20 financial year.

More information

www.landscape.sa.gov.au

Landscape SA Act

www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au

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