
MURRAY- DARLING BASIN REGULATED WATER CHARGES

Updated
June 2018

CONTENTS

DEPARTMENT FOR
ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

Last Updated: June 2018

CONTENTS	2
MURRAY-DARLING BASIN REGULATED WATER CHARGES	3
NRM Water Levy (Division 2)	3
Details of the charge	3
Program Delivery	5
Licence, Permit, Metering and Approval fees	7
Details of the charge	7
Water Planning and Water Management activities	11
Save the River Murray Levy	11

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 of Environment and Water's website at <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray/water-charges-and-how-they-are-spent>

NRM WATER LEVY (DIVISION 2)

The NRM Water Levy is legislated and governed under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* (NRM Act) and is applicable to all license holders within the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin region. The South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM (SAMDB NRM) region 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.

Details of the charge

NRM Water Levy (Division 2) - Prescribed Resources	2018-19 Charges	Type of Entitlement Applicable
River Murray All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 2) & Metropolitan Consumptive Pool (Class 6) water access entitlements	2.005c/unit share	Water Access Entitlement
River Murray All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3 & Class 5) water access entitlements	0.645c/unit share	Water Access Entitlement
River Murray All Purpose Consumptive Pool (Class 3 Qualco Sunlands) water access entitlements	0.614c/unit share	Water Access Entitlement
Angas Bremer	\$6.45/ML	Water Allocation
Noora	\$6.45/ML	Water Allocation
Mallee - reticulated	\$20.05/ML	Water Allocation
Mallee	\$6.45/ML	Water Allocation
Peake, Sherlock & Roby	\$6.45/ML	Water Allocation
Marne Saunders	\$6.45/ML	Water Allocation

NRM Water Levy (Division 2) - Prescribed Resources	2018-19 Charges	Type of Entitlement Applicable
Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges	\$6.45/ML	Water Allocation
Taking Lower Angas Bremer Allocation (Flood)	\$1.53/ML	Water Allocation

For the current period the Minister for Environment and Water has the legislated authority under Chapter 5 section 101 of the NRM 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 NRM Region, or are the holders of imported water permits and/or are authorized under section 128 of the NRM Act to take water from a water resource within a specified NRM Region.

The Board 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 the Board's Business Planning process which is governed by the requirements of the NRM Act. The Board is required to review the business plan at least once every three years and amendments may be proposed to the business plan as a result of the review. Proposed amendments to the business plan are consulted on publicly. On completion of the public consultation the Board provides a report to the Minister for Environment and Water in relation to the consultation and recommendations on the final amendments required to the plan. The Minister for Environment and Water is then required to undertake consultation. The Board may be required to present the levy proposal to the Natural Resources Committee of Parliament.

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

For all prescribed resources a single invoice is issued (which is generally a period between July and August) and payable within 30 days. The Department for Environment and Water subsequently pays the collected levies to the NRM Board to partially fund the required NRM activities outlined in the SA MDB NRM Board's Business Plan.

The NRM 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.

In addition, the regulated charge is directly attributable to the implementation of the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Plan (the regional NRM plan), which is a plan to protect and improve the condition of the natural resources of the SAMDB NRM region. The implementation of this regional NRM plan is monitored with regular reporting on progress towards achievements of the goals, outcomes and targets. The regional NRM plan provides comprehensive information on natural resources management in the region 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

The SAMDB NRM Board's Business Plan is presented around four program areas, which together describe the Board's contribution towards the achievement of the targets outlined in the Strategic Plan.

The program areas are:

1. More people doing more NRM
2. Working with farmers, irrigators and industry
3. Landscape scale change
4. Leadership and continuous improvement

The NRM Water levies will be used (but not limited) to fully or partially fund the listed water planning and water management activities in 2018-19:

- Water Resource Management for the Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges, Mallee, Marne Saunders, Noora, Peake, Angus Bremer, Roby and Sherlock and River Murray prescribed resources
- Floodplain and Wetland Management
- Implementation of Regional Water Affecting Activities policies
- Sustainable Production - On-Farm Support and Engagement
- Monitoring and Evaluation Programs
- Regional Planning and Research
- Community Engagement in Natural Resources Management
- Landscape management programs
- The Board's contribution to the State Government's Water Planning and Management costs

The estimated costs associated with the delivery of the water planning and water management activities are \$8.284 million.

Some of the components of this amount include: Contributions to the State's water planning and management costs, community engagement in natural resource management, landscape management programs, monitoring and evaluation programs and regional water affecting activities policies.

For further information about the NRM Water Levy (Division 2) and water planning and water management activities undertaken by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board please visit:

[SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board](#)

[Regional NRM Plan](#)

[NRM Act 2004](#)

LICENCE, PERMIT, METERING & APPROVAL FEES

The stipulated fees are regulated by the requirements of the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004* and the *Variation of Natural Resources Management (General) Regulations 2005*. In addition, they are specifically related to the Natural Resource Management (NRM) Plan and the Water Allocation Plans for the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Region. Please confirm all fee amounts by referring to the Government Gazette (2018-19 Schedule of Fees), available at: <http://www.governmentgazette.sa.gov.au/>

Details of the charge

Water Licence

Name of charge	Details of the rates and charges	Water resource, region or catchment applicable to the fee	Applicable section of the NRM Act 2004	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Application for a Water Licence	\$237.00	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 147 (1)	Water Licence
Maximum fee for copies of water licences under section 149 of the Act	\$1.85 per page	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 149	Water Licence
Application to transfer a Water Licence	\$440.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$296.00	South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Region	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 150	Water Licence
Application to vary a water licence on transfer of an allocation, other than in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$440.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$296.00	Marne Sanders, Angas Bremer and Mallee prescribed water resources area (rivers within the MDB other than the River Murray)	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 149 (1)	Water Licence
Application to transfer a water access entitlement in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$440.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 150	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)	\$194.00	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 151 (6) or Section 158 (2)	Water Licence

Application to vary a licence for any other reason	\$440.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$296.00	Marne Sanders, Angas Bremer and Mallee prescribed water resources area	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 149	Water Licence
Application to vary a water allocation in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$259.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 156 (1)	Water Allocation
Application to transfer a water allocation in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$259.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 156 (1)	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 NRM Act 2004	Class of water access, water delivery right or irrigation right which the regulates charge relates
Application for a permit under chapter 7 of the Act, other than an application for a permit to drill a well or to undertake work on a well	\$56.00	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 2, Section 135 (1)	Permit
Maximum fee for copies of documents under section 138 of the Act	\$1.85 per page	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 2, Section 138	Permit
Application for a new Well Driller's licence	\$264.00	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 2, Section 139	Well Driller's Licence
Application for a renewal of a Well Driller's Licence	\$136.00	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 2, Section 139	Well Driller's Licence
Application for the variation of a Well Driller's licence	\$200.00	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 2, Section 139	Well Driller's Licence

Application for a permit to drill a well or to undertake work on a well	\$89.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of an amount not exceeding \$152 determined by the Minister after taking into account any advice from his or her Department about the costs associated with assessing the application.	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 7, Part 2, Section 135	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 NRM Act 2004	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) Less than 50 mm b) 50 to 100 mm c) 150 to 175 mm d) 200 to 380 mm e) 407 to 610 mm	a) \$217 b) \$313 c) \$463 d) \$529 e) \$634	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Schedule 3, Section 6	Metering
Fee for testing meter under section 106(4) of the Act	Estimated cost determined by the Minister	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 5, Part 1, Section 106 (4)	Metering
Fee for reading meter at request of licensee	Estimated cost determined by the Minister	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Chapter 5, Part 1, Section 106	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 NRM Act 2004	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	\$440.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 159	Water Resource Works Approval
Application to vary a water resource works approval in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$440.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 161	Water Resource Works Approval
Application for a Site Use Approval in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$440.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$296.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 164A	Site Use Approval
Application to vary a Site Use Approval in relation to the River Murray prescribed watercourse	\$440.00 Plus a technical assessment fee of \$296.00	River Murray prescribed water resource	Chapter 7, Part 3, Section 164C	Site Use Approval
Application for notation on the NRM Register or removal of notation	\$9.15	Relevant Natural Resources Management region	Schedule 3A, 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 NRM 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 \$6.43 million for the 2017-18 financial year.