

# Water Allocation 2016-17

## River Murray Prescribed Watercourse

### Frequently Asked Questions

## Minimum opening allocations for River Murray water access entitlement holders announced

### What will the SA River Murray Prescribed Watercourse water allocations be in 2016-17?

Water access entitlement holders will be provided with a minimum opening allocation of 36% in 2016-17. This will be available from 1 July 2016.

Should water resource availability improve from the current very dry conditions across the Murray-Darling Basin, then improvements to inflows will be translated into improvements to water allocations.

### When will you advise us when there is a change to the minimum opening allocations?

Any improvements to the opening allocations will be announced through the River Murray Flow Report.

Announcements will be made regardless of whether the allocation has improved or not changed.

### What scenarios are being used to determine allocations?

Initially, a very dry inflow scenario has been used to inform the minimum opening allocation.

From 1 July 2016, improvements in allocations will be based on actual improvements in the volume of inflows, rather than forecasts.

A range of water availability scenarios will be used to forecast water allocations to provide water access entitlement holders with a probabilistic outlook for future improvements in allocations.

See Attachment for more information.

**“...the State Government will continue to review probability-based forecasts in order to determine whether additional allocations can be made, should conditions improve”**



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## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What impact will the Adelaide Desalination Plant (ADP) have on allocations?

The ADP was built to provide long-term water security for South Australia – especially in times of drought.

Future allocation announcements for 2016-17 will also be informed by the findings of the independent Adelaide Desalination Plant cost benefit study, which is due to be provided to the State Government in late May.

The cost-benefit analysis will help the government maximise overall economic benefit for the State.

This study was a key outcome of consultation on the draft River Murray water allocation plan.

### What is private carryover?

Private carryover was introduced to help water users manage their water risk in a dry water year.

Private Carryover enables River Murray irrigators to better prepare for what is shaping as a dry year across the Basin.

Water users can carry over any unused water allocation volumes from one year into the following water year (up to 20 per cent of their entitlement volumes).

### Am I eligible for private carryover in 2016-17?

You will be eligible for private carryover in 2016-17, if on 30 June 2016 you meet the following three criteria:

1. You have South Australian Water Access Entitlement shares in any of the following classes: Class 3a, Class 3b, Class 4, or Class 7;
2. You have underused your water allocation in 2015-16; and
3. You provide DEWNR with your final water meter reading for 2015-16 by no later than 31 July 2016.

Note that, if your water use is for trade only, you don't need to submit a meter reading – DEWNR will determine your water use through your water account.

### Do I need to apply for private carryover?

No. There is no application process for private carryover.

### When and how will I know if I have been granted private carryover?

The Minister will calculate carryover volumes for eligible Water Access Entitlement holders and your water account will be credited with your private carryover allocation by October 2016.

Once the carryover allocation is in your water account, it is available for use or trade.



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## Further Information

For further information please contact:

Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources  
Tel (08) 8595 2053

### Find out more

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## Attachment: Closing allocations under different water allocation scenarios

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Water access entitlement holders will be provided with a minimum opening allocation of 36 per cent in 2016-17.

Should water resource availability improve from the current very dry conditions across the Murray-Darling Basin, then these improvements will be translated into improvements in water allocations.

The initial water resource availability outlook for the South Australian River Murray in 2016-17 has been based on multi-history modelling. This modelling is used to project water availability under different inflow scenarios.

For example, a 95 per cent Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) scenario means only five in 100 years would be expected to have lower water availability. The 95 per cent AEP scenario projects maximum water availability for South Australia of up to 1,310 GL by 30 June 2017. This compares with 1,850 GL in a full Entitlement Flow year.

Such probability-based projections should be treated as indicative only for the forecast period and may be subject to revision during the water year, as more information on actual conditions becomes available.

Future improvements to water allocations above the guaranteed minimum opening allocation of 36 per cent will be based on actual water resource availability improvements, rather than on forecast improvements. Under this allocation approach, if water availability reaches 1,310 GL, then allocations would reach 65 per cent. At a water resource availability of 1,560 GL, allocations would be 100 per cent.

### **Projected maximum entitlement flow and associated closing allocations under different water availability scenarios**

	<b>Very dry</b> (95% AEP)	<b>Moderate</b> (75% AEP)	<b>Average</b> (50% AEP)
<b>SA Entitlement Flow (GL)</b>	1,310	1,560	1,750
<b>Irrigators (%)</b>	65	100	100

Under worst-case scenario conditions, improvements to allocations would be extremely limited. Any improvements to the opening allocations will be announced through future River Murray Flow Reports, until a 100 per cent water allocation is achieved.

The actual opening water allocation will be announced before 1 July 2016.

