

Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse Private Carryover



Background

The Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse (the Plan) includes a private carryover policy that sets out how private carryover is calculated and who is eligible. This fact sheet sets out the key information about the policy.

Private carryover is a drought management measure and allows water to be stored in one year and used in another. If you are eligible, and use less than your allocation in a water use year, the volume you didn't use may be used in the next water use year. Carryover increases the volume of water available for irrigation in dry years, to support productive industries and resilient communities.

The provision of private carryover is possible through arrangements in the *Murray-Darling Basin Agreement*, which allow the South Australian Government to store (defer) water in upstream (interstate) storages. This water can then be made available in a future water use year to individual water users for private carryover.

Key points about carryover

- Private carryover is a form of insurance that is available to boost allocations in dry years
- Private carryover will be granted when minimum opening irrigation allocations in April are 50% or less
- You can carryover any unused water on your account, up to 20% of the volume of Class 3 water access entitlements you hold
- You must provide your final water meter reading by 31 July to be eligible for carryover
- After carryover has been announced, if conditions improve and allocations increase to 100%, your total allocation (against your entitlements plus carryover allocation) cannot exceed 100%
- If there is not enough water available to meet the total carryover demand for all eligible water users, the volume of water granted to an individual will be reduced proportionally.



Who is eligible for private carryover?

When the Minister announces that carryover will be made available, you will be eligible for private carryover if at the close of business on 30 June you:

- have Class 3 South Australian water access entitlement shares in the All Purpose Consumptive Pool¹;
- have unused water allocations available in the current water use year (Year 1); and
- provide DEW with your final water meter reading by no later than 31 July, or if you do not have a water meter, you must contact DEW by 31 July to determine your underuse.

The maximum volume of unused water that may be made available to you as private carryover is 20 per cent of the number of Class 3 water access entitlements you hold. See the worked examples in Box 1 for more information.

How is private carryover calculated?

The volume of private carryover that an individual may be eligible for is based on the volume underused in a particular water use year. This means **it is important that your meter reading is provided as soon as possible** so the carryover volume can be calculated, and **before 31 July in the following water use year.**

The **maximum volume of water you may be allocated against your eligible entitlements and any carryover is limited to 100 per cent of water access entitlements you hold.**

This is to make sure that water is in storage during dry years when it is needed most. This also helps to ensure we meet our Murray Darling Basin Plan obligations by reducing the risk of using more water than allowed under South Australia's Sustainable Diversion Limit.

The volume of water that can be made available for private carryover is based on how much water stored in upstream storages is available to South Australia, and how much water was traded into South Australia between 1 April and 30 June in the previous water use year (and remained unused on 30 June).

When is private carryover granted to eligible water users?

Carryover will be made available in years when minimum opening allocations are equal to or less than 50 per cent. Carryover announcements will be made by mid-April, which is when minimum opening allocations are made. This allows time for you to make business decisions about the desirability of using available water in the current year, or retaining underuse so that it may be carried over into the next water year. This may affect your decisions to trade water.

Carryover will be granted, and credited to your account, once individual underuse and the volume of water available for carryover have been calculated.

See Figure 1 for a timeline of key dates around allocation announcements and the granting of carryover.

Do I need to apply for private carryover?

No - if you are eligible for private carryover, and your meter readings are submitted by 31 July, you do not need to do anything else.

Eligible entitlement holders will receive a letter with the private carryover allocation endorsed on their water account, once it has been granted.

Once the carryover allocation is on your water account, the volume is available for use or trade.

I want to find out more about...

Whether I am eligible for private carryover, please contact the DEW Berri Office:

T: (08) 8595 2053

E: dewaterlicensingberri@sa.gov.au

The private carryover policy, please visit the DEW website:

www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation-and-carryover/private-carryover

The Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse:

T: (08) 8463 6877

E: rmwap.feedback@sa.gov.au

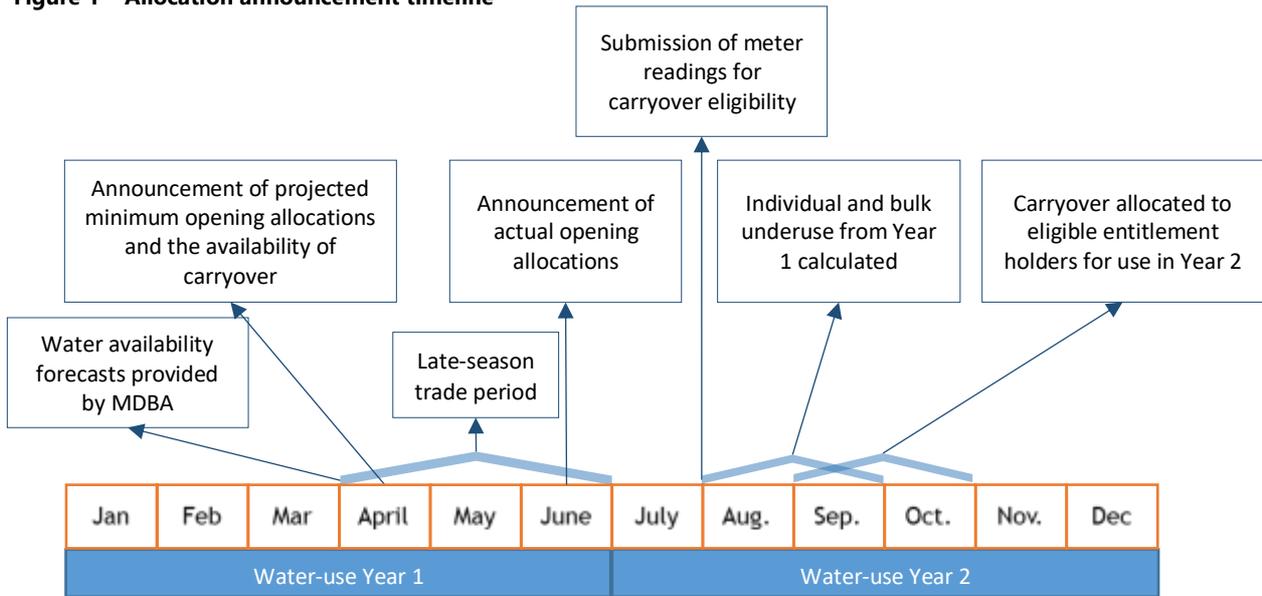
Or visit:

www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/rivermurraywap

¹ Formerly classes 3a, 3b, 4 and 7. See Fact Sheet: Consumptive Pools for more information about the structure of consumptive pools.



Figure 1 – Allocation announcement timeline



Following the announcement of minimum opening allocations, allocations will be increased fortnightly if there are improvements in water availability.

Box 1: Carryover examples

EXAMPLE 1: If minimum opening allocations for Year 2 are 45%, carryover will be announced in April of Year 1. If you hold 100 ML of Class 3, you can then carryover any unused water from Year 1 into Year 2 up to a maximum of 20 ML.

If your underuse from Year 1 was 15 ML, and there is sufficient water available to meet all irrigators carryover demands, your effective opening allocation would be 60 ML (from the combination of carryover (15 ML) and allocations against your entitlements (45 ML)). If allocations against entitlements increase during Year 2 up to a maximum of 100%, your maximum allocation would be 100 ML. You can only have 100 ML allocation against your entitlement, NOT 100 ML against your entitlement PLUS the 15 ML carryover.

EXAMPLE 2: If minimum opening allocations for Year 2 are 45% carryover will be announced in April of Year 1. If you hold 100 ML in Class 3, and your underuse from Year 1 was 30 ML, you can carryover 20 ML if there is sufficient water available to meet all irrigators' carryover demands. In this case your effective opening allocation would be 65 ML.

If allocations increase during Year 2 up to 80%, your effective allocation would be 100 ML (the combination of carryover (20ML) and allocations against your entitlements (80 ML)). In this case you would reach an allocation of 100 ML, whilst those without any eligible underuse from Year 1 would only have an allocation of 80 ML.