



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,
Water and Natural Resources

REF DEWNRD-00008938

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Australia

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Date: 30 November 2016

[REDACTED]
Water Recovery Branch
Department of the Environment
GPO Box 787
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear [REDACTED]

I write regarding South Australia's obligations under Schedule 1 of the Implementation Plan for Augmentation of the Adelaide Desalination Plant (the Agreement).

In 2015-16 a further 7.7 GL of water was delivered by the Adelaide Desalination Plant for use in the metropolitan Adelaide water supply. This brings the total to 133.20 GL since commencement of the plant.

The water that was not diverted from the River Murray has supplemented the State's planned environmental watering activities by contributing to the environmental watering requirements of environmental assets, in particular the Lower Lakes, Coorong and Murray Mouth. On this basis, the State requests that 7.7 GL is recognised as providing an environmental benefit to the Lower Lakes Coorong and Murray Mouth in accordance with the environmental provision requirements under the Agreement.

The following allocations have been accounted for on account SA213146-0-10009:

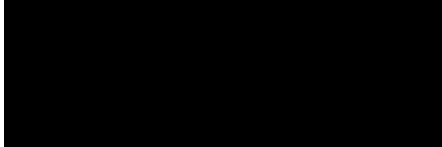
- 6,015 ML - received from 100% allocation against the high reliability class 3a entitlement held by the Minister for Water and the River Murray.
- 0.5 ML – received from 100% allocation against the high reliability class 1 entitlement held by the Minister for Water and the River Murray.
- 4.999 ML received from 100% allocation against the high reliability class 7 entitlement held by the Minister for Water and the River Murray.
- 386 ML of allocation from New South Wales.

In addition, 4,509 ML of allocation was used from SA118100-1-0009 for the environment.

As required under the Agreement, the attached report identifies the licences and volumes of allocation accounted for in regards to the high reliability entitlement and environmental allocation and the outcomes from the use of this water. The use of this environmental water has also been reported in South Australia's Schedule 12 reporting, as a part of indicators 9.1.2 & 9.1.3.

South Australia's interim report under section 71 of the *Water Act 2007* was submitted to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on 31 October 2016. State and MDBA officers are currently working through the details of the report and I will provide you with advice from the MDBA confirming that the environmental water provisions have been accounted for once that process is complete.

Yours sincerely



DIRECTOR, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

ADELAIDE DESALINATION PLANT

Report on Environmental Water Allocations, Use and Outcomes (for the year ended 30 June 2016)

	Licence	Account	Environmental Allocation (ML)	Carryover of Balance (ML)	Allocation		Environmental Use (KL)		Closing Balance (KL)
					%	KL	Planned	Actual	
High Reliability Water Entitlement ¹	SA213146	SA213146-0-10009	6,010,000	0	100	6,010,000	6,010,000	6,010,000	0
Environmental Provision ¹			500	0	100	500	500	500	0
			4,999	0	100	4,999	4,999	4,999	0
			386 ²	0	Various	386	386	386	0
	SA118100	SA118100-1-10009	6,491,000	0	100	6,491,000	4,509,000	4,509,000 ³	0
TOTAL			7,102,599	0	-	12,506,885	10,524,885	10,524,885	0
Water not diverted through use of Adelaide Desalination Plant			-	0	-	-	-	7,700,000	-

¹ High Reliability Water Entitlement and Environmental Provision have the same meaning as defined in the Implementation Plan for Augmentation of the Adelaide Desalination Plant.

² Water allocations from NSW irrigation districts in the Southern Connected Basin.

³ 1,982,000ML traded out for consumptive use.

2015-16 Watering Locations Use and Outcomes

Water allocations on account SA213146-0-10009 were used at the following sites for the following outcomes.

- Berri Evaporation Basin – Maintain critical habitat for the Murray hardyhead.
- Bookmark Creek – Maintain significant flowing water habitat.
- Gerard Floodplain – Maintain Black Box and understory vegetation on the floodplain.
- Gerard Lignum Swamp – Maintain Lignum basin fringed by mature river red gum and cooba.
- Markaranka Wetland Complex – Maintain relatively intact floodplain dominated by black box trees.
- Old Loxton Road Wetland – Maintain black box and river cooba fringing the wetland basin.
- Pike Floodplain – Maintain black box floodplain vegetation.
- Pike and Katarapko Floodplains – Support environmental outcomes through floodplain and salinity management.
- Tolderol Game Reserve – Provision of waterbird habitat.

Water allocations used from account SA118100-1-10009 for the environment and water not diverted through use of the Adelaide Desalination Plant contributed to lake level management and barrage releases throughout the year at the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth with outcomes including:

- Continuous fishway and barrage outflows throughout the year providing continuous connectivity between the River and its estuary.
- Significant diadromous fish migration, including winter migration by pouched lampreys, and evidence of recruitment.
- Large numbers of colonial waterbirds nesting at two Lower Lakes colonies.