



REF DEWNRD-00012876

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Date:


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Water Division
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra City ACT 2601

Dear 

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

In 2016-17 a further 4.1 GL of water was delivered by the Adelaide Desalination Plant for use in the metropolitan Adelaide water supply. This brings the total to 137.30 GL since commencement of the plant.

The water that was not diverted from the River Murray has supplemented the State's 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 4.1 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:

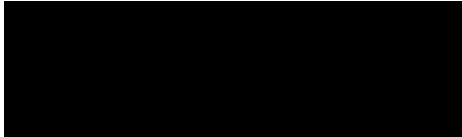
- 6,555.0 ML - received from 100% allocation against the high reliability class 3a entitlement held by the Minister for Water and the River Murray.
- 0.5 ML – received from 100% allocation against the high reliability class 1 entitlement held by the Minister for Water and the River Murray.
- 4.9 ML received from 100% allocation against the high reliability class 7 entitlement held by the Minister for Water and the River Murray.

In addition, 2,084 ML of allocation from SA118100-1-0009 and 128 ML of allocation from SA2095-2-10009 were used 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.

This year the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) extended the time for submission of interim state reports under section 71 of the *Water Act 2007* until 17 November 2017. South Australia's interim report was submitted to the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on 17 November 2017 and MDBA officers are currently working through the details of the report. 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 POLICY

South Australia's obligations under Schedule 1 of the Implementation Plan for Augmentation of the Adelaide Desalination Plant

ADELAIDE DESALINATION PLANT

Report on Environmental Water Allocations, Use and Outcomes (for the year ended 30 June 2017)

	Licence	Account	Environmental Allocation (KL)	Carryover of Balance (KL)	Allocation		Environmental Use		Closing Balance (KL)
					%	KL	Planned	Actual	
High Reliability Water Entitlement ¹	SA213146	SA213146-0-10009	6,555,940	0	100	6,555,940	6,555,940	6,555,940	0
			500	0	100	500	500	500	0
			4,999	0	100	4,999	4,999	4,999	0
Environmental Provision ¹	SA118100	SA118100-1-10009	2,084,510	0	100	2,084,510	2,084,510	2,084,510	0
	SA2095	SA2095-2-10009	128,800	0	100	128,800	128,800	128,800	0
TOTAL			8,774,749	0	-	8,774,749	8,774,749	8,774,749	0
Water not diverted through use of Adelaide Desalination Plant			-	0	-	-	-	4,100,000	-

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.

In 2016-17 a further 4.1 GL of water was delivered by the Adelaide Desalination Plant for use in the metropolitan Adelaide water supply. This brings the total to 137.30 GL since commencement of the plant in 2012-13.

The water that was not diverted from the River Murray as a consequence of the Adelaide Desalination Plant 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 4.1 GL provides an environmental benefit to the Lower Lakes Coorong and Murray Mouth in accordance with the environmental provision requirements under the Agreement.

2016-17 Watering Locations Use and Outcomes

Water allocation totalling 0.684 ML on account SA213146-0-10009 was used at the following site for the following outcomes.

- Gerard Floodplain – Black Box watering trials.

The remaining water allocations from SA213146-0-10009, all water allocations from account SA118100-1-10009 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 colonies around the Lower Lakes.