

# South Australian Murray Region

Formal submission received by the MDBA: 3 January 2018

**Disclaimer:** South Australia (SA) formally submitted the proposed SA Murray Region water resource plan (proposed WRP) package to the Murray–Darling Basin Authority (the MDBA) under the Water Act 2007 (Cth). At the time of publication (6 December 2018), a recommendation on accreditation has not yet been made by the MDBA to the Commonwealth Minister responsible for water. **The proposed WRP is not operational.** The publication of the proposed WRP on the MDBA's website is to enable transparency.



The SA Murray Region WRP area covers most of the Murray–Darling Basin in South Australia. It extends from the NSW and Vic border in the East, to the edge of the plains in the Mount Lofty Ranges in the West, including Burra and Terowie, and down to the coast in the South-East.

**Water resources:** The WRP covers groundwater and surface water for the area, including the Coorong and Murray Mouth (below the barrages). The WRP does not include the River Murray channel or Lower Lakes. The surface water resources are mainly ephemeral streams in semi-arid SA.

**Towns and regions:** Pinnaroo, Lameroo, Burra, Karoonda, Yunta, Salt Creek

**Water users:** dryland farming (stock), irrigated agriculture (primarily rotational crops), industrial, urban water for some regional towns

**Population:** ~40 000

For more detailed maps please visit:

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications/maps-spatial-data>

## About water resource plans

Water resource plans are an integral part of implementing the Basin Plan.

They set new rules on how much water can be taken from the system, ensuring the sustainable diversion limit is not exceeded over time.

Basin state governments are developing water resource plans. The Murray–Darling Basin Authority is working closely with Basin state governments to ensure water resource plans meet the requirements of the Basin Plan.

There are 33 water resource plans in total, covering groundwater and surface water management across the Basin. Water resource plans to be completed by state include:

- 20 in New South Wales
- 5 in Victoria
- 3 in Queensland
- 3 in South Australia
- 2 in the Australian Capital Territory.

## Next steps

The MDBA is currently assessing the SA Murray Region WRP for consistency with the Basin Plan. The Authority will then consider the assessment and provide a recommendation to the Commonwealth Minister responsible for water that will inform the decision to accredit the WRP or not.



For more information on water resource plans, visit: [www.mdba.gov.au/water-resource-plans](http://www.mdba.gov.au/water-resource-plans)

For more information on South Australia's water resource plans visit:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/basin-plan/water-resource-planning>

## How the WRP was developed

South Australia (SA) has been developing this WRP since 2014.

The SA Murray Region WRP was received by the MDBA in early 2018. The WRP is being assessed by the MDBA, which includes seeking advice from the Murray Lower Darling River Indigenous Nations.

This WRP brings together existing rules and arrangements used by SA to manage water in the SA Murray Region area. This includes the Mallee and the Peak Roby and Sherlock Prescribed Wells Areas Water Allocation Plans; the South Australian Murray–Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Plan; the South Australian Arid Lands Natural Resources Management Plan; and the South East Natural Resources Management Plan.

Public consultation informed the development of these state plans, and that consultation underpins the WRP.

The SA Government worked with Aboriginal Nations in the SA Murray Region to improve the cultural context in the two Water Allocation Plans that operate in the area, and to identify objectives and outcomes for water resource management in the SA Murray Region WRP area.

## Regional details

The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) is a Ramsar site covered by both the SA Murray Region WRP and River Murray WRP. Management arrangements in the SA Murray Region WRP for the Coorong and Murray Mouth will be complementary to the rules and arrangements in the SA River Murray WRP for the Lower Lakes.

[South East Flows Restoration Project](#) – a \$60 Million investment made by SA and Commonwealth Governments – enables water to be delivered directly to the Coorong South Lagoon to improve water quality and drainage.

## Addressing risks

This WRP contains part of the CLLMM Ramsar site which is a locally and internationally significant area of major community concern.

In assessing the WRP, the MDBA will consider the management arrangements SA has put forward for accreditation to protect the CLLMM and the water delivered for the environment, in line with the Basin Plan.

Water for the environment must be protected to at least the same level as was in place prior to the Basin Plan. The MDBA's assessment will ensure the WRP does not reduce the protection of water for the environment.

Arrangements to address other risks will be assessed in the WRP. Some risks include: connectivity, water quality, climate change and water use (which is measured by Baseline diversion limits). For more information about these risks visit: [mdba.gov.au/water-resource-plans](http://mdba.gov.au/water-resource-plans)

## Supporting information

WRPs complement existing arrangements for water use at the state level. More information about these arrangements can be found the links below:

Water Allocation Plans

<https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin/water/water-allocation-plans>

Regional Natural Resource Management Plans

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/about-us/our-plans>

Natural Resources Management Act 2004

<http://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/LZ/C/A/Natural%20Resources%20Management%20Act%202004.aspx>

SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Plan

<https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/aridlands/about-us/our-regions-plan>

South East Natural Resource Management Plan

<https://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au/southeast/about-us/our-regions-plan/our-current-plan>

### Office locations

Adelaide, Albury–Wodonga, Canberra, Goondiwindi, Toowoomba

 [mdba.gov.au](http://mdba.gov.au)

 1800 230 067

 [engagement@mdba.gov.au](mailto:engagement@mdba.gov.au)



Australian Government

