

VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL WATER HOLDER
WATERING AUTHORISATION #5
VEWH OFFICE 2018-19
RIVER MURRAY

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder authorises use of water from the Water Holdings in accordance with section 33DD of the *Water Act 1989*.

1. PURPOSE

This authorisation enables water from the Water Holdings to be used to maintain connectivity and nutrient cycling, provide habitat and spawning cues for native fish, enhance native vegetation, provide habitat for waterbirds, turtles and frogs in the Barmah Forest, consistent with the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2018-19*. This watering authorisation also authorises use of return flows from the Barmah Forest at downstream sites along the River Murray.

2. DURATION OF APPROVAL

This authorisation is valid from 1 November 2018 to 31 December 2018, unless superseded by another watering authorisation or revoked by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

3. AUTHORISATION TO USE THE WATER HOLDINGS

The VEWH Office is authorised to order the release of up to 98,631 ML of water from the Water Holdings made available by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in Barmah Forest.

This water is made available by the Murray Darling Basin Authority and can be used under the *Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Flora and Fauna) Conversion Order 1999* (ABA105075, ABA102506 and ABA062295) held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

This authorisation includes:

- Up to 95,000 ML of River Murray Increased Flows
- Up to 3,631 ML of water committed under the Living Murray Program

This authorisation is made in accordance with email authorisations from the Murray-Darling Basin Authority on 29 May 2018, 3 July 2018, 5 September 2018 and 31 October 2018.

This watering authorisation supersedes *Watering Authorisation #2*, *Watering Authorisation #3* and *Watering Authorisation #4* and the total volume authorised includes water used under *Watering Authorisation #2*, *Watering Authorisation #3* and *Watering Authorisation #4* between 1 July 2018 and 31 October 2018.

Water is to be delivered consistent with the potential watering actions specified in sections 5.2.1 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2018-19* and with the provisions of the entitlement.

This authorisation is subject to:

- (a) implementation of the risk mitigating strategies identified in Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's *Barmah Forest Seasonal Watering Proposal 2018-2019 (VEWH Addendum)* and in line with section 1.3.6 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2018-19*
- (b) VEWH Office agreement that appropriate risk management is being undertaken.

Execution

Executed on 1 November 2018

by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis Flett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a stylized 'F'.

Denis Flett, Chairperson Victorian Environmental Water Holder

Under delegation by the Commission of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.