

VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL WATER HOLDER
SEASONAL WATERING STATEMENT #8 FOR
NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY 2017-18
GUNBOWER FOREST

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder makes the following seasonal watering statement under section 33DY of the *Water Act 1989*.

1. PURPOSE

This seasonal watering statement authorises North Central Catchment Management Authority to use water from the Water Holdings to maintain the health and resilience of vegetation communities in permanent wetlands, provide habitat for waterbirds and provide flowing habitat for lateral movement of native fish, turtles and seed propagules in Gunbower Forest, consistent with the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2017-18*. This seasonal watering statement also authorises use of return flows from the Gunbower Forest at downstream sites along the River Murray.

2. DURATION OF APPROVAL

This seasonal watering statement is valid from 21 August 2017 to 30 June 2018, unless superseded by another seasonal watering statement or revoked by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

3. AUTHORISATION TO USE THE WATER HOLDINGS

North Central Catchment Management Authority is authorised to use up to 10,000 ML of water from the Water Holdings in Gunbower 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* (ABA062294, ABA043408, ABA065283, ABA065905) held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

This authorisation is made in accordance with a decision by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority communicated through an email to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder on 17 August 2017.

Water is to be delivered consistent with the potential watering actions specified in section 5.2.2 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2017-18* and the provisions of the entitlement

This authorisation is subject to:

- (a) consultation with Victorian Environmental Water Holder to ensure the availability of sufficient water in the Water Holdings to which this statement applies and the appropriate allocation bank account to order water from
- (b) endorsement of a delivery plan by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and implementation of the conditions and risk mitigating strategies of the endorsed delivery plan
- (c) implementation of the risk mitigating strategies identified in North Central Catchment Management Authority's *Gunbower Forest, Gunbower Creek and Guttrum Forest* seasonal watering proposal and in line with section 5.2.2 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2017-18*
- (d) reporting to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder on implementation of this seasonal watering statement in accordance with the *Guidelines for reporting on the management of the Water Holdings*.

Execution

Executed on 21 August 2017

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Denis Flett". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

by

Denis Flett, Chairperson Victorian Environmental Water Holder

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