

VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL WATER HOLDER
WATERING AUTHORISATION #1A
VEWH OFFICE 2021-22
BARMAH FOREST AND MURRAY RIVER

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 achieve environmental objectives and expected watering effects in the Barmah Forest and Murray River, consistent with the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2021-22* and for emergency environmental watering in accordance with section 1.3.7 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2021-22*. This watering authorisation also authorises use of return flows from the Murray River from upstream of the Barmah choke at sites along the Murray River downstream of the Barmah choke.

2. DURATION OF APPROVAL

This watering authorisation is valid from 19 August 2021 to 30 June 2022, unless superseded by another watering authorisation or revoked by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

3. AUTHORISATION TO USE THE WATER HOLDINGS

The Victorian Environmental Water Holder Office is authorised to use up to 645,000 ML of water from the Water Holdings in Barmah Forest and the Murray River.

This water is made available by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and can be used under the *Bulk Entitlement River Murray – Flora and Fauna Conversion Order 1999* (allocation accounts 068157, 086322, 094003, 043265, 105075, 102506, 108630, 108631, 062294, 091243, 107185, 107193, 043398, 062295), and clause 10 and schedule 6 of the entitlement held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

This authorisation includes:

- up to 220,000 ML committed by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder, including up to 200,000 ML of the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Allocation and up to 20,000 of VEWH Murray allocation.
- up to 400,000 ML made in accordance with a decision by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder communicated through the *Commonwealth Watering Schedule – 2021-22 Victorian Murray*, executed on 29 June 2021
- up to 25,000 ML of joint water committed in accordance with a decision of the Southern Connected Basin Environmental Watering Committee communicated to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder via an email sent on 28 June 2021.

Water is to be delivered under the provisions of the entitlement and in accordance with the potential watering actions specified in Table 5.2.1 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2021-22* or the emergency watering procedure in section 1.3.7 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2021-22*.

This watering authorisation supersedes *Watering Authorisation #1 for the VEWH Office 2021-22* and the total volume authorised includes water used under that watering authorisation between 1 July 2021 and 18 August 2021.

This authorisation is subject to:

- (a) endorsement of a delivery plan by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and implementation of the conditions and risk mitigating strategies of the endorsed delivery plans
- (b) implementation of the risk mitigating strategies identified in Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority's *Barmah-Millewa Forest Seasonal Watering Proposal 2021-2022 (VEWH Addendum)* and in line with section 1.3.6 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2021-22*
- (c) VEWH Office agreement that appropriate risk management is being undertaken for delivery to non-Victorian sites.

Execution

Executed on 19/08/2021



by

Andrew Sharpe, Executive Manager Planning and Delivery, Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

Upon decision of the Commission of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder made on 18 August 2021.