

Welcome to our Werribee Irrigation District (WID) update, a newsletter for Southern Rural Water's water supply customers. We hope you find the information useful.

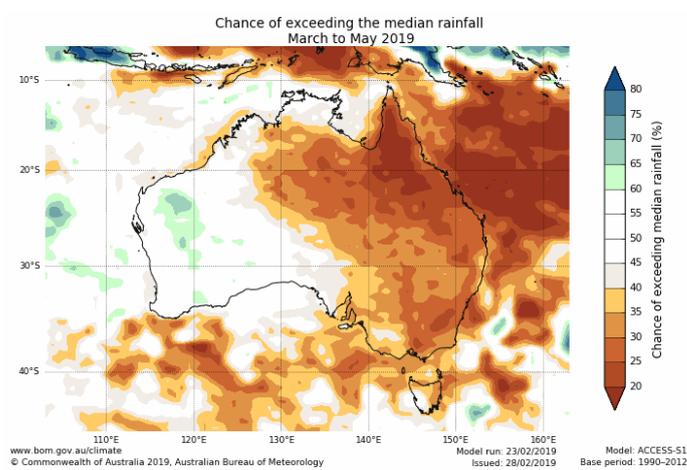
Rainfall outlook

After one of the hottest and driest summers on record the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) seasonal rainfall outlook for autumn is for continuing hot and dry conditions with below average rain. They are also saying that the autumn rain may come later than normal. We will have to see how autumn and winter progress with respect to next season's allocation outlook.

Storage levels

Given the small amount of inflows into the reservoirs so far this season and the hot conditions, water levels are lower than this time last year. We are monitoring Melton Reservoir and will release water from Lake Merrimu and Pykes Creek to meet demand in the Werribee Irrigation District (WID) if necessary.

The current storage levels are as follows:



Reservoir	Volume ML	% Full	Same time last year
Pykes Creek	14,400	65%	80%
Melton	2,275	15%	39%
Lake Merrimu	9,703	30%	41%

SRW's share of Lake Merrimu is currently 1,332ML

Allocation

Given the dry conditions the allocation remains at 40% of high reliability water shares. Further significant increases in allocation are unlikely until the autumn break arrives.



Carryover and allocation trading options

There is still a lot of water held in allocation accounts carried over from last season (4,564ML was carried over in the WID). When added up, there is water available for use that is equivalent to an allocation of 95% of high reliability water shares.

When we include Bacchus Marsh and the Werribee River diverters, the volume of carryover was 8,407ML. However, unless we get significant rain in the next few months there is unlikely to be as much water carried over in July for the 2019/20 season.

Some farmers are running low on water and may be looking to buy allocation to secure their water needs for the remainder of this season and beyond. There has been an increase in water trading in recent weeks.

Therefore, if you do not intend to use your water, or have more than you need for this season, then it is important that you consider selling some.

You could sell some of your allocation and help recoup some of the cost of your water entitlements. Remember this is not a permanent trade of your entitlements and you would receive further allocations when they occur.

SRW is happy to help assess your water needs, so call or come in and see us.

If you are interested in buying or selling water you can log on to SRW's WaterMatch site, online at www.srw.com.au/, or type the word "Watermatch" in Google. WaterMatch is an easy way to find people who are looking to buy or sell water.

You can either register as a user (a straightforward process), or you can call 1300 139 510, email srw@srw.com.au or drop into our office in Werribee and our staff will help you.

Customer Committee

There is currently one spot available on the Werribee Bacchus Marsh Consultative Committee (WBMCCC). This is an important committee that provides SRW with a customer perspective on its operations in the WID and BMID. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee please call on 1300 139 510.

50% sales allocation for recycled water

At this point in the season we know that we are not going to use all the recycled water available to us through our contract with Melbourne Water - and yet some of you are running out of river and recycled water.

Therefore, after talking with the Werribee and Bacchus Marsh Customer Consultative Committee (WBMCCC), we are announcing a recycled water allocation of up to 150% of your contract volume (available to all recycled water customers).

This means that you can use more than your contract volume. Also any water used over your 100% contract volume is charged at the discounted sales price of \$279/ML.

We stress that this water is coming from within our current contracted volume with Melbourne Water, and is not new recycled water for the district or for customers. If any river water customers wanted to participate in this offer, they would need to first buy some recycled water contract volume from another farmer.

Thomson water offer

Back in 2016 SRW purchased water from the Macalister Irrigation District farmers for an emergency supply to the WID. We have not needed this water until now. However, some WID farmers are now low on water and the WBMCCC has requested that this water should be made available to assist customers who need more water.

There is currently about 1,280ML available. This water is available to all WID water share owners in proportion to your high reliability water share. You can take part, or all of your share now. However if you take all of your share now you will not be able to access any more Thomson water next season. The price of the water will be set on a cost recovery basis consisting of the original purchase price and the cost of transporting it through the Melbourne water supply system. If you are interested in some Thomson water please call us on 1300 139 510.

