

Information collection template for water year 2023–24 – Basin State

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The South Australian 2023–24 report to satisfy annual reporting obligations for Basin Plan Schedule 12.

Reporting context

The matters listed in Schedule 12 of the Basin Plan relate to the objectives and outcomes against which the effectiveness of the Basin Plan will be evaluated (see section 13.05). The matters are also matters on which the MDBA, the Basin States, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, and the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water are required to report. Schedule 12 includes Category A matters which are subject to 5 yearly reporting and Category B matters (see Table 1) which are subject to annual reporting.

This template covers Basin State 2023-24 reporting obligations in relation to Matters 6, 10, 13, 14, 16 and 21. Please refer to the notes for an explanation of why some Matters are not included in this template. The reporting period is the water year, 1 July to 30 June. The Basin Plan sets the reporting day as 31 October in the calendar year that reporting period ends.

Table 1. Schedule 12, Category B matters, annual reporting

#	Schedule 12 Annual Matters	Reporter			
4	The effectiveness of the management of risks to Basin water resources.	MDBA	Basin States		
5	The transition to long term average sustainable diversion limits.				Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water
6	The extent to which local knowledge and solutions inform the implementation of the Basin Plan.	MDBA	Basin States	CEWH	
9	The identification of environmental water and the monitoring of its use.	MDBA	Basin States	CEWH	
10	The implementation of the environmental management framework (Part 4 of Chapter 8).	MDBA	Basin States	CEWH	
13	The implementation, where necessary, of the emergency response process for critical human water needs.	MDBA	Basin States		Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment, and Water
14	The implementation of the water quality and salinity management plan, including the extent to which regard is had to the targets in Chapter 9 when making flow management decisions.	MDBA	Basin States	CEWH	
16	The implementation of water trading rules.	MDBA	Basin States		
19	Compliance with water resource plans.		Basin States		
20	The prioritisation of critical human water needs.		Basin States		
21	The accountability and transparency of arrangements for water sharing.		Basin States		

Notes:

- Reporting for Matter 5 is reported separately by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water.
- Reporting for Matter 4 by Basin States is reported through Matter 10, and through the process of water resource plan accreditation.
- Reporting for Matter 9 is reported separately by Basin States, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and the MDBA, through Water Act s71 reporting, and through the Matter 9.3 reporting template.
- No reporting by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water is required for Matter 13, as BOC undertakes this reporting when Tier 2 and 3 water sharing arrangements are in place.
- Reporting for Matter 19 (Compliance with water resource plans) is reported separately by Basin States.
- No reporting by Basin States is required for Matter 20, as confirmation that this Basin Plan requirement has been met will be via the process of water resource plan accreditation.
- Schedule 12 reporting requirements in this template have been informed by the Basin Plan Schedule 12 Reporting Guidelines developed in 2015. The Basin Plan Schedule 12 Reporting Guidelines include reporting indicators which are nested under relevant Schedule 12 matters.
- New guidance can be updated annually to help reporters meet reporting obligations and ensure the reporting requirements are up to date.
- The MDBA assumes everything provided in this template is public, and licensing would allow the information’s re-use unless specifically notified.

The Basin Plan Schedule 12 Guidelines and this information collection template are inconsistent. This template sets out the current reporting requirements.

Matter 6: The extent to which local knowledge and solutions inform the implementation of the Basin Plan

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response
<p>Matter 6</p> <p>The extent to which local knowledge and solutions inform the implementation of the Basin Plan.</p> <p>Applicable to:</p> <p>Basin Plan Chapters 6, 8 & 10</p>	<p>Reporting requirement:</p> <p>Provide a summary of how local knowledge and solutions informed implementation of the Basin Plan. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> how local knowledge and solutions were used by the reporter how involving communities made a difference to Basin Plan implementation how decisions changed as a result of community involvement. <p>This may include engagement activities related to water resource planning, First Nations participation in environmental watering, and the SDL Adjustment Mechanism.</p> <p>Holders of held environmental should provide relevant examples of how they involved Indigenous people and considered Indigenous values and Indigenous uses when planning for environmental watering, including how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental water planning and/or delivery has been influenced by the outcomes desired by First Nations people. First Nations people have been engaged in environmental watering activities in an appropriate and empowering way using free, prior, and informed consent. Outcomes desired by First Nations people have been achieved through environmental watering actions. Capacity to participate in planning and influence outcomes in water management has been built among First Nations people. <p>Notes:</p> <p>Please provide links where appropriate to existing public information.</p> <p>Reporting on the involvement of involvement of First Nations in environmental water planning and delivery may be included in the Basin Plan Annual Report and/or the report on First Nations participation in environmental watering.</p> <p>Case studies are not required but may be a useful way to describe how local knowledge and solutions inform implementation of the Basin Plan.</p>	<p>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Partially met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><u>Long-Term Environmental Watering Plan for the SA River Murray Water Resource Plan Area</u></p> <p>It is a requirement under Part 4 of Chapter 8 of the Basin Plan that Long-Term Environmental Watering Plans (LTWPs) are developed for each Water Resource Plan Area. The Long-Term Environmental Watering Plan for the South Australian River Murray Water Resource Plan Area (SA River Murray LTWP) is of strategic importance for the management of the South Australian River Murray, its floodplains, wetlands and the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLMM) and provides direction for the most effective use of environmental water. The plan guides environmental water decision making and informs annual planning and implementation including the development of annual watering priorities.</p> <p>The First Nations in the area (Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation (NAC), the Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region, the River Murray and Mallee Aboriginal Corporation (RMACC) and First Nations of the South East) have been engaged as part of the current review of the SA River Murray LTWP. This ensures that environmental water planning and delivery is influenced by the outcomes desired by First Nations people including the consideration to have flows mimicking the natural flows of the River Murray. Another example is the sharing of knowledge of important environmental and cultural species. The water requirements of these important species are documented in the SA River Murray LTWP and considered in annual planning and priority setting.</p> <p>Engagement was undertaken via attending First Nations working group meetings, workshops and on-country tours. This enabled conversations regarding the possible effects of the SA River Murray LTWP and the result of delivering more water at various times and locations. Sections within the SA River Murray LTWP are being written collaboratively with each group to ensure each group's environmental values and the threats that they perceive were captured.</p> <p><u>The Living Murray</u></p> <p>As a part of The Living Murray initiative, South Australia is responsible for the management of the three icon sites – the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth, Chowilla Floodplain and the South Australian-section of the River Murray Channel. Local knowledge and community input into the management of water for the environment at these sites is an integral part of The Living Murray initiative in SA. Long-running reference groups include the Chowilla Community Reference Committee, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Working Group, River Channel and Floodplain Scientific Advisory Group, CLLMM CAP, CLLMM Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) and the Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation. Advice from these groups shape watering actions, water planning, communication activities and monitoring programs. At the October 2023 joint CLLMM CAP/SAG meeting, members advised that summer water delivery through Goolwa barrage should be prioritised for black bream recruitment, and water levels in the Lower Lakes should not be lowered below 0.6 m AHD in autumn to protect wetland habitat critical for Yarra pygmy perch (newly introduced after being locally extinct since the Millennium Drought). Monitoring later in the water year determined a significant black bream recruitment event in the northern Coorong (many juvenile black bream sampled) and positive signs that Yarra pygmy perch are persisting in Lower Lakes wetlands. More information about the CLLMM CAP and SAG, including communiques from joint meetings in 2023-24, can be found here: Department for Environment and Water - Community involvement.</p> <p>In 2023-24, to celebrate 20 years of The Living Murray program, the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) hosted 'science in the pub' and site tour events in Goolwa and Renmark to celebrate the achievements at both icon sites. The events were an opportunity to acknowledge the support of local community, scientists and First Nations to The Living Murray program. The Chowilla Community Reference Committee and CLLMM CAP members each visited the other South Australian icon site and learnt about the specific outcomes and challenges. More information about the South Australian The Living Murray 20-year celebrations can be found here for the CLLMM: The Living Murray celebrates Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth and here for Chowilla: The Living Murray celebrates Chowilla.</p>

		<p><u><i>Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin (HCHB)</i></u></p> <p>In recognition of the crucial significance of the Ramsar-listed Coorong in maintaining the overall health of the Murray-Darling Basin, as well as the effectiveness of the Basin Plan, the <i>Healthy Coorong, Healthy Basin</i> (HCHB) program has established a proactive framework aimed at enhancing the long-term well-being of the Coorong ecosystem, with particular attention directed towards the improvement of the South Lagoon area. A fundamental aspect of the HCHB program involves fostering collaboration with First Nations communities, which is carried out through a distinct, yet interconnected process known as the First Nations Partnership project.</p> <p>The First Nations Partnership project operates by engaging with Ngarrindjeri (through the NAC) and the First Nations of the South East (through Burramies Aboriginal Corporation (BAC)). The objective of these partnerships is to ensure that these First Nations entities possess the necessary capabilities to contribute their cultural knowledge, values and interests. These contributions play a pivotal role in influencing, guiding and participating in the execution of various initiatives encompassed within the six distinct projects that constitute the HCHB program. This includes but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitating broader community engagement and feedback to ensure cultural knowledge and cultural nuances are appropriately communicated to support HCHB outcomes. • Providing advice on the cultural and social benefits and impacts of proposed initiatives. • Providing cultural heritage approvals and recommendations. • Providing cultural knowledge on plans, strategies and policies and providing cultural knowledge in relation to the restoration of the Coorong and surrounding lands and waters. • Facilitating First Nations businesses and rangers' involvement in the delivery of works/activities, where appropriate. <p>The First Nations Partnerships project continues commitment through formal agreements, established in the form of grant agreements, with both the NAC and BAC. These agreements are structured to empower and enable First Nations partners to be active participants in shaping the future of the Coorong ecosystem and the broader Murray-Darling Basin.</p> <p>The current phase of the HCHB program involves a significant increase in on-ground activities at the Teringie wetlands and there has been a dedicated effort to conduct cultural heritage monitoring. This is a crucial step aimed at minimising any potential impacts on Aboriginal cultural heritage. DEW has actively collaborated with Ngarrindjeri throughout critical stages of the Teringie wetlands project including via the NAC and the Raukkan Community Council and through mechanisms such as Working Group and On-Country workshops.</p> <p>Meeting On-Country is an effective way of discussing project details in a setting that enables effective conversation regarding the real implications of decisions. These stages encompass concept development, prioritisation, detailed design development, cultural heritage management plan development and the exploration of procurement opportunities for the local Ngarrindjeri community. Furthermore, it has been anticipated that additional cultural heritage surveys may be necessary before construction commences, followed by an ongoing cultural heritage monitoring process to ensure the preservation of Ngarrindjeri cultural heritage.</p> <p><u>River Murray in South Australia Constraints Measure Early Works project</u></p> <p>Local knowledge and solutions have informed implementation of the River Murray in South Australia Constraints Measure Early Works project. The project aims to address constraints to enhanced environmental flows up to 80,000 megalitres per day at the South Australian border for environmental benefits and community resilience.</p> <p>Five external stakeholders from councils, irrigation trusts and community groups were partners in the design and construction of on-ground works at targeted sites via a formalised grants program. A wide range of stakeholder engagement activities were undertaken to engage and inform local communities about the on-ground works and the importance of regular, enhanced environmental flows. Communications, including media releases, radio interviews, newspaper articles, websites, publications, social media and community events were also undertaken to gain social license across the broader community for enhanced environmental flows.</p> <p>Four grant agreements were established with Ngarrindjeri Aboriginal Corporation, Mannum Aboriginal Community Association Incorporated, RMACC and First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region for cultural heritage surveys and monitoring, workshops, site visits and cultural water assessments. Cultural heritage surveys were conducted across all sites to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage during the design and construction of on-ground works. Four workshops were held with NAC, Ngarrindjeri Ruwe Empowering Communities, the Rural City of Murray Bridge and SA Water to co-design bank stabilisation works at Pomeruk / Hume Reserve in Murray Bridge. NAC undertook a Yarlwar Ruwe (cultural) assessment at Pomeruk / Hume Reserve to identify cultural indicators of a healthy system in conjunction with the ecological character of the area to assess the cultural health of the reserve in its current state. The River Basin Management Society highly commended DEW for the Constraints and Measures Project – Pomeruk co-design working group at their annual awards night.</p> <p>The assessment of physical constraints that impact connectivity of the river channel with the floodplain and influence its hydrological function and ecological health is also being undertaken as part of the South Australian Constraints Measures project. This method involves a technical assessment of the floodplain through spatial data analysis and field survey along with local knowledge provided through consultation with land managers, environmental water managers and First Nations' groups. These investigations will inform the development of a future program of on-ground works based on the prioritisation of sites where removal or modification of the site has the potential to provide improved ecological and hydrological outcomes and/or support cultural objectives. As these investigations continue, so too will connecting with First Nations groups through site tours, cultural heritage assessments and where relevant, Aboriginal Waterways Assessments, to provide local</p>
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Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response
		<p>knowledge and identify cultural values for prioritisation and planning of site modifications.</p> <p>The local knowledge from stakeholders, First Nations and communities has informed the identification and delivery of on-ground works at targeted sites for local environmental benefits and community resilience while gaining social license for enhanced environmental flows for the River Murray in South Australia.</p> <p><u>Sustaining Riverland Environment (SRE) program</u></p> <p>The DEW Aboriginal Partnerships team facilitate structured collaborative arrangements via grant agreements with the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region (through RMMAC). The primary objective is to empower the First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region with the necessary resources and capabilities to apply their cultural wisdom, values and aspirations in guiding, shaping and actively participating across various part of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Peoples Working Groups are comprised of individuals who are elected by the Nation's Body Corporates due to their cultural authority in representing the land and waters. These groups convene regularly with DEW to offer strategic guidance and facilitate consistent, transparent information sharing, including collaborative troubleshooting and effective communication. Workshops and On-Country meetings are held with First Peoples, which provide opportunities to deeply engage with project leads. Meeting On-Country is an effective way of discussing project detail in a setting that enables effective conversations regarding the real implications of decisions. Workshops may also include cultural heritage management and awareness with staff and contractors. <p>Workshops were held with local community representatives to guide the development of concept and detailed design components for the Bookmark Creek restoration project. Objectives from the community were able to be aligned with those of the program. The design also integrated a fishway to meet ecological objectives relating to native fish passage to improve connectivity with the main River Murray channel.</p> <p>Community engagement was undertaken during the development of conceptual designs for several River Murray connected wetland sites in the Lock 3 reach as part of SRE. This included workshops with local landholders and wetland site managers from the Riverland and Murraylands Landscape Board, together with representatives from the Gerard Aboriginal Community. Local knowledge has helped determine the priority of options and ensure that culturally sensitive areas of the floodplain are effectively considered in the development of final design solutions to improve wetland health.</p>

Matter 10: The implementation of the environmental management framework (Part 4 of Chapter 8)

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response
<p>Indicator 10.1</p> <p>Basin-wide environmental watering strategy, long-term watering plans and annual priorities were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 2-5</p> <p>Applicable to:</p> <p>Basin Plan Chapter 8, Part 4</p>	<p>Context: Under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Division 2 Basin States are obligated to prepare, review and update long-term watering plans. Under Part 4 of Chapter, Division 3 Basin States are obligated to identify annual watering priorities and provide the annual watering priorities to the MDBA.</p> <p>Reporting requirement:</p> <p>Confirm that long-term watering plans and annual watering priorities were prepared, with the required content, published, reviewed and updated as obligated under Part 4 of Chapter 8, Divisions 2-4</p> <p>If unable to confirm, please provide a statement of reasons.</p>	<p>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Partially met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (EMLR) and South Australian Murray Region LTWPs were first completed in July and December 2017 respectively, underwent minor updates following accreditation of the relevant Water Resource Plans and were resubmitted to the MDBA in August 2020. These plans are currently under review with the aim of completion within 3 months following the update of the Basin-Wide Environmental Watering Strategy (BWS). If the BWS update does not trigger an update to the EMLR and South Australian Murray Region LTWPs submission may be delayed until August 2025 in line with the 5-year timeframe. Current versions of the LTWPs area available at South Australian Department for Environment environmental water planning.</p> <p>The SA River Murray LTWP was first completed in 2015, then reviewed, updated and resubmitted to the MDBA in November 2020. A review and update is currently underway, targeting a submission date within 3 months of the update of the BWS (assuming the BWS update materially affects the SA River Murray LTWP). If the BWS update does not trigger an update to the SA River Murray LTWP then its submission may be delayed until November 2025, in line with legislated the 5-year timeframe.</p> <p>The South Australian 2023-24 Annual Water for the Environment Plans for the three respective Water Resource Plan Areas were reviewed, updated and published on the South Australian Department for Environment environmental water planning web page and provided to the MDBA by 31 May 2023. Note, in accordance the 8.23(b) of the Basin Plan, annual priorities may be provided for 2 or more years. The annual priorities for the EMLR and South Australian Murray Regions were submitted by 31 May 2023 for a period of two years.</p>

<p>Indicator 10.2</p> <p>Watering strategies, plans and priorities are prepared consistently with Part 4 of Chapter 8, in relation to coordinating, consulting and cooperating with other reporters and the matters to which regard must be had (Chapter 8, Part 4)</p> <p>Applicable to:</p> <p>Basin Plan Chapter 8, Part 4</p>	<p>Context: <i>Part 4 of Chapter 8 places obligations on Basin States that relate to consultation, and other matters (including the Basin-wide watering strategy, consistency with international agreements, identification of possible cooperative arrangements) to which Basin States must have regard to when preparing long-term watering plans and annual watering priorities.</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement:</p> <p>Confirm that watering strategies, plans and priorities are prepared consistently with Part 4 of Chapter 8, in relation to coordinating, consulting and cooperating with other reporters, and the matters to which regard must be had.</p> <p>If unable to confirm, provide a statement of reasons.</p>	<p>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Partially met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Environmental watering strategies, plans and priorities for the South Australian River Murray are informed by the Basin Plan and associated planning processes that determine how available environmental water will be available for use in the Murray-Darling Basin. A wide range of stakeholders are actively consulted in relation to South Australian long-term environmental water planning and annual water planning and prioritisation, to ensure transparent and open processes are inclusive of community and cognisant of Basin commitments.</p> <p>Cooperative arrangements between DEW, the MDBA and upstream states exist to support the implementation of LTWPs and Annual Watering Priority objectives. South Australia has been actively represented on inter-jurisdictional forums such as the Southern Connected Basin Environmental Watering Committee (SCBEWC) and is party to several sub-groups focussed on the coordination of environmental watering commitments. From a South Australian intra-state perspective, the E-Flows Reference Group liaises fortnightly to coordinate and inform actions in the region with site managers, local experts and scientists and scientific advisory groups are used to provide expert advice on flow management and environmental water use.</p> <p>The 2023-24 Water for the Environment Annual Plan for the South Australian River Murray was informed through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and community groups regarding the environmental watering actions proposed for 2023-24. Consultation and information sharing was undertaken by site managers through long-standing and on-going arrangements with groups such as the CLLMM Community Advisory Panel, CLLMM SAG, Chowilla Community Reference Committee, Katarapko Community Advisory Panel, Pike Land Management Group and other Pike floodplain landholders, the Water Advisory Committee (a committee of the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board), the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, First Peoples of the River Murray and Mallee Region Working Group, NAC, private landholders, industry groups and the general public. Consultation occurred via meetings, at which annual priorities were presented and discussed, and on-site tours. Engagement was also undertaken between DEW and non-government organisations involved in managing water for the environment to help coordinate delivery of water for the environment to various wetlands throughout the South Australian River Murray system. These non-government organisations included the Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board, Renmark Irrigation Trust and Accolade Wines.</p>
<p>Indicator 10.3</p> <p>Environmental watering accordance with Basin annual watering priorities</p> <p>Applicable to:</p> <p>Basin Plan s8.44</p>	<p>Context: <i>Section 8.44 of the Basin Plan requires reporting where annual watering priorities are not followed. This includes providing the MDBA a statement of reasons why environmental watering has not been undertaken in accordance with the priorities.</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement:</p> <p>Confirm that environmental watering was in accordance with Basin annual watering priorities.</p> <p>Where environmental watering was not in accordance with Basin annual watering priorities, provide a statement of reasons in accordance with s8.44 of the Basin Plan and Principle 1 of Division 6.</p>	<p>Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Partially met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Not met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Environmental watering was undertaken in accordance with the South Australia's 2023-24 Water for the Environment Annual Plan for the South Australian River Murray, which contains the annual priorities, and is consistent with the Basin annual watering priorities.</p> <p>As in previous years, the proposed priority watering actions for 2023-24 have been identified using a scenario-based approach for six water resource availability scenarios. These scenarios are based on MDBA's annual operating outlooks for 99% (extreme dry); 95% (very dry), 90% (dry); 75% (moderate); 50% (near average); and 25% (wet). The percentages refer to the likelihood of exceeding different water resource availability based on the analysis of historical inflows, current storage volumes and operational considerations for the upcoming year. The water availability for 2023-24 was in the dry to moderate exceedance range and watering actions were commensurate with these conditions, as outlined in plans and priorities. DEW publishes environmental watering plans and priorities annually.</p> <p>The <i>South Australian River Murray Water for the Environment Report 2023-24</i> will be available online in late 2024 and will include a description of the planned actions and changes that occurred due to flow conditions experienced during the year and outcomes achieved.</p>
<p>Indicator 10.4</p> <p>Demonstration of how the Basin Plan and/or the Environmental Watering Plan has influenced environmental watering outcomes.</p> <p>Applicable to:</p> <p>Basin Plan Chapter 8</p>	<p>Optional reporting requirement:</p> <p>Provide one or more case studies that demonstrate how the Basin Plan and/or the Environmental Watering Plan (Chapter 8) has influenced environmental watering outcomes. If appropriate, the case study may reference:</p> <p>a) the outcomes achieved</p> <p>b) how environmental watering principles were applied and identify the relevant principles</p> <p>c) environmental watering coordination and consultation process related to the Basin Plan</p> <p>d) opportunities or options to improve the Basin Plan and/or the Environmental Watering Plan (Chapter 8).</p>	<p>A record 1,650 gigalitres (GL) of environmental water flowed to South Australia in 2023-24, this being the largest volume since the introduction of the Murray-Darling Basin Plan in November 2012.</p> <p>Outcomes achieved included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping a number of native river fish species to breed, including golden perch and silver perch in the river channel and black bream in the northern Coorong Supporting juvenile congolli – an important fish in the Coorong and Lower Lakes food chain – to migrate from the Coorong to Lake Alexandrina through summer, resulting in a significant increase in their numbers Ensuring the survival of young Murray cod, which were spawned in both the year of the flood (2022) and in spring 2023. <p>These outcomes were supported by the priorities in the 2023-24 Water for the Environment Annual Plan for the South Australian River Murray, which was developed in consultation with technical experts, local community members and First Nation representatives.</p> <p>Though collaboration with SCBEWC, water was sourced from upstream storages in the River Murray and the Goulburn, Murrumbidgee and Darling rivers. The water was provided by a range of water holders, most notably the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and The Living Murray program.</p> <p>Opportunities to improve Basin Plan outcomes will come from the recovery and delivery of the 450 GL for the environment and continued improvement in collaboration and coordination of environmental watering events with up-stream states.</p>

Matter 13: The implementation, where necessary, of the emergency response process for critical human water needs.

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response
Matter 13 Applicable to: Basin Plan s11.05, s11.08(3)	13a Context: Under s11.05 of the Basin Plan BOC members have a role in advising the MDBA if a salinity and water quality trigger is reached Reporting requirement: Indicate if a water quality trigger (as per s11.05 of the Basin Plan) was reached and if so, what action was taken.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No water quality triggers were reached in 2023-24.
	13b Context: a) The MDBA will provide New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia with Water Resource Assessments, from which the States make decisions about allocations. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant. (b) During periods of Tier 3 water sharing arrangements, the MDBA will provide the Ministerial Council with Water Resource Assessments, from which New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia make decisions about allocations when determining if water can be made available for uses other than critical human water. Assessments will be provided at least monthly, and more frequently if conditions warrant. c) A Basin State must have regard to advice from the Authority regarding the volume of water to be made available to it in a particular year, when making decisions about whether water is made available for uses other than meeting critical human water needs (s11.08(3)). d) The MDBA, through the preparation of the Water Resource Assessment will determine if the appropriate conditions apply. If New South Wales, Victoria or South Australia considers the triggers have been reached, its BOC member should advise the Executive Director, River Management, MDBA. The Guideline for triggers and processes for changing water sharing Tiers provides more information on how the MDBA will communicate a change in water sharing arrangements to the Basin States, CEWH and the Department. Reporting requirement: Indicate if a trigger was reached and what action was taken to implement water sharing arrangements.	Have the agreements for Tier 2 and Tier 3 water sharing been implemented. Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No periods of Tier 2 or 3 water sharing arrangements occurred in 2023-24. South Australia had regard to advice provided by the MDBA in its water availability assessments when making water allocation decisions. Water allocation decisions were based on the worst-case scenario provided by the MDBA at each assessment. South Australia publishes information on water allocations including details about allocation announcements.

Matter 14: The implementation of the water quality and salinity management plan, including the extent to which regard is had to the targets in Chapter 9 when making flow management decisions

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response
<p>Indicator 14.1 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when managing water flows</p> <p>Indicator 14.2 Regard had to the targets in s9.14 when making decisions about the use of environmental water</p> <p>Applicable to: Basin Plan s9.14</p>	<p>Context: <i>Basin Plan s9.14 recognises that flow management, in some circumstances, can assist with the management of water quality issues, such as salinity, hypoxic blackwater events and blue green algae outbreaks. The intent of s9.14 is that 'having regard' to these risks and opportunities becomes part of business as usual when making decisions about flow management or the use of environmental water. Other actions that can also address water quality issues include coordination and communication about blue green algae outbreaks or hypoxic blackwater events.</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement: Describe how water quality issues were considered, when making decisions about flow management or the use of environmental water, and/or other actions; did this make a difference to these water quality issues and are there any learnings to inform adaptive management.</p>	<p>Indicator 14.1 Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> Not met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Indicator 14.2 Environmental water management Met <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partially met <input type="checkbox"/> Not met <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Objectives and Outcomes for Operating the River Murray in South Australia and the 2023-24 Water for the Environment Annual Plan for the South Australian River Murray have guided transparent and coordinated River Murray operational decisions in South Australia, in a manner consistent with and with regard to Basin Plan objectives. The plans document the objectives and outcomes sought under a range of climate and inflow scenarios, describe how the desired outcomes are proposed to be delivered and identify how the River Murray in South Australia may be routinely operated under several potential water availability scenarios.</p> <p>During 2023-24, flow management and environmental watering decisions were made regularly by DEW, consistent with the objectives and outcomes of these plans. Actions to be undertaken that may have associated water quality risks, or are outside of an agreed operating plan, require a River Murray Action Request.</p> <p>The purpose of a River Murray Action Request is to capture specific details of each action being undertaken and enable the impacts of the action (or cumulative actions) to be considered, including risks to water quality. River Murray Action Requests provide sufficient information to make a prompt decision to undertake, modify or not undertake a proposed action, given the conditions in the river at the time the event is proposed.</p> <p>During 2023-24, a total of 16 River Murray Action Requests were submitted to DEW relating to wetland management, increasing flows through regulators, floodplain management and weir pool raising and lowering. All requests were assessed for their individual and cumulative impacts on the River Murray and downstream users.</p>

Matter 16: The implementation of water trading rules

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response
<p>Matter 16 The implementation of water trading rules. Applicable to: Basin Plan s12.37, s12.38, s12.39, s12.43, s12.46, s12.48 s12.50</p>	<p>16a Context: <i>Basin Plan s12.38 requires an approval authority to disclose if it has been party to a trade and publish information about the trade on its website.</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement: Provide website links to the publication of information regarding an approval authority's interest in a trade (s12.38 (2)).</p> <p>16b Context: <i>Basin Plan s12.37 requires an approval authority to disclose interest before a trade occurs.</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement:</p>	<p>16a and b Delegates of the South Australian Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, as the Approval Authority, provide a declaration to the parties to a trade, if the Minister has an interest in a trade. The Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, or the delegate(s), may engage in trade for a variety of purposes, including the management of environmental assets, such as The Living Murray icon sites.</p> <p>DEW has ethical barriers in place, with separate administrative and decision-making functions for trade approval and trading. These arrangements are supported by the Managing Sensitive Water Market Information and Trading Policy and Procedure. All trades made by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water are publicly disclosed here: https://access.mywater.sa.gov.au/aca/customization/dew/datamart.html</p> <p>16c South Australia's water trading rules are consistent with the Basin Plan water trading rules. As per the Basin Plan definition of restrictions in relation to water trade, there may be instances where DEW refuses, prevents, deters, delays, or imposes a condition or a barrier on a water trade.</p> <p>Should DEW restrict the trade of a water access right in accordance with a Water Allocation Plan and/or the Basin Plan water trading rules,</p>

	<p>Provide documentation to support compliance with s12.37 (notice of disclosure).</p> <p>16c</p> <p>Context: <i>If an approval authority decides to restrict a trade proposed trade, it must give notice of the decision and the reason for the decision to each party (Basin Plan s12.39).</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement:</p> <p>Describe how affected parties were notified with the decision to restrict a trade and reasons for the restriction consistent with s12.39.</p> <p>16d</p> <p>Context: <i>A person that makes water announcements must ensure that it is made in a manner that is generally available (Basin Plan s12.50).</i></p> <p>Reporting requirement:</p> <p>Provide documentation that supports a compliance with s12.50 (water announcements to be made generally available).</p> <p>16e</p> <p>Reporting requirement: Has the Basin State made any changes to the water access rights displayed on the MDBA's Water Market products page? If so what documentation has been provided to the MDBA with the updated information as required under s12.43?</p> <p>16f</p> <p>Reporting requirement: Has the Basin State implemented any new trade rules that regulate the trade of tradable water access rights? If so have they provided these rules to the central information point as required under s12.46?</p> <p>16g</p> <p>Reporting requirement: Has the Basin State sold water in the previous year? If so, did they notify the approval or registration authority of the price agree for the trade as required under s12.48?</p>	<p>notice is given to each party involved in the trade. The notice to each party includes detail on the decision to restrict the trade and the reasons for the decision. Notice is provided as soon as practicable but, in any case, within 30 days after the decision. The reasons for refusing a trade must comply with both the Basin Plan water trading rules and state the relevant provision of a Water Allocation Plan (if relevant) or reasons such as an invalid application form being lodged or insufficient water available on a holder's account.</p> <p>16d</p> <p>DEW made several water announcements during 2023-24, which were all made generally available. Announcements were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uploaded on DEW's website, https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation • Reported in the weekly "River Murray Flow Report", which is emailed to approximately 2,000 recipients and also made available on DEW's website, https://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/River-Murray/SitePages/River%20Murray%20Flow%20Reports.aspx. • Accompanied by a Media Release to radio, print, electronic and social media when the announcement was considered significant. <p>The 2023-24 water allocation announcements were published in the South Australian Government Gazette. An example of a water allocation statement made in regard to 2023-24 water use year can be found at https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/environment/images/Water-Allocation-Statement-2023-24.pdf</p> <p>Copies of previous years' announcements and 'water allocation statements' can be found on DEW's website: https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation/historical-allocations</p> <p>16e</p> <p>South Australia did not make any changes to the South Australian River Murray water access rights displayed on the MDBA's Water Market products page in 2023-24.</p> <p>16f</p> <p>South Australia has not implemented any new trade rules that regulate the trade of tradable water access rights during 2023-24.</p> <p>16g</p> <p>The South Australian Minister for Climate, Environment and Water has traded water allocations and entitlements during 2023-24 and reports the price (including \$0) in connection with relevant trade applications submitted to the approval or registration authority. Trades made by the Minister for Climate, Environment and Water, including information relating to the agreed price of trade, are publicly disclosed here: https://access.mywater.sa.gov.au/aca/customization/dew/datamart.html</p>
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Matter 21: The accountability and transparency of water sharing arrangements

Reporting Matter	Reporting Requirement (Supporting evidence to be provided by Basin States)	Response
Matter 21	<p>Context: Reporting on the accountability and transparency of water sharing arrangements provides stakeholders with access to both foundational and technical information and supports the building of stakeholder capacity to navigate complex water management arrangements</p> <p>Reporting requirement: Provide website links to information related to water sharing arrangements within the Basin State (e.g. Basin Plan water resource plans that are operational, state water sharing plans and policies, water planning processes, and water management legislation).</p>	<p>Accredited South Australian Water Resource Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Australian River Murray Water Resource Plan (https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications-and-data/publications/south-australian-river-murray-water-resource-plan) South Australian Murray Region Water Resource Plan (https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications-and-data/publications/south-australian-murray-region-water-resource-plan) Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges (https://www.mdba.gov.au/publications-and-data/publications/eastern-mount-lofty-ranges-water-resource-plan) <p>Water Resource Plan South Australian Water Allocation Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Allocation Plan for the River Murray Prescribed Watercourse (https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/river-murray-wap) Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges Water Allocation Plan (https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/eastern-mount-lofty-ranges-wap) Marne Saunders Prescribed Water Resources Area Water Allocation Plan (https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/marne-saunders) Peake, Roby and Sherlock Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan (https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/peake-robby-and-sherlock) Mallee Prescribed Wells Area Water Allocation Plan Water Management Legislation (https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/mr/water/water-allocation-plans/mallee) <i>Landscape South Australia Act 2019</i> (https://www.legislation.sa.gov.au/lz/path=%2FC%2FA%2FLANDSCAPE%20SOUTH%20AUSTRALIA%20ACT%202019) <p>Water sharing and allocation frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Sharing under the <i>Murray-Darling Basin Agreement</i> (https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/about/water-sharing) River Murray water allocation and carryover (https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation) How River Murray water is allocated? (https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation/how-water-is-allocated) SA River Murray Water Calculator (https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/river-murray/water-allocation/water-calculator)