

**VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL WATER HOLDER**  
**SEASONAL WATERING STATEMENT #9 FOR**  
**NORTH CENTRAL CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY 2018-19**  
**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 inundate Gunbower Forest's floodplain, floodrunners and wetlands. The watering action aims to improve the health and resilience of vegetation communities, including river red gums and wetland vegetation, provide feeding and breeding 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 2018-19*. This seasonal watering statement also authorises use of return flows from Gunbower Forest at downstream sites along the River Murray.

**2. DURATION OF APPROVAL**

This seasonal watering statement is valid from 11 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, unless superseded by another seasonal watering statement or revoked by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.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 68,000 ML of water from the Water Holdings in Gunbower Forest.

This water is made available by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and can be used under the *Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Flora and Fauna) Conversion Order 1999* (ABA062294, ABA043408, ABA065283, ABA065905, ABA105075, ABA043265, ABA094002, ABA068158) and *Environmental Entitlement (River Murray – NVIRP Stage 1) 2012* (ABA088039) held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

This authorisation includes:

- Up to 68,000 ML of water committed by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority in accordance with its decision communicated through an email to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder on 30 May 2018.
- Up to 10,000 ML of water committed by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder

Water is to be delivered consistent with the potential watering actions specified in section 5.2.2 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2018-19* and the provisions of the entitlement including access to unregulated flows.

This seasonal watering statement supersedes *Seasonal Watering Statement #7* and the total volume authorised includes water used under *Seasonal Watering Statement #7* between 1 July 2018 and 10 July 2018.

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 *Seasonal Watering Proposal Gunbower Forest and Gunbower Creek 2018-19* and in line with section 1.3.6 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2018-19*
- (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 11 July 2018

By

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

**Denis Flett**, Chairperson Victorian Environmental Water Holder  
Upon decision of the Commission of the Victorian Environmental Water Holder  
made on 11 July 2018.