

**VICTORIAN ENVIRONMENTAL WATER HOLDER**  
**WATERING AUTHORISATION #1**  
**VEWH OFFICE 2023-24**  
**BARMAH FOREST, MURRAY RIVER AND DARLING 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 the Victorian Environmental Water Holder Office to use water from the Water Holdings at Barmah Forest, Murray River and in the Darling River to:

- achieve environmental objectives and expected watering effects specified in section 5.2.2 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24*
- and for emergency environmental watering in accordance with section 1.2.8 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24*
- achieve non-Victorian environmental objectives for the Great Darling Anabranch, lower Darling River and Murray River in partnership with New South Wales, South Australia and other delivery agencies.

**2. DURATION OF APPROVAL**

This authorisation is valid from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, unless superseded by another watering authorisation or revoked by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

**3. AUTHORISATION TO USE THE WATER HOLDINGS**

The VEWH Office is authorised to order the release of up to 654,500 ML of water from the VEWH Holdings at Barmah Forest and in the Murray River.

This water is made available by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and can be used under the *Bulk Entitlement River Murray – Flora and Fauna Conversion Order 1999* (allocation accounts 086322, 094003, 068157, 108630, 108631, 102506, 062295, 091243, 043398, 107185, 043265, 105075, 062294, 065283, 043408, 107193) and clause 10 and schedule 6 of the entitlement held by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

This authorisation includes water committed:

- By the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder in accordance with a decision communicated through the *Commonwealth Watering Schedule– 2023-24 Victorian Murray*, executed on 5 July 2023.
- In accordance with a decision of the Southern Connected Basin Environmental Watering Committee communicated to the Victorian Environmental Water Holder via email on 12 July 2023.
- By the Victorian Environmental Water Holder.

Water is to be delivered under the provisions of the entitlement and in accordance with the potential environmental watering actions specified in Table 5.2.3 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24* or the emergency watering procedure in section 1.2.8 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24*.

This authorisation is subject to:

- (a) endorsement of a delivery plan for Barmah Forest by the Victorian Environmental Water Holder and implementation of the conditions and risk mitigating strategies of the endorsed delivery plan and in line with section
- (b) transfer of water from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- (c) 1.2.7 of the *Seasonal Watering Plan 2023-24* VEWH Office agreement that appropriate risk management is being undertaken for delivery to non-Victorian sites.

**Execution**

Executed on 14 July 2023

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 22 June 2023.