

River Murray Water Resource Summary

1 September 2009

River Murray system inflows continue to remain at historically low levels and Special Water Sharing Arrangements have been implemented for 2009-10.

Figure 1: Minimum Flow to South Australia in 2009-10

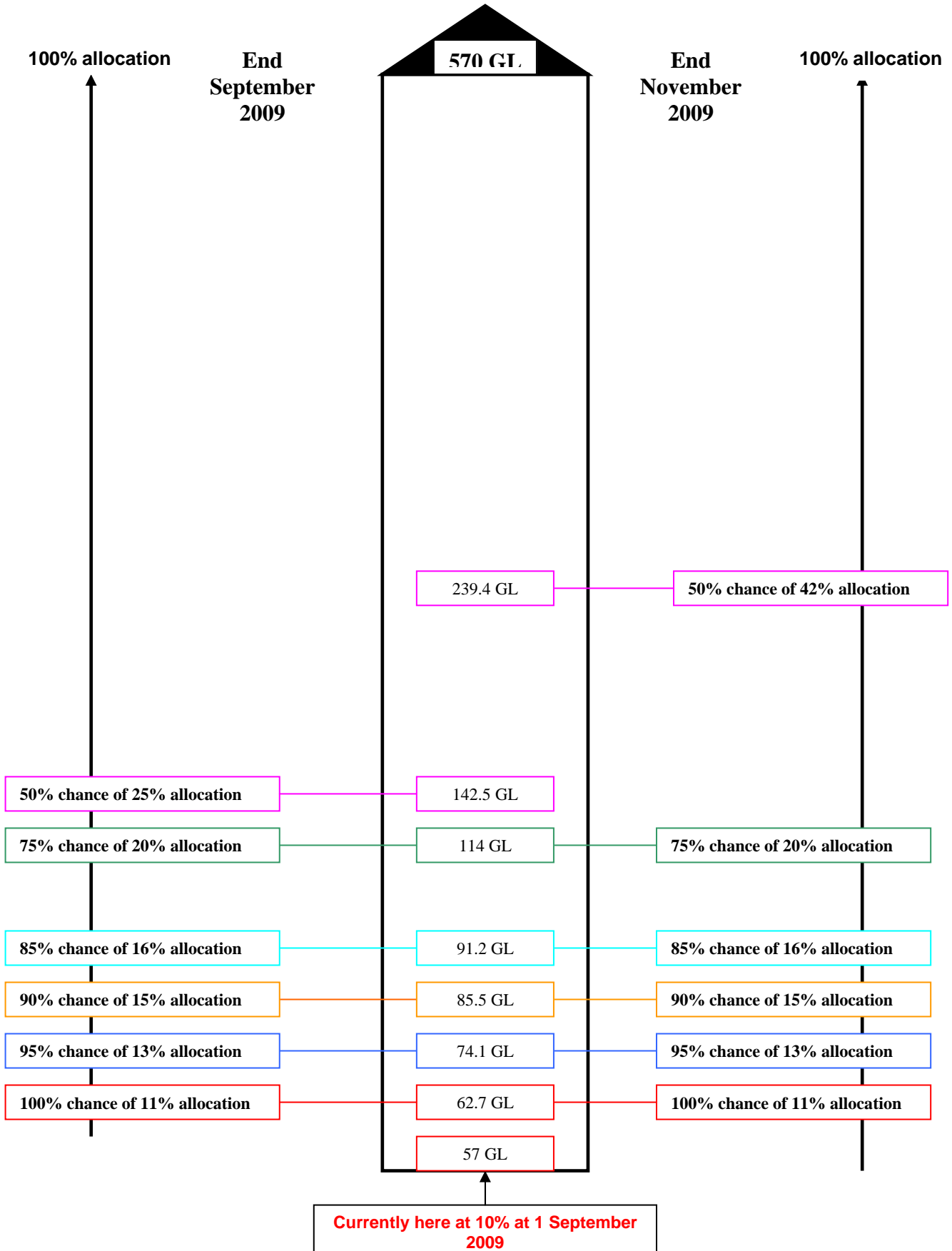
Minimum Requirements for South Australia During 2009-10 to Maintain Water Quality below an upper limit of 1 400 EC at Murray Bridge	
696 GL	South Australia's minimum dilution flow
201 GL	Water for critical human water needs in areas supplied with River Murray water via SA Water (eg Adelaide, country towns and areas, private stock, domestic and industrial)

South Australia is guaranteed a minimum, regulated flow of at least 897 GL during 2009-10 to maintain water quality below an upper limit of no more than 1 400 EC at Murray Bridge. **Figure 1** shows that this minimum flow consists of dilution flow and water for critical human water needs. The dilution flow of 696 GL is needed to cover system losses and dilution requirements from the South Australian border to Wellington while providing a small flow into Lake Alexandrina. The dilution flow is not available for allocation or consumptive use.

Irrigators have access to 100% of private carry over and an allocation of 10% from 1 September 2009. Further increases to allocations are subject to future inflows and improvements to South Australia.

Under the Special Water Sharing Arrangements for 2009-10 South Australia is required to repay an advance of water from NSW and Victoria. The advance is currently 110 GL and repayment occurs at a rate of 50% of improvements. This repayment has been included in the general allocation outlook.

Figure 2: Probability of Irrigation Allocations in 2009-10



NOTE: figures above are based on end of month water availability projections. Allocation announcements may be made on the 1st and 15th of each month or next business day

Figure 2 shows the probability of receiving different levels of irrigation allocations based on end of selected months. For example, it shows there is a 50% chance of general allocations increasing to 42% based on end of November 2009 projections. The figure also shows the volume of water at different levels of allocations. For example, allocations at 10% are equivalent to 57 GL of water. **Table 1** below shows the possible allocations to the end of March 2010 for the different scenarios.

Figures 2 and **Table 1** are based on data provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and analysed by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation. The figures that have been used to calculate this diagram are based on the dry tercile (driest 1/3 of years) and are conservative. The Murray-Darling Basin has just experienced a dry autumn and there is a significant chance of dry conditions persisting.

The projections also take into account the need to share water between irrigation, critical human water needs reserve for 2010-11, environmental use and flows into the Lower Lakes. If inflows conditions remain low, it will be difficult to provide water for all competing demands.

Table 1: Possible Irrigation Allocations Under Different Scenarios and Selected Months

Scenario	September 2009	November 2009	January 2010	March 2010
100% chance (minimum inflows)	11	11	11	11
95% chance	13	13	13	13
90% chance	15	15	15	15
85% chance	16	16	16	22
75% chance	20	20	26	35
50% chance	25	42	61	78

All outlook information will be reviewed on a monthly basis and planning decisions should take into account current inflow conditions and meteorological predictions.

While improvements under the dry scenarios appear to be limited, the assessment is conservative and it is still early in the season.