

2016 State Report Card

Are surface water resources being used within their allocated limits?

Water is fundamental for our industries, our health and way of life, and our environment. Managing water use within allocated limits is important to maintain its productive capacity. Pressure on surface water resources is likely to increase due to increased irrigation needs and population and projections of reduced rainfall and increased [temperature](#) associated with climate change.

The surface water resources we rely on the most and those at the greatest risk of over use have been [prescribed](#), with allocation limits defined in respective [water allocation plans](#). There are eight prescribed surface water resources in South Australia (shown on the map at the bottom).

This report card is based on [surface water status reports](#) and assesses whether the use of prescribed surface water resources is within the limits defined in water allocation plans. The water requirements of aquatic ecosystems are incorporated within the use limits of water allocation plans. The current and future water requirements of Aboriginal Nations are not currently incorporated into water allocation planning and at this stage do not form part of this assessment.



Regional trends in the use of prescribed surface water resources



State target

Maintain the productive capacity of our natural resources

Trend (2011–15)

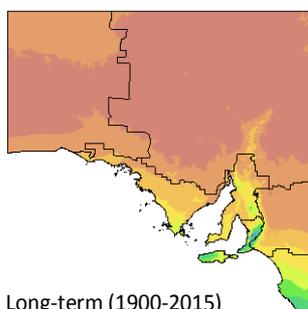
Variable

All four surface water resources, that have extraction data, have been used within allocated limits since 2011

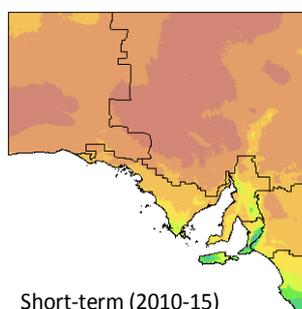
Between 2011–15, water extractions increased in the Clare Valley, Marne Saunders and River Murray prescribed surface water resources. Surface water resources in the state are predominantly dependant on rainfall, with water use trends (inversely) following rainfall trends.

Rainfall, averaged across the state, during the 2014/15 financial year (figure on right) was approximately 32 per cent below the short-term average and 20 per cent below the long-term average.

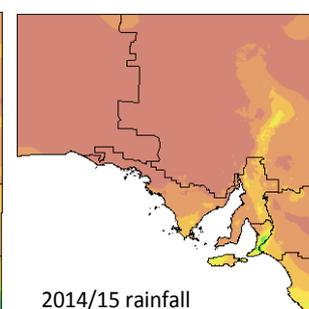
Average annual rainfall (mm)



Long-term (1900-2015)



Short-term (2010-15)



2014/15 rainfall

Where we are at (2015)

Good

Four prescribed surface water resources have been used within allocated limits. Water use data is not available for the other remaining areas.

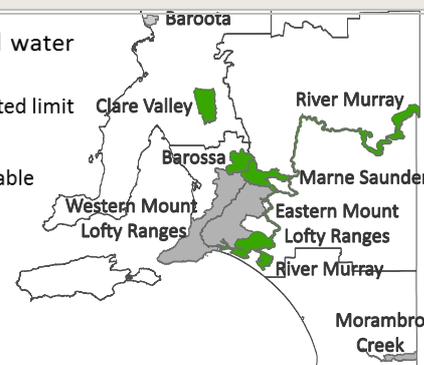
Surface water use was within the allocation limits in four of the prescribed surface water resource during the 2014/15 financial year.

Water use as a percentage of the allocation limit was:

- 58 per cent in River Murray resource
- 72 per cent in the Marne Saunders resource
- 53 per cent in the Barossa resource
- 90 per cent in the Clare Valley resource

Metered and/or estimated surface water use data are currently not available for the remaining four prescribed surface water resources; Baroota, Morambro Creek, Eastern Mount Lofty Ranges and Western Mount Lofty Ranges.

Status of prescribed water use in 2014-15:



Reliability of information



Good. Surface water use data are not available for four prescribed resources.

Further information: [Technical information for this report card](#), [the status of South Australian water resources](#)



