

Understanding your options with unused water

The 2017/18 gravity irrigation season for the Goulburn-Murray Irrigation District (GMID) will end on Tuesday 15 May 2018. Final meter readings for GMID customers will be taken at the end of May. Meter readings for Diversions customers will be finalised by the end of June.

It's important for customers to know and understand the options available to them to ensure against allocation being written off.

Please remember that if you have unused water that you wish to carryover, it needs to be linked to your water shares before June 30.

Using your water

Water entitlement holders have the option of using all of their unused water prior to the end of the irrigation season.

GMW's 24-hour ordering system WaterLINE can be used to lodge irrigation orders, find your allocation account balance and manage your accounts.

WaterLINE can be accessed by visiting www.gmwater.com.au/waterline or calling 1300 469 469.

Carryover

Carryover allows some water entitlement holders to take their unused water allocation from this irrigation season, into the next.

Carrying over water means that the unused allocation is available to use or trade in the next season without the need to purchase and ensures access to water at the start of the season. Carryover has the potential to protect against increases in the market price of water.

Carryover is available to water entitlement holders in the Campaspe, Goulburn, Murray, Bullarook, Loddon, and Broken systems. Some groundwater entitlement holders also have access to carryover.

Customers wishing to carryover their unused allocation must trade it into an allocation account linked to a sufficient volume of water shares. To do this, an *Application to trade water allocation* form, also



known as a Form 39, must be submitted to GMW by 27 June 2018.

Trades can be completed online until 30 June 2018 by visiting www.waterregister.vic.gov.au

A linked allocation account is an allocation account linked to a water share, limited term transfer of a water share, or supply by agreement. Water allocations not in a linked allocation account at 30 June 2018 are not eligible for carryover and are returned to the pool for reallocation in the following season.

Water entitlement holders must also check which water shares are linked to the allocation account they intend to carry over in. Water entitlement holders who have more than one allocation account may need to make changes to get the most out of the carryover arrangement. Please note that the maximum carryover volume is the equivalent of your water shares in your allocation account.

For more information on how carryover works, visit <https://www.gmwater.com.au/customer-services/end-of-season/carrying-over-unused-allocation>

Selling your water

Water entitlement holders have the option of selling their unused water allocation through a trade.

Water share and allocation trading in Victoria is governed by rules set by the Minister for Water. For more information on these rules, visit www.waterregister.com.au/water-trading.

A water broker can assist water entitlement holders to find a buyer for their allocation.

A link to a list of water brokers is available on the Australian Water Brokers Association website at <http://awba.org.au/membership/members/>

Manual trades must be processed by 27 June 2018.

Online trades can be processed through www.waterregister.com.au until 30 June 2018.

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Relinquishing your water

If water entitlement holders do not wish to use, sell or carryover their unused water, they can apply to relinquish their allocation. There is no charge to relinquish water and it saves on extra storage fees.

To relinquish water, applications must be lodged with GMW by 27 June, or 30 June if the application is made online.

Relinquishing water stops the automated carryover process and means customers with more allocation than entitlement will avoid an above entitlement fee.

Key dates and deadlines

10 May 2018	last day to submit water orders to ensure delivery
15 May 2018	end of gravity irrigation season
30 May 2018	last day to submit land applications and delivery share transfers
2 June 2018	end of season accounts issued
18 June 2018	last day to submit water share applications
27 June 2018	last day to submit manual applications to trade or relinquish allocations
30 June 2018	last day to submit online applications to trade or relinquish allocations
3 July 2018	last day to pay end of season accounts
15 August 2018	first day of the new irrigation season

Final Seasonal Determination update

As part of the final Seasonal Determination update for 2017/2018, low reliability water shares (LRWS) in the Campaspe system increased from 58 per cent to 59 per cent. The Campaspe system also has 100 per cent high-reliability water shares (HRWS).

Seasonal determinations in the Murray, Goulburn and Loddon systems remain unchanged at 100 per cent HRWS. The Broken and Bullarook systems remain at 100 per cent HRWS and 100 per cent LRWS.

Rain in late March did not significantly increase resource availability across northern Victorian systems.

During April and in the lead up to the end of the irrigation season, GMW has been encouraging customers to consider their irrigation needs as early as possible due to high demand for water.

A GMW Planner can review irrigation orders and help manage the needs of water entitlement holders. To contact a planner phone 1300 469 469.

More information

The Victorian Water Register website www.waterregister.vic.gov.au provides extensive information about the options available to water entitlement holders at the end of the irrigation season, particularly regarding carryover, and includes a range of resources such as fact sheets, FAQs and videos.

Please note GMW does not provide advice on what water entitlement holders should do with their unused allocation. Water entitlement holders are responsible for taking the necessary steps to ensure their allocation is not written off.

