

Irrigators' Share Distribution – don't miss out on your share

What is the irrigators' share?

The irrigators' share is a portion of water recovered through stage 1 of the Connections Project (also previously known as NVRIP).

The irrigators share is up to 75 gegalitres (GL) of water measured as long term annual average yield (LTAAY).

What does this mean for me?

Delivery shareholders will receive a once-off distribution, depending on how much delivery share they hold.

Delivery share of 0.25 ML/day or more: irrigators receive a package of high-reliability water shares (HRWS) and low-reliability water shares (LRWS).

Delivery share below 0.25 ML/day: irrigators receive financial benefits, equivalent to the value of the water shares, provided as a credit on your GMW bill.

The distribution will be based on how much delivery share you hold at the census date in early October 2021, when information on delivery share holdings will be taken from the [Victorian Water Register](#).

More information on the census date will be provided in early 2021.

How do I know if I am eligible?

If you hold a delivery share and pay an infrastructure access fee (IAF) in any of the six irrigation areas in the Goulburn Murray Irrigation District (GMID) – Torrumbarry, Loddon Valley, Rochester, Central Goulburn, Murray Valley and Shepparton – you will receive part of the irrigators' share.

How do I know how much delivery share I hold?

The easiest way is to check your GMW fixed charges bill that was issued in July 2020.

What distribution will I receive?

Customers will receive a mix of high reliability water shares (HRWS) and low reliability water shares (LRWS) from their local trading zone.

The exact amount of water shares will be announced once they have been confirmed in the coming months. An estimate of the mix of high and low-

reliability water recovery was provided to the Irrigators' Share Consultative Committee to assist in discussion, based on a forecast of works to be completed. This estimate of 4 ML of high-reliability and 1.8 ML of low-reliability water shares remains subject to confirmation and may change depending on the final works completed.

As these estimates are subject to change once the final verification of water savings occurs, they should not be used to make specific business decisions.

Customers with less than 0.25 ML/day of delivery share will receive bill credits, as the cost to manage the parcel of water shares outweighs its value, and the entitlement is too small to issue.

It is important to consider the distribution of the irrigators' share in any decisions you make around managing delivery share, or when buying or selling land in the GMID that has delivery share.

When will I receive the distribution?

Water shares will be issued by 31 October 2021, part-way through the 2021/22 water season, along with any water allocations which would have accrued against these entitlements since July 2021. This is the earliest date they can be issued while ensuring the reliability of all Victorian water entitlements is fully protected.

Due to the need to sell water shares to fund the financial benefits for those less than 0.25ML/day, credits on GMW bills will be provided in 2022.

How do I know if my records are up to date?

The Delivery Share Entity (DSE) is held by the legal owners of the land.

Customers can check their GMW fixed charges account to determine the number of delivery shares they own (DSE quantities are listed with the Infrastructure Access Fee), or can phone GMW on 1800 013 357.

What if I need to update my records?

Customers can contact GMW on 1800 013 357 to update their billing address, or to discuss DSE, Allocation Account or Water Use licence ownership.

If you need to transfer water services, restructure your water entitlement, or consolidate delivery

shares, or have any other questions about your records, please phone us on 1800 013 357.

What happens if my records are not updated before the census date?

Water shares will be issued based on the DSE ownership on the census date in early October 2021.

It is important therefore to ensure your records are up to date before then, and that your water entitlements are set up correctly.

What if my delivery share is split between outlets?

Water shares are issued against a DSE. Therefore if the DSE covers multiple outlets, the daily rate on each outlet adds up to the total delivery share on which the distribution will be based.

If customers hold different DSEs on other outlets or properties, a separate water share will be issued for each (assuming the daily rate is at least 0.25 ML).

Customers can apply to apportion rates from the same DSE across service points via a [Form 35 - Application to Vary a Delivery Share \(DSV\)*](#).

If customers have multiple DSEs, they may be able to transfer from one DSE to another via a [Form 36 - Application to Permanently Transfer Delivery Share \(DST\)*](#).

**Form 35 and Form 36 Applications are subject to rules and channel/flow rate capacities.*

What should I do if I have delivery share on more than one property?

You do not need to do anything if the additional land and DSE is owned by the same person.

Can I take up more delivery share?

New delivery share for irrigation is not being issued in the GMID, unless delivery share cannot be sourced within the market.

Customers can however increase or decrease their delivery share if there are buyers, sellers or other customers within the market. Delivery share associated in these transactions are eligible as there is no net increase to Delivery Share within the GMID.

**These applications are subject to rules and channel/flow rate capacities.*

What happens if I have a joint account?

The water share is issued to the holders of the DSE who are the recorded landowners. Therefore, if the

land parcels and DSE are owned by multiple people, that is how the water shares will be issued.

What happens if I disagree with what I receive?

Project inquiries, appeals and review processes will be in place to resolve disputes, and further information on this will be provided in 2021.

Irrigator share recipients will be responsible for amending their issued water shares, allocations accounts and other water account details following the distribution of the irrigators' share.

How was the distribution approach determined?

The distribution method was recommended to the Minister by the Irrigators' Share Consultative Committee (ISCC).

The ISCC developed an initial proposal and undertook engagement with the irrigation community. Community feedback included 200 surveys and two detailed written submissions, as well as discussions from two virtual town hall events with more than 100 attendees.

A final recommendation was then provided to the Minister for Water.

For more information on the ISCC's recommendation to the Minister, see the [Engage Victoria: Distributing the Irrigators Share website](#).

On this page, you will find:

- The ISCC's Recommendation report to the Minister for Water
- The ISCC's Closing the Loop Report, detailing feedback received through consultation
- A short fact sheet about the ISCC's recommendation
- A Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) fact sheet about the make-up of the irrigators share.

The Minister for Water then [announced her decision on the Irrigators Share Distribution in October 2020](#).

What if I need further information or assistance?

For more information email ISDProject@gmwater.com.au or phone the GMW Customer Experience Team on 1800 013 357.