

29 September 2025

The Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Water
Level 1, 2 Treasury Place
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

via Gayle.Tierney@parliament.vic.gov.au

Dear Minister

Application to Amend Goulburn-Murray Water Murray Bulk Entitlement

Goulburn-Murray Water (GMW) applies to you under section 44 of the *Water Act 1989* to amend the *Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Goulburn-Murray Water) Conversion Order 1999* ('Murray BE').

The GMW Board approved the proposed amendments at Meeting 385 on 24 September 2025.

This application seeks amendment of the Murray BE to support the rationing of GMW irrigation districts during a declared River Murray Shortfall Event. The amendment ensures GMW is restricted to the declared shortfall rationing rate at its irrigation district offtakes during a River Murray Shortfall Event, which consequently will require GMW to restrict delivery shares via section 227(4)(ba) of the *Water Act 1989*. The amendment also updates the table of GMW offtake points and extraction rates shown in Schedule 4 of the Murray BE to reflect those currently in operation.

The *Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Goulburn-Murray Water) Further Amendment Order 2025* supports this amendment and is enclosed. Officers of the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and GMW have prepared this draft instrument.

If you require further information about this application, please contact Dr Mark Bailey, Manager Water Resources, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
MANAGING DIRECTOR

[REDACTED] Beth Ashworth, A/Executive Director Water Resource Strategy, DEECA
Mark Bailey, Manager Water Resources, GMW

encl: Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Goulburn-Murray Water) Further Amendment Order 2025

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WATER ACT 1989

BULK ENTITLEMENT (RIVER MURRAY – GOULBURN-MURRAY WATER) FURTHER AMENDMENT ORDER 2025

I, Gayle Tierney MP, Minister for Water, under the provisions of the **Water Act 1989**, make the following Order –

Title

1. This Order is called the Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Goulburn-Murray Water) Further Amendment Order 2025.

Purpose

2. The purpose of this Order is to amend the Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Goulburn-Murray Water) Conversion Order 1999 to include new clause 16A that requires Goulburn-Murray Water to restrict the rate of take from bulk water offtakes that supply irrigation districts, during shortfall events in the River Murray. The Order also updates the table of off-take points and rates in Schedule 4 of the Bulk Entitlement Order to reflect those currently in operation.

Authorising provision

3. This Order is made in accordance with section 44 of the **Water Act 1989**.

Commencement

4. This Order comes into effect on the day it is published in the Victoria Government Gazette.

Definitions

5. In this Order a reference to the Bulk Entitlement Order is a reference to Bulk Entitlement (River Murray – Goulburn-Murray Water) Conversion Order 1999 (as amended).

Amendment to Clause 4 Definitions

6. In Clause 4 of the Bulk Entitlement Order:
 - a) after the definition of “Connections Project” **insert** –
‘ **“delivery share”** means the right to the service of having water delivered in an irrigation district under section 222(1)(a) of the Act, at specified volumes during specified periods as determined under section 223 of the Act;’ ; and
 - b) after the definition of “environment Minister” **insert** –
‘ **“extraction share rationing rate”** has the same meaning as the portion of the notional rationing rate that a general place of take holder is restricted to under a restriction determination;’ ; and
 - c) after the definition of “high-reliability entitlement” **insert** –
‘ **“irrigation district”** has the meaning given to it in section 3 (1) of the Act;’ ; and
 - d) after the definition of “primary entitlement” **insert** –
‘ **“rationed off-take point”** means an off-take point:

- (a) that Goulburn-Murray Water takes water from to service an irrigation district or part of an irrigation district; and
- (b) is located within the same geographic reach of the River Murray as a rationing area that is the subject of a restriction determination, and that rationing area is one of the following:
 - (i) Barmah-Nyah; or
 - (ii) Nyah-Euston Weir; or
 - (iii) Euston Weir-Mildura Weir; or
 - (iv) Mildura Weir-Lock 7; or
 - (v) Lock 7-South Australian border;’ ; and
- e) after the definition of “rationed off-take point” **insert** –
 - ‘ “**rationing area**” means an area in a declared water system that has been declared by the Minister to be a rationing area in the *Declaration of Rationing Areas in Declared Water Systems 2023* made under section 6C(1) of the Act on 15 November 2023 and published in the Victorian Government Gazette No. S613 dated 20 November 2023, as amended from time to time;’ ; and
- f) after the definition of “resources Victoria could divert in the current year” **insert** –
 - ‘ “**restriction determination**” means a restriction determination made by the Minister (or the Minister’s delegate) under section 64FZC of the Act;’ ; and
- g) after the definition of “River Murray Increased Flows (RMIF)” **insert** –
 - ‘ “**River Murray Shortfall Event**” means the times or circumstances that a restriction determination is in place for any of the following rationing areas;
 - (a) Barmah-Nyah; or
 - (b) Nyah-Euston Weir; or
 - (c) Euston Weir-Mildura Weir; or
 - (d) Mildura Weir-Lock 7; or
 - (e) Lock 7-South Australian border;’.

Insertion of Clause 16A

- 7. Following Clause 16 of the Bulk Entitlement Order, **insert** –

‘16A. TAKE DURING RIVER MURRAY SHORTFALLS

16A.1 During a River Murray Shortfall Event, Goulburn-Murray Water is restricted from taking water from the River Murray at a rationed off-take point at a rate that exceeds the rate of flow required to:

- (a) supply delivery shares at the shortfall rationing rate described in sub-clause 16A.2; and
- (b) supply other primary entitlements that are not supplied under a delivery share; and

- (c) meet distribution loss incurred in supplying water via the rationed off-take point at the aggregate rate of flow required under paragraphs (a) and (b).

16A.2 The shortfall rationing rate under paragraph 16A.1(a) is the same proportional limit as the extraction share rationing rate for the relevant rationing area, being the rationing area that contains the geographic area of the River Murray where the rationed off-take point is located.

16A.3 The delivery shares and other primary entitlements referred to in sub-clause 16A.1 are only those that are serviced with water that is taken by Goulburn-Murray Water at the rationed off-take point. ’

Amendment to Clause 22

8. Following paragraph 22.1(o) of the Bulk Entitlement Order, **insert** –
- ‘(oa) the actual or estimated volume of water taken and delivered under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of sub-clause 16A.1 during a River Murray Shortfall Event.’.
9. In sub-clause 22.3 of the Bulk Entitlement Order, for the words ‘paragraph (a)’, **substitute** ‘paragraphs (a) and (oa)’.

Amendment of Schedule 4

10. In Schedule 4 of the Bulk Entitlement Order, for the table headed ‘Off-Take Points’, **substitute** –

‘Off-Take Points

Off-take point	Maximum rate (ML/d)	Areas supplied
<i>Murray Valley Diversions:</i>		
• Yarrawonga Main Channel off-take	3,100	The whole of the Murray Valley irrigation area of the GMID except Broken Creek diverters and Murray Valley No 1 channel downstream of Cobram
• Murray Valley No 1 pumps	65	Murray Valley No 1 channel downstream of Cobram
<i>Torrumbarry diversions:</i>		
• National Channel headworks	Approx 4,200 (depends on weir pool level)	The whole of the Torrumbarry irrigation system of the GMID, including the Tresco irrigation district
• Swan Hill No 9 pumps from Little Murray	200	Swan Hill irrigation area, part of the broader Torrumbarry irrigation system of the GMID
• Swan Hill (No 10) pumps	299	Swan Hill irrigation area, part of the broader Torrumbarry irrigation system of the GMID
• Tyntynder pumps	51	Swan Hill irrigation area, part of the Torrumbarry irrigation system of the GMID

• Woorinen pumps	300	Woorinen irrigation area, part of the broader Torrumbarry irrigation system of the GMID
Nyah pumps	121	Nyah irrigation district
Private diversion points	n/a	Distributed along the River Murray, downstream to Nyah pumps

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Hon Gayle Tierney MP
Minister for Water

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