

## Understanding Seasonal Determinations

Every season, entitlement holders who hold high-reliability water shares (HRWS) and low-reliability water shares (LRWS) receive a percentage of those shares to use.

This percentage of water available for use is based on current seasonal conditions and the volume of water held in the storage available for distribution - this percentage is called a seasonal determination which is made by GMW as the delegated Authority.

### Why do we need a determination?

Seasonal determinations balance water use against availability in declared regulated water systems. This ensures the available resources between entitlement holders (water shares, bulk entitlements and environmental entitlements) is shared equitably.

### High-reliability water share (HRWS) determinations

Victoria's seasonal determinations are determined taking in to account what resources are available and the remaining commitments for the river system/s, sometimes referred to as a water budget.

1. **Available resources** are determined using a water budget which calculates:
  - How much water is in the reservoirs, and
  - Expected inflows over the planning period
2. The water available is then used to meet **remaining commitments** including:
  - Losses from storages, rivers and channels
  - Trade commitments
  - Urban and environmental, as well as
  - Water available in entitlement holders' accounts, including current season allocations and water carried over from the previous season.
3. After the commitments are met, the remaining water available then continues to be allocated to entitlement holders until seasonal determinations reach 100% of HRWS. LRWS determinations are not assessed for a river system until all HRWS is allocated for in that system.

### Low-reliability water share (LRWS) determinations

Once 100% HRWS determinations are reached on the Goulburn, Murray, Campaspe and/or Loddon systems, the water budget is calculated over a two year period. This means inflows and commitments to the end of the following season are considered before making seasonal determinations to LRWS entitlements. This is to make sure reserves are established to secure the availability of high-reliability entitlements in the following year if inflows are very low.

In the Broken and Bullarook systems, once 100% HRWS is achieved, additional resource is attributed to increasing allocation against low-reliability entitlements, up to 100% of LRWS.

### Frequency of announcements

From 1 July each year, seasonal determinations are updated on the 1st and 15th of every month or the next business day, until 100% HRWS is reached in every system.

After that, seasonal determinations are updated on the 15th of every month or the next business day until:

1. 100% HRWS and 100% LRWS is reached.
2. The last determination is made on 1st April.

These updates occur regularly to ensure that any improvements that might come from rainfall and water flowing into the storages can be distributed to entitlement holders as early as possible.

### More Information

For more information please visit [www.nvrm.net.au](http://www.nvrm.net.au)

#### GMW as the delegated Authority

The Minister for Water delegates authority to GMW to make seasonal determinations for the northern Victorian regulated river systems accordance with Victorian water sharing rules.