

[Headline]
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The January bushfires that scorched a significant portion of the northern Adelaide Hills region has led to severe contamination of the Happy Valley, Kangaroo Creek, Millbrook, and Little Para Reservoirs, knocking out over a quarter of Adelaide's water storage capacity for up to five months

Heavy rains last week have caused run off from fire affected soils to collect in the four major metropolitan reservoirs, with serious consequences for the city's water supply.

Metropolitan reservoirs and water piped from the River Murray typically make up around 60% of the city's water mix, but record low rainfall over much of Southeastern Australia over the past twelve months have left both the reservoirs and river flow at dangerously low levels. SA Water now estimates that water from these sources will fall to as low as 20% of Adelaide's water supply in the next few months, with the shortfall being made up by the metropolitan desalination plant. However, experts fear that the existing desalination plant, designed back in 2011, will not have the capacity to supply up to 80% of the city's water needs.

The Premier has warned that Adelaide may be facing water restrictions over the coming months, but has assured residents that water supply will be sufficient to meet people's essential needs.

The state Opposition has been quick to point fingers, accusing the Government of failing to secure South Australia's water supply against increasingly frequent natural disasters.

"South Australia has experienced drought conditions five times in the past decade yet this government has repeatedly stalled in bringing new desalination projects online. The water shortages the people of Adelaide now face lie squarely at the government's feet," said the Opposition Leader.

Welfare groups have also voiced concern over the impact water shortages will have on vulnerable people in the metropolitan area, such as the elderly, chronically ill, and disabled, with a number of heatwave events predicted before the end of March.

The division of water resources from the Murray is expected to be a hot topic at the upcoming COAG meeting, as the State Government scrambles to find a solution to Adelaide's looming water crisis