



1 July 2010

Commencing allocations announced for Murrumbidgee Valley water users

The NSW Office of Water today announced commencing allocations for NSW water users in the Murrumbidgee Valley for the new 2010/11.

While availability remains low, the Murrumbidgee Valley is in a better position now than at this time last year.

There is sufficient water available to supply all critical human and industrial needs for 2010/11 and to supply all carryover and meet the immediate conveyance needs. This includes water to run the Yanco creek system for the full year.

Due to the ongoing drought, the *Murrumbidgee Regulated Water Sharing Plan* remains suspended, and critical water planning will continue in the Murrumbidgee Valley for the time being. While the plan is suspended both high security water licence holders and general security licence holders are allowed to carryover a maximum of 30 per cent of their entitlement.

Due to recent rainfall and resource improvement, high security water licence holders will have a commencing allocation of 20 per cent of entitlement. There is not enough water available to make an allocation for general security licence holders who will commence on zero per cent of entitlement.

The drought has continued in the Murrumbidgee Valley but storages contain about 120 gegalitres more than at this time last year, with a substantial proportion of this water being private carryover of about 520 gegalitres, and undelivered inter-valley transfers.

Water trade has re-opened today and it is intended that trade will not be restricted. However, the NSW Office of Water will monitor the volumes of water traded and will take action to ensure that while maximum volumes are traded, losses through Balranald are kept to a minimum.

Domestic and Stock licence holders will commence on 50 per cent of entitlement. Local water utilities and Town Water supply will also commence on 50 per cent of entitlement and are advised that if the water resources situation does not improve significantly, that Level 4 water restrictions will be required from 1 September.

Licence holders are reminded that they are only permitted to take supplementary water from this water source in accordance with announcements made by the Minister and the conditions of their access licence. While the Murray Valley general security allocations remain low, general security licence holders are reminded that they are permitted to take water without debit to their allocations whenever supplementary water is available as

Media contact: **Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234**

Our news releases are on the web www.water.nsw.gov.au

The NSW Office of Water is a separate office within the **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water**

described in the Water Sharing Plan. The allocation for supplementary licence holders is 100 percent of entitlement, which is the upper annual limit for supplementary users.

The Minister has not currently announced that supplementary water is available.

The next announcement relating to the Murrumbidgee regulated water source will be made on 15 August and then on the 15th of each month via the Murrumbidgee Critical Water Communiqués.

These communiqués are available on the NSW Office of Water's website at www.water.nsw.gov.au via the 'What's New' tab on the homepage.

Information on Available Water Determinations is also available on the NSW Office of Water's website.

ENDS