



### Full allocations for Murray and Murrumbidgee Water users

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss, today announced full allocations for general security water users in both the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys.

“This is the first time full allocations for general security users have been available in the NSW Murray Valley since December 2001 and in the Murrumbidgee Valley since July 1996,” said Mr Harriss.

“Today’s increases are a result of additional inflows and potential flows, airspace created by releases for flood mitigation diversions, to meet environmental and downstream requirements and the ongoing access to supplementary flows in both valleys.”

Mr Harriss said that there had been much speculation in the media and community about announced allocation and its relationship to dam levels.

“Allocations for consumptive water use in both the Murray and the Murrumbidgee Valleys are not just a function of how much water is stored in the dams at any particular time.”

“There are a number of other factors that must be also considered including ensuring that a sufficient reserve is maintained should we head back into another extreme dry period.”

“New minimum inflows have been set over the past four years of extreme drought and we must consider and plan for this to occur again.”

“Additionally, we have seen very little demand for irrigation water to be released from the dams, meaning that there has been little room for any new inflows to be stored.”

Mr Harriss reminded all water users in both valleys that they could not use more than 100 per cent of their licensed entitlement in any water year. This includes allocation, carry-over and any water diverted from supplementary flows. The only exceptions to this are if licensed users have specific supplementary flow licences or buy additional water on the market.

Information on water availability can be obtained from the NSW Office website at [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

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**Media contact:** Bunty Driver 0407 40 3234

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**Department of Environment Climate Change and Water**

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