



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Media Release

Monday 16 February, 2009

No change to Southern Murray-Darling Basin water allocations

The NSW Department of Water and Energy today announced that there would be no change to water allocations in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Darling river valleys.

While there have been some inflows in both the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys from the Snowy Hydro scheme, high temperatures have increased evaporation losses and combined with reduced natural flows, have off-set any improvement in water availability.

The water allocations for all NSW Southern Murray-Darling Basin licence holders remain unchanged including:

- High security Murray/Murrumbidgee users - 95 per cent
- Murray Valley general security licence holders – 9 per cent
- Murrumbidgee Valley general security licence holders – 21 per cent
- Lower Darling Valley general security licence holders – 50 per cent
- Town water supply licence holders– 95 per cent of entitlement

Enough water has been placed in reserve to meet all critical human needs for NSW users in Southern Murray-Darling Basin river valleys for the 2009-10 water year. However, without substantial autumn and winter rain, water availability for consumptive use will be limited.

The Department of Water and Energy reminds licence holders that all temporary trades, including interstate trades, need to be lodged with State Water by close of business on 31 May 2009.

More information on water availability in the Southern Murray-Darling Basin is provided in today's Murray and Murrumbidgee critical water planning communiqués, available from the Department's website: www.dwe.nsw.gov.au

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