



Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009

## 2009/10 Opening allocations, access to carryover & annual transfers

The Department of Water and Energy (DWE) today announced opening Available Water Determinations (allocation announcements) for NSW Murray Water Access Licence holders. A copy of the Department's announcement is at [www.murrayirrigation.com.au](http://www.murrayirrigation.com.au), in the Water Resource Update section. Murray Irrigation's announced allocations are as follows;

- Class A (Town Water Supply) 50%
- Class B (High Security) 0%
- Class C (General Security) 0%

This announcement is based on the reduced number of water entitlements. After the reduction in water entitlements on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009, which removed the transmission loss component (17%) from a Murray Irrigation Water Entitlement, Murray Irrigation's announced allocation will generally be the same as the Department's announcement for NSW Murray Water Access Licences.

### Access to carryover

The Department has temporarily suspended access to carryover to provide sufficient water to allow for river operations to supply critical human needs in 2009/10. As a result member customers currently have **access to 80% of the volume of water carried over from the 2008/09 to the 2009/10** season. This is the same level of carryover access Murray Irrigation has on its bulk water licences. The Department has advised that return of carryover is the first priority for improvements in water availability.

In addition, Murray Irrigation's conveyance licence has been allocated some water for the delivery of critical stock and domestic requirements. If conditions remain very dry, this volume combined with existing company water reserves is currently expected to be sufficient for Murray Irrigation to provide a basic stock and domestic service similar to the 2007/08 season.

### Annual trade

All water in accounts is tradable. Annual transfers from upstream of the choke to downstream of the choke in the Murray Valley will be permitted, however the Department has announced an **interim moratorium** on inter-valley transfers from the Murrumbidgee Valley to the Murray Valley, including interstate transfers until water availability improves. This moratorium is required because of the impact of transfers on river transmission losses.

### Commencement of channel filling in 2009/10

Previously Murray Irrigation advised member customers it intended to commence refilling channels on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2009. Relatively dry conditions to date in conjunction with the lowering of water levels in Lake Mulwala now mean that there is a significant chance that refilling of the Mulwala Canal will be delayed. This includes the conveyance of water from Lake Mulwala to the Edward River to fill Stevens Weir pool to commence diversions into the Wakool Canal which are now not likely to start until early to mid August. Murray Irrigation is liaising closely with State Water Corporation and the Murray Darling Basin Authority about this issue and will update members as more information is available.

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