



Friday 15 January 2010

## Class C Water Entitlements allocations increase by 3 percent to 13 percent

Murray Irrigation's announcement follows the NSW Office of Water (NOW) announcement of a 3 percent increase in NSW Murray General Security allocations this morning.

Copies of the NOW media release and Critical Water Planning Communiqué are available in the Water Resource Update Section of Murray Irrigation's website [www.murrayirrigation.com.au](http://www.murrayirrigation.com.au).

The 3 percent increase is a result of significant volumes forecast to flow into the Menindee Lakes system. NOW has also announced the commencement of releases from the Menindee Lakes to the Lower Darling River.

The releases from the Lower Darling River into the River Murray will be re-regulated in Lake Victoria and will provide an improvement in water availability for NSW and water availability to South Australia for environmental flows.

The NSW, Victorian, South Australian and Commonwealth Governments are currently in negotiations about how the water reaching the Murray will be used to achieve the best environmental outcomes.

Points of note from the NOW Communiqué:

- Inflows into the Menindee Lakes are expected to fill the two upper lakes of Wetherell and Pamamaroo.
- Current inflows are expected to be between 600GL and 800GL, unless there are significantly more inflows, this water will all be stored in the upper lakes and water will not be diverted to Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla which have been dry for five years.
- The current flow event is expected to finish in mid to late February, NOW is planning to retain 480GL in Lake Wetherell and Lake Pamamaroo which is their combined, full supply volume.
- Carryover of up to 100% of entitlements from 2009/10 to 2010/11 is allowed, the total of carryover and annual allocation (net of annual trade) is limited to 100 percent of entitlements.
- Annual trade is permitted from upstream to downstream of the Barmah Choke.
- NOW is also seeking MDBA approval to **permit trade out** of the Lower Darling whose general security allocations have increased from 25 percent to 100 percent today.

The table below is a summary of the water available to Murray Irrigation water entitlements holders.

Water Entitlement Class	Description	Allocation
Class A	Town Water Supply	97%
Class B	High Security Irrigation	97%
Class C	General Security	13%
Water efficiency distribution		4%
Carryover access		100%

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