



Murray and Murrumbidgee general security allocations increased.

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced that the general security water allocation in the Murray Valley would increase by 2 percent to 22 percent of entitlement, while in the Murrumbidgee Valley; the general security allocation would increase by 2 percent to 26 per cent of entitlement.

Mr Harriss said that today's increases were the result of improvements in water availability in each Valley from natural inflows following rain over the past two weeks.

"The very heavy rainfall experienced last weekend resulted in falls across the Riverina that were up to four times the March average in some areas," he said.

"This rainfall was quite widespread and enabled a period of supplementary flows access in the Murrumbidgee Valley."

Mr Harriss said that most of the rain had fallen across the plains, downstream of the major dams and that these remain relatively low and that drought measures would continue for sometime.

Mr Harriss said that while it was still too early to estimate the total volumes of water that would pass into the Barwon-Darling River as a result of the flooding in Queensland, preliminary assessments showed that there would be enough to justify directing water into Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla in the Menindee Lakes system.

"Water will commence flowing from Lake Pamamaroo into Lake Menindee today for the first time since 2002. This will make space in Lake Pamamaroo and Lake Wetherell for the incoming Darling flows so that the expected daily volumes during the flood peak, not expected until April, can be managed to minimise any potential unnecessary flooding on private property."

Mr Harriss advised that the carryover rules that applied in 2009/10 will be repeated in 2010/11 and that all trading in the Murray and Murrumbidgee will cease on 30 May 2010.

Mr Harriss said that details of water management in the Murrumbidgee, Murray and Lower Darling River Valleys are available in today's Critical Water Planning communiqués, published on the Office of Water website at www.water.nsw.gov.au.

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Department of Environment Climate Change and Water

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