



## **Commencing allocations announced for NSW Murray Valley and Lower Darling water users**

The NSW Office of Water today announced commencing allocations for NSW water users in the Murray and Lower Darling valleys for the new 2010/11 water year. Despite a promising autumn break and some good falls in late May, the storages levels in the valley remains low.

There is enough water available in the NSW Murray Valley to provide for all critical human and industrial needs, supply full carryover of approximately 580 gigalitres and the conveyance water required to run the river, including the Wakool river system.

The summer flood waters that have been captured in the Menidee Lakes system have been shared in accordance with the Murray Darling Basin Agreement. The NSW share will be available to both Lower Darling and NSW Murray users.

In the NSW Murray Valley, both high security and general security licence holders will start the water year with full access to water held in their accounts at 30 June 2010 to a maximum of 100 percent of entitlement.

Unfortunately, there is not enough water for an allocation to be made to be made to either high and general security users, with both starting on zero per cent of entitlement.

All licence holders will be able to trade water under the same rules used for the 2009/10 water year.

Domestic and Stock licence holders will commence on 50 per cent of entitlement. Likewise Town Water supply and Local Water Utility licence holders will commence on 50 per cent of entitlement and are advised that the introduction of Level 4 water restrictions will occur on 1 September, if there is no improvement in water availability.

Inflows in the Murray Valley remain very much below average with the drought continuing to damage both the farming community and the environment. This means that the water sharing plan remains suspended and critical water planning will continue for some time yet.

Local Water Utilities are urged to be conservative with all water use.

In the Lower Darling, there is sufficient water to secure Broken Hill's town water supply for at least 21 months. There is also enough water available to enable a high security and general security of 100 per cent of entitlement.

Licence holders are reminded that they are only permitted to take supplementary water from this water source in accordance with announcements made by the Minister and the conditions of their access licence.

While the Murray Valley general security allocations remain low, general security licence holders are reminded that they are permitted to take water without debit to their allocations whenever supplementary water is available as described in the Water Sharing Plan. The allocation for supplementary licence holders is 100 percent of entitlement, which is the upper annual limit for supplementary users.

The Minister has not currently announced that supplementary water is available.

The next announcement relating to the Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Water Source will be made on 15 August and then on the 15th of each month via the Critical Water Communiqués. These are available from the NSW Office of Water website at [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au) via the 'What's New' tab on the Homepage.

Information on Available Water Determinations is also available on the NSW Office of Water's website.

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Our news releases are on the web [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

The NSW Office of Water is a separate office within the **Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water**