



Murray Irrigation's supplementary water access licence

Supplementary water access has ceased because Murray Irrigation has used 100 percent of its 121,704ML supplementary water licence. Murray Irrigation utilised approximately 44,000ML of its supplementary water licence to fill the channel system and the remaining 76,000ML for delivery to customers as off allocation water.

The Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray Lower Darling Regulated River Water Sources 2003 (WSP) allows licence holders with supplementary water licences to access supplementary water in addition to their allocation plus carryover limit of 110 percent.

The allocation rules in the WSP are important to ensuring that diversions in the NSW Murray do not exceed the 1995 Murray Darling Basin Ministerial Council Cap on diversions.

Murray Irrigation is one of only a few licence holders in the NSW Murray with a supplementary water licence. The WSP rules are that once the NSW general security announced allocation reaches 60 percent, **unless** licence holders have a supplementary water licence, **all** their water use is on allocation water use. This is irrespective of whether the NSW Office of Water has announced supplementary water access.

On allocation use from Wednesday 11 September initially will be met by unregulated flows in the River Murray and as a result, the NSW Murray general security allocation is expected to increase more quickly than it otherwise would because the storage releases will be accounted for as on allocation use instead of off allocation use.

A copy of the WSP is available at

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/viewtop/inforce/subordleg+186+2003+FIRST+0+N/>

For further information please contact Murray Irrigation on T. 1300 138 265.