

Friday, 15 May 2020

Three percent General Security allocation welcomed

Murray Irrigation has welcomed today's announcement by the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (Water) of a three percent General Security allocation for the southern Riverina.

Chair, Phil Snowden, said that recent rains have led to a large volume of water coming down the Murray and locals have been eagerly waiting to receive their share.

"Like most people, we've been watching the rainfall and the vision of the Darling river flowing again and have been waiting for some good news for our region.

"Naturally, we'd have liked to have seen more than a three percent allocation, however we understand that a large portion of the water will be held in dams to improve water security for next year.

"I can appreciate the cautious approach taken by the regulators and decision makers, but I would like to see the rules around General Security allocations changed to make them more equitable.

"We've been working with, and will continue to work with, the relevant state and federal departments to try and achieve this.

"While it's a work in progress, we're hopeful that our efforts will bring about change to benefit our region and its communities in the future".

Phil said that while today's announcement may benefit some existing crops, he expects that most farmers will hold the water over for next season.

"For many of us, me included, this announcement is too late in the season to be of any benefit, so I expect that most people will leave the water in their accounts for use next season.

"In addition to the recent rains, this announcement provides us with a level of optimism on which we can plan our next cropping season. This is good news for all Australian's as it contributes to the security of our nation's food and fibre supplies," Phil concluded.

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