



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Media Release

Friday 1 August, 2008

WATER ALLOCATED TO NSW MURRAY AND MURRUMBIDGEE HIGH SECURITY USERS

State Plan Priority E1: A secure and sustainable water supply for all users

High security users in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys today received their first water allocation for the 2008/09 water year.

The NSW Department of Water and Energy announced an Available Water Determination (AWD) of 25 per cent for high security users in the Murray Valley and 30 per cent for the Murrumbidgee Valley.

“While both valleys remain in the grip of severe drought, rainfall in the upper catchments in July generated enough inflows to make some water available for the region’s high security licence holders,” said the Department’s Deputy Director-General, David Harriss.

Mr Harriss explained that as water for critical human needs had been secured for 2008/09, the Department’s continued priority is to provide water to high security licence holders and to reserve water for stock and domestic users.

“Unfortunately there is currently not enough water available to increase the allocation for town water supply and stock and domestic users who will remain on 50 per cent of entitlement,” Mr Harriss said.

“However, future inflows will be used to provide stock and domestic water to users along tributary creeks and streams.”

Licensed water users in the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys have access to all water carried over from the 2007/08 water year and all water in accounts is tradable under the same rules used in 2007/08.

Mr Harriss said that due to the continuing drought, the trade of Murrumbidgee high security and general security allocations will be permitted throughout the season. The dates for cessation of trade in 2008/09 will be consistent with trade in the Murray and Lower-Darling River valleys. Additionally, temporary trades will be permitted from the Lower-Darling River into the Murray and Murrumbidgee River systems this season.

The Department is continually monitoring water resources and Critical Water Planning communiqués for both valleys are published monthly. The communiqués, along with an information sheet on stock and domestic water availability, are available online at: www.dwe.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: Anne Brook (02) 6701 9662

mobile 0419 120 527