



Media Release

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Water Allocations Increase in Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys

The NSW Department of Water and Energy today announced a general security allocation in the Murray Valley of two per cent and an increase of 15 per cent to high security, town water supply and stock and domestic allocations, bringing them to a total of 95 per cent of entitlement.

“This increase has occurred because of the recent good rains in the upper catchments, which improved the water resources available from the Snowy system,” said the Department’s Deputy Director-General, David Harriss.

“While the general security allocation is very low, it is good to at least have a number on the board in the Murray Valley.

“This is the first general security water allocation these license holders have had since 2006.”

In the Murrumbidgee Valley, general security allocations have increased by four per cent to nine per cent of entitlement, with seven per cent available now and two per cent deliverable after February.

“Due to the timing of releases from Snowy Hydro, we have taken this step to ensure that irrigators who begin a summer program are aware of when water can be delivered and can plan accordingly,” Mr Harriss said

Town water supply and stock and domestic allocations have also increased by 15 per cent to 95 per cent of entitlement.

In addition to today’s allocation increases there is sufficient water available to provide for the basic conveyance needs within the areas of operation of Murray Irrigation, Murrumbidgee Irrigation and Coleambally Irrigation.

“While inflows are better now that at the same time in 2006/07, water availability remains low and I urge all water users to continue to be conservative with all water use,” said Mr Harriss.

“Consideration will need to be given now to when to start reserving water to meet critical human needs in both valleys for next year.”

More detailed information on water assessments in both the Murrumbidgee and Murray valleys is available in the Department’s critical water planning communiqués, which are released on the 15th of each month and available online at: www.dwe.nsw.gov.au.