



Media Release

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2009-2010 NSW Water Trade Rules for the Southern Rivers

Deputy Director-General, David Harriss, today announced the temporary water trade rules that would apply in the NSW Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Darling River Valleys for 2009-2010.

Mr Harriss said that the continuing drought and record low water availability has led to a substantial increase in the number and volume of temporary water trades occurring in these river valleys.

In 2008-09, over 7,500 trades totalling 930GL occurred representing about 49 per cent of the total water available in these valleys. Much of this volume has been traded into Victoria and South Australia. This has provided enormous benefits for both sellers and buyers.

Mr Harriss said that NSW continued to support and facilitate temporary trades wherever possible. However, there are physical constraints that limit the delivery of water traded between river valleys and because of the current dry conditions some of these limits have been reached.

In 2009-2010 water year the following rules will apply to temporary trades;

- Temporary trade from the Lower Darling River to the Murray Valley will not be allowed;
- There will be an interim moratorium on the temporary trade of water from the Murrumbidgee Valley to the Murray Valley, including interstate trades. This will be reviewed if water availability improves; and
- Temporary trade will be allowed from upstream of the Barmah Choke to downstream in the Murray Valley.

Mr Harriss said these rules were necessary to ensure that any water traded can be delivered throughout the year but not where this will incur unacceptably high transmission losses, and where it would reduce water availability for other users.

“The temporary trade rules are not linked to the embargo on the permanent trade of licensed entitlements announced by the NSW Government earlier this year.

“NSW strongly supports temporary trade of water as this has enabled many businesses under stress to survive,” he said.

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