

# MEDIA RELEASE

## Murrumbidgee Irrigation

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3 August 2009

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### 2009/10 SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

Murrumbidgee Irrigation (MI) welcomed yesterday's announcement by the NSW Department of Water and Energy (DWE) of a 5% allocation for high security (HS) owners as well as 100% carryover for all eligible Murrumbidgee Valley users.

In addition to the 5% allocation, MI is advancing HS customers a further 10% to take their current allocation availability to 15%. The advance will be automatically added to accounts but cannot be traded. If any HS allocation is traded out, the advance will be withdrawn as it is for use on farm. If announced HS allocation rises above 40%, the advance will be progressively withdrawn. At 50% the advance will have been completely withdrawn.

Dick Thompson, Chairman of MI advised that "we are able to assist high security customers with this advance of water due to savings we have made through ongoing increased system efficiency in recent years."

"Recent rainfalls across our valley have been most welcome and it's encouraging to see the region looking green. DWE's 100% carryover announcement today will also give our customer some additional on-farm water-security as we wait to see what the next couple of months brings in terms of weather and allocations."

Carryover can be traded without impacting on MI's advance. For general security customers, allocations remain at zero with full access to carryover. MI will look at opportunities for GS customers as soon as the priority of supply for critical watering needs followed by HS are satisfied.

**HS customers are reminded that combined carryover and announced allocation cannot exceed 95%, irrespective of trade out.**

A rostered watering event for citrus within gazetted horticulture areas and stock and domestic tank fill in traditional continuous supply zones (refer to map on MI's website) is planned to take place from week commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> August. Orders must be placed between Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup> August and 4pm Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> August. Leeton customers are to place orders via the answering service, whilst Griffith customers are to place their orders in person at the Research Station Rd Business Centre.

Depending upon demand, MI is considering a general system fill after the 17<sup>th</sup> August for watering of winter crops and stock and domestic fills. MI staff will be surveying customers' intent within the next week.

Contact Customer Services for any queries with regard to carryover or allocations and Irrigation Services team for any enquiries regarding the upcoming rostered watering.

Ends

For further information regarding this media release, please contact Brett Tucker, Managing Director of Murrumbidgee Irrigation on 02 6962 0200.