



September rain brings first general security allocations to the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys

Acting NSW Water Commissioner, Bruce Cooper, today announced an increase in water allocations for high security users and an initial allocation for general security water users in the both the Murrumbidgee and Murray Valleys.

“Rainfall in the upper catchments and in the Snowy Mountains has increased inflows during August and early September and, while inflows are still well below average, they have been greater than in previous months,” said Mr Cooper.

Mr Cooper said that the Murrumbidgee high security allocation would increase to 95 per cent of entitlement and general security would receive an initial allocation of 3 per cent of entitlement.

“Improved water availability in the Murray Valley has allowed NSW to increase its high security allocation to 97 per cent of entitlement and to make an initial allocation to general security users of 1 per cent,” he said.

While these allocations to general security users are very small they do signal a slight improvement in resources and may assist some users in deciding whether to plant a crop or enter the trade market.

“Due to the continued low flows in the Darling River and into the Menindee Lakes, general security entitlement holders in the lower Darling Valley downstream of the Menindee Lakes will remain on 25 per cent of entitlement,” he said.

Stock and domestic and town water supply allocations in the Murrumbidgee Valley have also increased to 95 percent of entitlement, and to 97 per cent of entitlement in the Murray Valley.

Mr Cooper said that the increase in high security allocations in both Valleys means that Councils and Town Water Supply Authorities are now responsible for town water restrictions.

However Mr Cooper advised that water supplies for 2010/11 have not yet been secured and asked all water users to be as conservative as possible with their use in what continues to be the worst drought ever experienced.

Ends

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