



Media Release

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SECOND MURRUMBIDGEE WATER BALLOT ANNOUNCED

The NSW Office of Water today announced that a second water ballot is to be undertaken for water to be traded from the Murrumbidgee Valley to the Murray Valley.

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, said that State Water will make 42 gigalitres of water available to be traded out of the Murrumbidgee in 2009/10 via a ballot.

The total volume of water traded out of the Murrumbidgee Valley in any one year is limited to prevent large volumes of water from being lost through evaporation and seepage in the lower reaches of the Murrumbidgee River.

“The first water trade ballot was conducted in September this year when 70 gigalitres of water was made available to trade,” Mr Harriss said.

“An additional 42 gigalitres will be able to be traded into the Murray Valley this year without incurring losses more than those that have been planned for.”

Mr Harriss said that following feedback from water users on the first ballot, the second ballot would be open for three weeks.

“Applications will be processed under the same conditions used in September, but there is no limit on the volume a licence holder can trade out,” said Mr Harriss.

To participate licence holders must lodge an application, including a nominated buyer and seller, with State Water in Deniliquin by 3:45 pm on Thursday 3 December.

There is no limit on the number of applications that may be lodged. Unsuccessful applicants will have their documents returned and are free to resubmit their paperwork in future ballots.

More information is available on the NSW Office of Water’s website at www.water.nsw.gov.au or on the State Water website at www.statewater.com.au

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