



Monday, 1 February 2010

No change to Southern basin allocations

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today said the general security water allocations in both the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys would remain unchanged on 13 percent and 18 percent respectively.

“There has been very little rainfall since early January across the southern valleys and combined with the frequent hot, windy weather, inflows have been very much reduced,” said Mr Harriss

Mr Harriss said that there is sufficient water available in both valleys to ensure that critical human needs can be met in 2010/2011.

“The NSW Office of Water is continuing to share inflows between water for allocation and setting some aside to ensure that we can meet conveyance losses to deliver domestic and stock requirements and unused water carried over from this year into 2010/2011,” he said

Mr Harriss said that the floodwaters in the Barwon-Darling Rivers from rain that fell between Christmas and the New Year peaked at Bourke on the 22nd of January and are expected to peak at Wilcannia by the second week in February.

“We are continuing to transfer water from Lake Wetherell to Lake Pamamaroo and to release water from the Menindee Lakes to the lower Darling at 12,000 megalitres per day. This water is expected to commence to flow into the Murray River during this week,” he said

A full assessment of water availability will be carried out and a further announcement of water availability will be made on the 15th February with details available in the water planning communiqués published on the Office of Water website at www.water.nsw.gov.au.

Media contact: Bunty Driver 0407 40 3234

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