



### **February rainfall enables increases for Murray and Murrumbidgee Valley water users**

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced that the allocation for licensed general security users in the Murrumbidgee Valley would increase by 4 percent to 24 percent of entitlement, while in the NSW Murray Valley; the general security allocation would increase by 1 percent to 20 per cent of entitlement.

“The recent rainfall over most of New South Wales during the second week in February has increased water availability in both southern valleys, but particularly the Murrumbidgee,” he said

Mr Harriss said that the increased water availability in the Murrumbidgee Valley has enabled the repayment of the remaining 75 gigalitres (or 75 billion litres) of water borrowed from environmental allocations in November 2006 to meet critical domestic and industry needs.

“The repayment of this environmental water in the Murrumbidgee Valley is a significant milestone in our critical water planning, and demonstrates that we are sharing water to get the best outcomes for the environment, industries and communities,” he said.

Mr Harriss said the 1 percent increase in allocation in the Murray valley was the result of improvement in water availability in the Murray catchment and that water that had flowed into the Murray from the Darling River floods had been included in previous allocation announcements.

Mr Harriss reminded water users that State Water Corporation are currently conducting a third Murrumbidgee water trade ballot, with applications closing on 8 March 2010.

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