



### Little improvement for southern basin water users

Acting NSW Water Commissioner, Colin McLean today announced a ten per cent increase for high security water users in the Murrumbidgee Valley, increasing their allocation this year to 30 per cent of entitlement.

“Water availability across the Murrumbidgee Valley remains low which means the general security allocation will stay at zero per cent of entitlement,” said Mr McLean.

“Water resources are still at relatively low levels in both the Murrumbidgee and NSW Murray Valleys and while dam levels in both valleys are higher than at this time last year, much of this water is designated for carry-over in private accounts.”

“While there has been some rainfall across the NSW Murray up to the time of this assessment, there was insufficient water available to provide a starting allocation for NSW Murray high and general security licence holders, with both classes remaining on zero per cent of entitlement.”

Mr McLean said that rainfall over the past month has been close to average, but the extremely long period of drought is causing overall recovery to be slow.

“All Licence holders are reminded that they have access 100 per cent of their account carry-over from the 2009/10 water year and that the water trade market re-opened on 1 July.”

“There is no restriction on trades from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray, including interstate, and trades from the Lower Darling are permitted while Menindee Lakes is under Murray-Darling Basin Authority control.”

“Water users are also reminded that trades are currently permitted downstream through the Barmah Choke,” Mr McLean said.

The next assessment will be carried out at the end of the month and include the mid-July rainfall currently being experienced. Critical water planning communiqués will be prepared and issued on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Ends

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