



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Media Release

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INCREASE TO HIGH SECURITY USERS IN THE MURRUMBIDGEE VALLEY

State Plan Priority E1: A secure and sustainable water supply for all users

Deputy Director General of the Department of Water and Energy, David Harriss today announced an increase of ten percent for high security users in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

“Improved inflows due to recent summer storms and less than expected system losses across the Murrumbidgee Valley, has provided enough water to make this increase to the allocation for high security users” Mr Harriss said.

“This means that the Valley’s high security users now have access to 90 per cent of their entitlement ” he said.

“The water allocation for town water supply and stock and domestic users remains at 100 per cent, with all local councils urged to keep restrictions in place in order to conserve as much water as possible for critical human needs next year.

There is also sufficient water to allow for a re-payment of five gigalitres of the water borrowed from the Murrumbidgee Valley environmental water account.

“This water was previously borrowed for consumptive use following the suspension of the Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan,” he said

Mr Harriss said that conditions had not improved enough to make any allocation for general security licence holders and that Murrumbidgee Valley inflows were still below average.

High security licence holders may carry over up to 15 per cent of their unused entitlement into the 2008/09 season.

More information will be available in the Department of Water and Energy’s critical water planning communiqué due for release on 15 December. All the communiqués issued by the Department are available online at www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au.

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