



## News release

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3 November 2006

### **Immediate suspension of water trading in Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys**

Water trading in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys has been suspended immediately due to the ongoing dry conditions, the NSW Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advised today.

DNR Executive Director of Water Management, David Harriss, said the suspension was necessary because record low inflows into water storages in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Snowy catchments in the past six months has severely reduced the volume of water available in both valleys.

“Advice from Snowy Hydro Limited is that there is a high potential for reduced inflows in the Murray and Murrumbidgee, due to the record low inflows in the past six months,” Mr Harriss said.

“This, coupled with recent record temperatures, has severely reduced the volume of water available.”

Mr Harriss said the suspension of trade will apply until the end of next week, or until a further announcement is made.

“This will enable the reduction in water availability to be further assessed and arrangements for addressing the shortfall between the States, and between valleys within NSW, to be determined,” he said.

Mr Harriss said that the department is working closely with irrigators and irrigation corporations to provide information and develop appropriate management options for the continuing drought.

The suspension follows South Australia’s recent downgrade of allocations to 60 per cent.