



## Stock and domestic water under critical water planning 2007

In New South Wales, access to stock and domestic surface water can occur through either;

1. Basic Landholder Rights – which allows landholders with direct frontage to rivers and creeks to take water from them for stock and domestic purposes without the need for a water access licence or a water supply works approval.
2. A Water Access Licence for stock and domestic purposes issued by the Department which must nominate a Work Approval.

Due to the extreme drought conditions and resultant lower river flows, landholders who have accessed a reliable supply through either of the above in the past may now face difficulty accessing required supplies at their pump sites.

Under normal arrangements high priority is given to the supply of stock and domestic water.

However, due to the extreme drought conditions, river levels will remain lower than normal and landholders who have a reliable supply in the past, may now have difficulty in accessing stock and domestic water.

Under the critical planning scenario, water for stock and domestic is still a high priority but delivery of this water will be constrained by low flows and losses with in delivery systems including channels, creeks and streams flowing out of the regulated rivers.

### Which rivers creeks and channels can be relied upon and at what level?

Murray River levels are expected to remain low, disconnecting streams and wetlands that may have always had flow, whether a recognised regulated stream or not. If conditions don't improve, river levels of the regulated Murray water source will drop to previously unrecorded levels.

People who divert water from the Murray should be vigilant of river levels and make necessary adjustments to their activities.

In the Murrumbidgee, efficiencies in delivery will mean that some systems may not receive a continuous supply.

The following streams and creeks have already become disconnected as a result of falling river levels and without significant inflows, these systems will not receive flow in the near future:

- Bullatale Creek,
- Colligen/Neimer system,
- Yallakool Creek,
- Wakool River,
- Old Man and Beavers creeks,
- Low Bidgee district,
- Some pump sites within Lake Wetherell, Lake Pamamaroo and Copi Hollow, and
- Flood runners and effluents off the Yanco/Colombo/Billabong Creek system.

It is likely that the following have interrupted supply:

- Merran Creek system, including the Waddy Creek, Coobool and Little Barbers system, and
- Darling River below Weir 32.
- Euston Lakes

It is highly unlikely that supply from the following will be interrupted:

- Gulpa Creek, Yanco/Colombo/Billabong Creek system, and
- Edward River.

It is expected that the following will have continuous supply:

- Murray River channel, and
- Murrumbidgee River Channel.

Supply through channel systems will be managed by Irrigation companies and Trusts. It is advisable to contact your water supply Authority regarding water supply in these areas.

## What can I do?

Consider other options for Stock and Domestic water supply such as:

- Bores; Delays can be expected due to the heavy demand on drilling contractors and increased number of applications to process.
- Enlarging on-farm storages to capture run off. This must be within the properties harvestable rights entitlement.

Please contact Department of Water and Energy licensing staff before you **begin any work** to ensure that any necessary Approvals are obtained and licence conditions are met. The Department of water and Energy can also provide advice on water quality.

### **Department of Water and Energy**

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For advice on stock management, contact your local Department of Primary Industries.