

Monday, September 15, 2008

### **RIVER MURRAY ALLOCATIONS INCREASE TO 11PC**

River Murray irrigation allocations will increase from six percent to 11pc from October 1 following a small improvement in the volume of water available to South Australia.

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald said 280 gigalitres of inflows into the system were recorded in August, well below the long-term August average of 1550 GL.

“While inflows are still below-average, it has provided us with a small amount of water for irrigation and paying off our drought imbalance, which now stands at 25.5 GL,” Minister Maywald said.

“Maximising the amount of water available to irrigators as early as possible in the season is essential to help producers plan their irrigation for the year.”

In October last year, allocations were at 16pc.

Murray-Darling Basin storages – Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs, Lake Victoria and Menindee Lakes – are currently at 27pc of capacity (2512 GL) compared with 22pc (2080 GL) at the same time last year.

While salinity levels have remained fairly low above Lock 1, low water levels below Lock 1 are still resulting in high salinity.

Allocation updates will continue to be issued on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month and information on water resource conditions will be available on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, or the first business day following if either day falls on a weekend.

For more information about conditions in the River Murray or wider Murray-Darling Basin visit [www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html)