

Monday, 1 February 2010

ALLOCATIONS REMAIN AT 48%, CARRY-OVER APPLICATIONS OPEN

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald announced today South Australian irrigators can now apply to carry-over unused water from 2009-10 for use in 2010-11, while River Murray allocations have been again held at 48%.

“New carry-over arrangements introduced for 2010-11 will allow irrigators to better manage the limited amount of water available,” Minister Maywald says.

“This is the third consecutive year South Australian irrigators have been able to carry over water.

“Water carried over into 2010-11 is tradeable within South Australia and interstate.”

Carry-over applications must be lodged at the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation (DWLBC) by 19 March 2010. Late applications will not be accepted.

Some administrative changes in 2010-11 have been necessary as a result of the recent unbundling of licenses. Further information about these updated carry-over arrangements can be found online at: www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html#Carryoverwater

Applicants must nominate the expected volume of water that will be unused at 30 June 2010.

“Irrigators are encouraged to carefully consider the volume of water that is likely to be unused for 2009-10 because the volume applied for cannot be adjusted after 19 March,” Minister Maywald says.

“Licence holders can purchase extra water to carry-over for use in 2010-11, however this volume of water must be included in their carry-over application.

“Applicants will be advised in writing of their carry-over allocation in July 2010, after the final meter reading for 2009-10.

“Irrigators who have been paid a grant under the Irrigated Industry Support Program cannot receive carry-over for any unused water purchased during 2009-10 that relates to that grant.

Minister Maywald says River Murray irrigator allocations have been held steady at 48% because low inflows have continued across much of the southern Murray-Darling Basin due to the dry catchment.

“The Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s latest assessment included no improvement in shared water resource availability for South Australia or the other Basin States,” she says.

Allocation updates will continue to be issued on the 1st and 15th of each month, or the first business day following that date if it falls on a weekend.