

Tuesday, 1 September 2009

### **RIVER MURRAY ALLOCATIONS INCREASE TO 10PC**

South Australian River Murray licence holders will be able to access 10 per cent of their entitlement from today, up from 5pc.

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald says the improvement had been made possible by improved inflows during August.

“River Murray system inflows remain low overall, however recent rainfall across the upper Murray catchment has helped to improve inflows and snowmelt has commenced in alpine areas,” she said.

“River Murray system inflows for August 2009 are now expected to exceed 390 GL, which is 150 GL more than the previous minimum flow estimate for that month.

“While this is more than the 275 GL of inflow received in August last year, it is still well below the long-term August average of 1550 GL.”

“Water resource availability throughout the southern Murray-Darling Basin remains at historically low levels.

“The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is about 2100 GL (22pc capacity), compared with the total volume in storage at the same time last year of about 2380 GL (25pc capacity).

“The volume in storages also includes the substantial amount of water carried over from last year for critical human needs and private irrigator carry-over.

“Storages are still well below the long-term average for late-August of about 6730 GL (72pc capacity).

“Salinity levels between the border and Lock 1, and at Mannum and Murray Bridge, generally remain low. However, salinity levels in the Lower Lakes remain high.”

Allocation announcements will continue to be made on the 1st and 15th of each month, or the first business day if those dates fall 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/](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/)