

Tuesday, 15 September 2009

IRRIGATION ALLOCATIONS INCREASE TO 16PC

South Australian River Murray licence holders will be able to access 16 percent of their entitlement from today, up from 10pc.

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald said the increase has been made possible because of improved inflows during August across the River Murray system.

“During August 2009, a total of 425 GL of inflow was recorded, compared with 275 GL in August last year. The long-term average August inflow is 1550 GL.

“The Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s latest water resources assessment for late August to early September shows an overall improvement in the shared resource of about 210 GL.

“South Australia is entitled to 68 GL of this improvement. Half has been provided to allocations and half will offset contingencies provided earlier in the season to ensure river flows. The Murray-Darling Basin Authority advises that SA’s advance has now been reduced to 76 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 2320 GL, or 25pc capacity, compared to 2590 GL, or 28pc capacity, at the same time last year. The long-term average is about 7000 GL, or 75pc 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 after, 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/