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Monday, 16 November 2009

### **RIVER MURRAY IRRIGATION ALLOCATIONS RISE TO 48%**

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald said today a small amount of additional River Murray water has become available to allow an increase in allocations for River Murray irrigators within South Australia.

Minister Maywald says allocations are to increase to 48% from 46% from today.

“The return to below average rainfall, coupled with above average temperatures, has resulted in lower than expected inflows during late October and early November 2009,” Minister Maywald says.

“The prolonged warmer weather during this period has also significantly increased river and storage losses, meaning that only 10 GL of extra water has become available for South Australia.

“This 10 GL, together with water previously unallocated, only gives us enough water to allocate an additional 2% to irrigators.

“The conditions currently being experienced across the Murray-Darling Basin are similar to those usually observed in mid-Summer.

“The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast below average rainfall and above average temperatures across most of the southern Murray-Darling Basin during the next three months.

“River Murray storages remain low. The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is 2,892 GL or 31% of capacity.”

Allocation updates will continue to be issued on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, or the first business day following that date if it 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/](http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/)