

Thursday, 15 July 2010

RIVER MURRAY IRRIGATION ALLOCATIONS INCREASE TO 24 PER CENT

Minister for the River Murray Paul Caica today announced that irrigation allocations have increased from 21 per cent to 24 per cent due to an improvement in the volume of water available to South Australia.

Mr Caica said the 3 per cent improvement is good news for River Murray irrigators and was made possible because of increased water availability in the River Murray system.

“The increase to 24 per cent is based on South Australia receiving a minimum of 1,461 GL during the 2010-11 water year under a “worst case” scenario,” he said.

“This allocation is considerably higher than at the same time last year, when irrigation allocations were kept at the opening entitlement of 2 per cent.

“In addition to this higher allocation, South Australian River Murray irrigators have access to 100 per cent of their approved carry-over.”

Irrigators will have access to the improved allocation from today.

Mr Caica said irrigators will be advised in writing of their approved carry-over volume once information from the meter readings at the end of June is finalised. Irrigators should receive this notification by the end of July.

Mr Caica said it was important to note that River Murray storages remain low in comparison to the long-term averages.

The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is 4,036 GL (43 per cent capacity).

This volume includes a large amount of water for private carry-over and critical human needs.

Although this is higher than at the same time last year (1,737 GL, 19 per cent) it is well below the long-term average for this time of year (6,660 GL, 71 per cent).

For more information about conditions in the River Murray or wider Murray-Darling Basin visit www.mdba.gov.au

