

Friday, 1 October 2010

### **RIVER MURRAY ALLOCATIONS INCREASE TO 67 PERCENT**

Minister for the River Murray Paul Caica today announced general allocations have been increased to 67 percent, the highest allocation since 2005-06.

Mr Caica says South Australia will now receive its full entitlement of 1,850 gigalitres during 2010-11, plus a further 70 GL of water traded from interstate. This means that under a “worst case” scenario South Australia will receive 1,920 GL.

“The latest assessment by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) provides 130 GL of improvement for South Australia, which has been allocated under the 2010-11 River Murray Drought Water Allocation Decision Framework,” he says.

“Of the 130 GL of improvements in the MDBA’s latest assessment, 26 GL is being allocated for general allocations, 47 GL will be used to secure South Australia’s carry-over water, and the remaining 57 GL will be put into reserves.

“This allocation compares with a 25 percent allocation at the same time last year, exceeds the total allocation for 2009-10 of 62 percent and represents the best allocation since 2005-06.

Access to 100 percent of carryover has been in place from 1 July 2010. After a comprehensive audit of carryover applications, the volume of private carryover has increased to 228 GL from 170 GL.

“The current carryover arrangements are a drought contingency measure only. The Government is now reviewing these arrangements given the current volumes of carryover and the improved outlook for rainfall and inflows across the Basin and will consult with industry groups during this review.”

“The increase in allocations to 67 percent, together with water carried over from 2009-10, takes South Australia to its 650 GL cap under its River Murray Water Allocation Plan,” Mr Caica says.

Average rainfall during the past three months primed the River Murray catchment for spring inflows. Several recent rainfall events have significantly improved storage volumes, River Murray system inflows and the seasonal outlook.

The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is 6,626 GL or 70 per cent compared with the long-term average for the end of September of 79 per cent capacity. This volume includes a large amount of water for private carry-over and critical human water needs for all southern Basin states.

For more information about conditions in the River Murray or wider Murray-Darling Basin visit [www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)