

Monday, 6 June 2011

RIVER MURRAY ALLOCATIONS 100 PER CENT FROM JULY.

River Murray irrigators in South Australia will begin the water year with 100 per cent allocation for the first time in almost a decade.

Minister for the River Murray Paul Caica today announced that all River Murray allocations will be 100 per cent from 1 July, giving irrigators and other water users the certainty they need to make business decisions for the coming year.

“Irrigators have not started the year on 100 per cent allocation since the 2002/03 water year, so this will come as very welcome news to South Australian irrigators,” he said.

“The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has now confirmed that South Australia will again receive its full River Murray Entitlement Flow of 1850 gigalitres in 2011-12 which means irrigators can have 100 per cent allocation.

“Large areas of the Murray-Darling Basin have received the highest rainfall on record from December 2010 to February this year and River Murray system inflow has exceeded the long-term average for each of the past nine months.

“Flow to South Australia in 2010-11 has been the highest since 1975-76.”

Mr Caica said the improvements in the Murray-Darling system mean we no longer need the annually reviewed drought water allocation decision frameworks that were implemented between 2006-07 and this water year, and can return to the arrangements that existed before the drought.

“As a result, temporary carryover arrangements that were provided as an annual contingency during the drought will cease on June 30, however, the State Government is currently consulting with the key stakeholders with a view to establishing a new long-term carryover policy for all licensed water entitlements in time for the 2012 / 13 water year ,” he said.

With the return to 100 per cent allocation, the financial relief provided during the drought for top-up water trades and the Natural Resources Management Water Levy will also cease on June 30.

The state’s supply for critical human water needs for 2011-12 has also been secured.

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

