

News Release **Minister Ian Hunter**

Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation

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100% 2013-14 water allocation for SA's River Murray irrigators

South Australia's River Murray irrigators will begin the 2013/14 water year with 100 per cent allocation for the third consecutive year.

Water and the River Murray Minister Ian Hunter says despite dry conditions during the last six months, South Australian entitlement holders will still have access to their maximum water allocation.

"The Murray Darling Basing Authority has confirmed South Australia will again receive its full River Murray Entitlement Flow of 1850 gegalitres in 2013-14, which means entitlement holders can have 100 per cent allocation," he says.

"This is an excellent outcome, and will be welcome news to South Australian irrigators. Our state's irrigators are the most efficient in Australia. They understand that water is precious, and they treat the river with respect. I know they will appreciate this entitlement and use the water effectively."

Minister Hunter says the Government has also put new measures in place to make water trading simpler for irrigators.

"The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources has activated a new online form to make water trading quicker and easier," says the Minister.

"The new *SmartForm* means that water licensees or brokers can submit an online application to manage changes to their water needs, including the transfer of a water allocation.

"We understand how important it is for growers and brokers to be able to make efficient transfers, and for them to access their water as quickly as possible.

"The *SmartForm* allows applications and payments to be made online and makes the application process faster and easier, and may even encourage licensees who not have traded water in the past to use this option."

Application forms can be accessed and submitted at any time. They can be found at: [http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Licences Permits/water-licence-and-permit-forms/sa-murray-darling-basin](http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Licences_Permits/water-licence-and-permit-forms/sa-murray-darling-basin)

Further information can be found on the www.sa.gov.au website (by clicking on water, energy and environment/water/water use for irrigators, and scrolling down to River Murray).

More advice can be obtained by calling (08) 8595 2053.