

Monday, June 16, 2008

### **OPENING ALLOCATION AND CARRY-OVER ANNOUNCED FOR 2008-09**

Irrigators will begin the 2008-09 water year on July 1 with a two per cent opening allocation and access to 50 percent of their approved carry-over water volume.

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald says while drought conditions across the Murray-Darling Basin remain extremely serious, slight improvements during May will make a small opening allocation possible.

“South Australia was allocated a small share of the 80 gigalitres of inflows received in the River Murray system last month,” Minister Maywald said.

“However, this is well below the long-term May average of 390GL and now from March to May this year, the Basin has experienced its fourth driest season on record.

“From June 1 last year to May 31 2008, inflows to the River Murray system were only 2230 GL, compared with the long-term average for this period of 8840 GL.”

Minister Maywald says about 80GL has been set aside so far to meet carry-over commitments.

“Once the final meter readings for 2007-08 are completed next month, it is anticipated that up to 80 percent of carry-over will be available from September 1.”

Minister Maywald says the special water sharing arrangements negotiated for South Australia, NSW and Victoria because of the drought will end shortly and States will transition back to the normal sharing rules under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.

“During this transition, resources will be shared equally amongst the three states, and half of each State’s share will be dedicated to paying back its imbalance.”

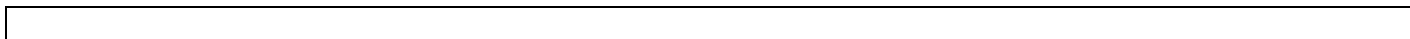
#### **2008-09 outlook**

The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation has completed projections for flows to South Australia, based on data provided by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission (see table next page).

The projections show that, depending on how water is allocated, there is a:

- 75pc chance allocations will be 32 per cent (same as 2007-08) by the end of 2008-09.
- 50pc chance allocations will be higher than 32pc by the end of 2008-09.

By July 1, the Government will make available the profiles for monthly allocation of water under various inflow scenarios.



The table below outlines the probability of regulated flows to South Australia during 2008-09, after imbalance repayments have been made, and also the volume of water likely to be available after critical human needs, dilution flow and system losses for 2008-09, totalling 896 gigalitres, have been met.

<b>Probability</b>	<b>Projected 2008-09 regulated flow to SA (GL)</b>	<b>Projected available water to SA* (GL)</b>
<b>100% chance</b>	936	40
<b>95% chance</b>	987	91
<b>90% chance</b>	1052	156
<b>85% chance</b>	1164	268
<b>75% chance</b>	1311	415
<b>50% chance</b>	1605	709
<b>25% chance</b>	1795	899

\* Distribution of available water will be determined on a monthly basis as resource availability becomes known. Priorities will include irrigation, accumulating water for critical human needs for 2009-10, and critical environmental needs.

For further information about water allocations or conditions in the River Murray visit:  
<http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html>

