

Friday, 20 June 2008

TOP UP AND LEVY RELIEF FOR RIVER MURRAY IRRIGATORS

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald says about \$2.5 million in financial relief for water transfer applications and natural resources management water levies will be provided to River Murray irrigators whose licences are restricted in 2008-09.

This relief includes:

- More than \$1 million in NRM Water Levy relief, provided as an ex-gratia payment equal to 50 per cent of the NRM Water Levy for each licence.
- Waiving about \$1.5 million in application fees for licence holders seeking to transfer additional water or to convert existing water allocations to 'top up' their restricted water allocations.

“In addition, the NRM Water Levy will not be charged for any water transferred into South Australia from interstate during 2008-09,” Minister Maywald said.

“Private River Murray irrigators will not be required to pay the first installment of the water levy, due by September 30. The Government will consider whether further financial relief should be provided to licence holders as the season progresses.

“These measures will provide some relief to licensed River Murray irrigators, who are doing it tough as drought conditions continue across the Murray-Darling Basin.”

Detailed information on ‘top up’ arrangements will be sent to licence holders and will be available on the DWLBC website before July 1, 2008.

Transfer and conversion application forms will also be available from the DWLBC Berri office, phone 8595 2053, or the DWLBC website, www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au from July 1, 2008.