



Government
of South Australia

Department of Water,
Land and Biodiversity
Conservation

MEDIA RELEASE

TUESDAY 18
MARCH
2008

Extra River Murray water can be bought for carry-over

The State Government has revised the rules for trading water in 2007-08, allowing licence holders to buy extra water specifically to carry-over for use in 2008-09.

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation Chief Executive, Rob Freeman, said that while carry-over water cannot be guaranteed, irrigators who have topped up their usable water to 100 percent of their licensed entitlement, can now trade additional water allocations to their licence in 2007-08 without having to go through a full technical assessment.

“The new rules will further help these licence holders by allowing them to plan for a starting water allocation for 2008-09,” he said.

“Water allocations traded without having to go through a full technical assessment cannot be used in 2007-08 and will be quarantined as 2008-09 carry-over.

“To be considered as 2008-09 carry-over, the water traded must be included in the carry-over application, **which must be submitted by 31 March 2008**. Late applications will not be considered.

“The amount of water applied for carry-over into 2008-09 cannot be changed after the deadline so irrigators must anticipate all water purchases they are likely to make from April to June and include it in the carry-over application.”

Anyone who has already put in their application and now wishes to amend it in line with these new rules must do so by 31 March 2008.

Additional water can be acquired by:

- Transferring annual water allocations from interstate;
- Transferring the 32 percent usable component of a water (taking) allocation in South Australia; and
- Converting a water (holding) allocation if the allocation had been able to be used in NSW, Victoria or South Australia during 2007-08.

The carry-over scheme has been amended to prevent licence holders from taking more than 100 percent of their normal licensed water entitlements if allocations improve significantly. This will ensure sustainable use of River Murray water. Any water not used by the licence holder can be traded within SA or interstate.

Licence holders are reminded that the provision of carry-over depends on climate conditions and the ability to deliver it from interstate storages to South Australia. While the Government is confident that carry-over can be supplied, an absolute guarantee cannot be given.

For further information about the new trade and carry-over arrangements, contact the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation on 8595 2053 or visit

www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/index.html#Carryoverwater