# RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 13 JANUARY 2010

***Trim Ref: D10/573***

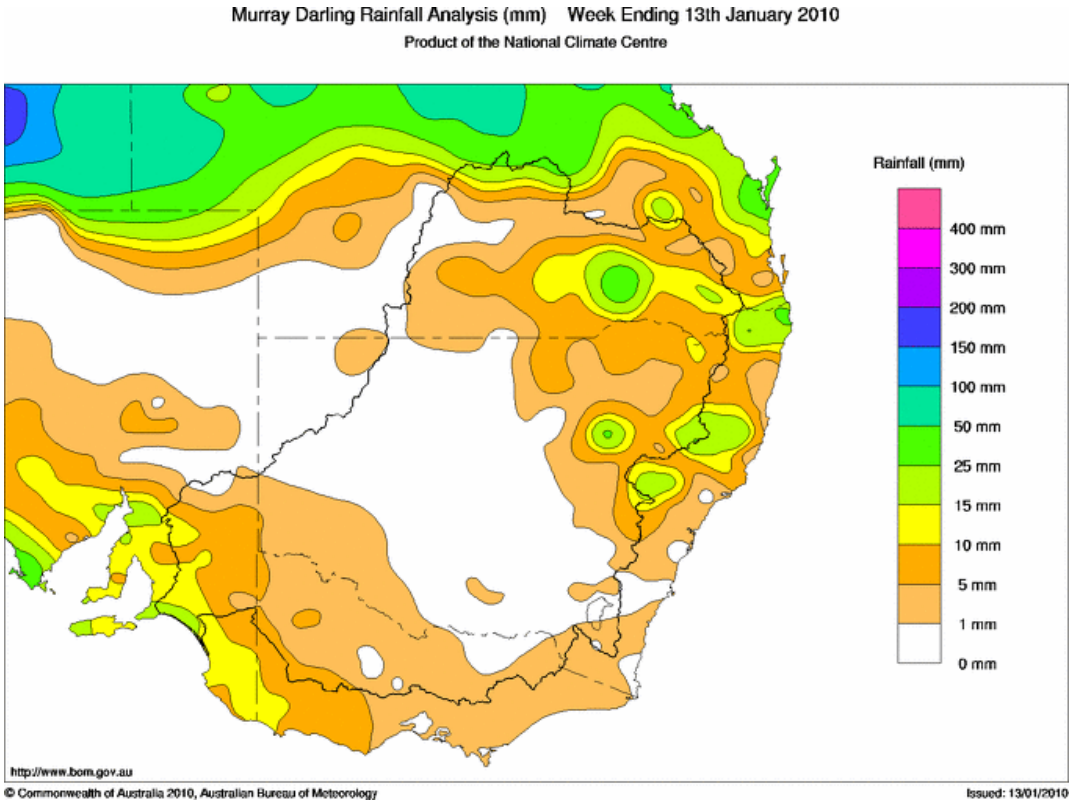
## Rainfall and Inflows

In contrast with the previous two weeks, rainfall across the Basin was generally light. The northern Basin experienced only isolated falls, while the southern Basin remained dry and hot throughout the week until a band of light rain and cooler air arrived during the 12th and 13th. As a result, weekly rainfall totals were generally less than 10 mm, with the only scattered higher totals recorded at a few stations in the northern Basin (see map below).

Inflows from the recent rain event in northern NSW continue to progress down the Darling River, and the high flows observed further upstream in the Castlereagh and Namoi Rivers have now reduced significantly. For example, flows on the Namoi River at Mollee Weir have reduced to around 1,000 ML/day after peaking at over 35,000 ML/day on 6th January; whilst on the Castlereagh River, the flow at Gungalman has now receded to below 13,000 ML/day after peaking at over 18,000 ML/day earlier in the week.

The peak flows from this event are now moving down the Barwon River and into the Darling, where the flow at Bourke has now reached 42,000 ML/day after rising slowly throughout the week. With levels still rising upstream of Bourke, a substantial flow is now expected to continue for several weeks. Downstream at Menindee Lakes the flow front has now arrived and inflows are beginning at Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo.

As a result of the hot dry weather, stream-flows in the southern Basin have receded during the week. For example, Rocky Point on the Ovens River has receded from 1240 to 500 ML/day, whilst at Biggara on the upper Murray River flows have reduced from 450 ML/day to around 300 ML/day.



# River Operations

MDBA active storage decreased by 62 GL to 2,081 GL (or 24% capacity), which is higher than this time last year 1,677 GL or 20% capacity).

Total storage in Dartmouth Reservoir has remained steady at 1,195 GL or around 31% capacity. The release remains at 500 ML/day with a target of 600 ML/day downstream at Tallandoon.

Total storage in Hume Reservoir decreased by 52 GL to 749 GL (25% capacity) over the last week. The release has been targeting 12,500 ML/day at Doctors Point over the last few days and has now been increased to 13,500 ML/day in response to downstream demands.

The water level in Lake Mulwala decreased slightly during the week as hot weather increased evaporation and is now at 124.73 m AHD, which is 17 cm below FSL. The level is expected to remain at or above 124.7 m AHD over the coming week. The release from Yarrawonga Weir has remained at 10,000 ML/day over the last week and is expected to stay fairly steady over the coming days.

On the Edward River, a flow of 2,200 ML/day has been targeted at Stevens Weir and it should remain at this rate for the next few days.

Flows along the lower Goulburn River are now receding back to more typical levels after the temporary increase in response to rain around New Year. The flow peaked at just under 1,000 ML/day at McCoy's Bridge on 8th January and has now receded to around 600 ML/day. Further downstream on the River Murray, Torrumbarry Weir is at full supply and has been releasing a steady flow of around 7,000 ML/day over the last week. This may be reduced slightly in the next few days.

Downstream at Euston Weir, the release has decreased from 10,000 to 9,600 ML/day and the weir pool remains at FSL. The release should remain steady over the coming days. The releases at both Mildura and Wentworth Weirs remain fairly steady and their pool levels remain just above FSL.

On the Darling River, the new flows from the recent rain event have now reached the Menindee Lakes. Total storage in the lakes has increased by around 16 GL over the last week to 145 GL. The level will continue rising as further higher flows arrive from upstream. NSW has advised that it plans to pass a significant volume of flood water along the lower Darling River and into the River Murray (see attached media release). A progressive increase in releases downstream of Menindee will commence over the coming few days.

The Darling River at Wilcannia, 14th January 2010.
The level is expected to rise at least another metre above this.
[Photo courtesy Larry Bearman]

Storage in Lake Victoria decreased by 10 GL to 347 GL (51 % capacity) over the last week and should continue to decline slowly over the next few days. The target flow to South Australia remains at 6850 ML/day, and Locks 1 to 5 are all just below FSL, while Lock 6 is slightly above FSL.

The water level in Lake Alexandrina has decreased slightly to -0.83 m AHD, while at Lake Albert (which remains separated from Lake Alexandrina) the level has also dropped slightly and is now at -0.70 m AHD. The water level in Goolwa Channel (which is separated from Lake Alexandrina by an earth embankment) decreased during the week from 0.37 to 0.32 m AHD.

As a result of the recent improvement in inflows, Victoria and NSW have both increased their water allocations for the River Murray system (see page 6 for details).

**For media inquiries contact: Sam Leone on 02 6279 0141**

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Murray

**Week ending Wednesday 13 Jan 2010**

## Water in Storage

| MDBA Storages | Full Supply Level (m AHD) | Full Supply Volume (GL) | Current Storage Level (m AHD) | Current Storage (GL) | Current Storage % | Dead Storage (GL) | MDBA Active Storage (GL) | Change in Total Storage for the week (GL) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dartmouth Reservoir | 486.00 | 3 906 | 429.99 | 1 195 | 31% | 80 | 1 115 | +0 |
| Hume Reservoir | 192.00 | 3 038 | 176.14 | 749 | 25% | 30 | 719 | -52 |
| Lake Victoria | 27.00 | 677 | 24.03 | 347 | 51% | 100 | 247 | -10 |
| Menindee Lakes | | 1 731 * | | 145 | 8% | (- -) # | 0 | +16 |
| **Total** | | **9 352** | | **2 436** | **26%** | **- -** | **2 081** | **-46** |

* Menindee surcharge capacity 2050 GL  % of Total Active MDBA Storage = **24%**

\# NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

## Major State Storages

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Burrinjuck Reservoir | 1 026 | | 432 | 42% | 3 | 429 | -4 |
| Blowering Reservoir | 1 631 | | 489 | 30% | 24 | 465 | +3 |
| Eildon Reservoir | 3 334 | | 1 038 | 31% | 100 | 938 | -15 |

## Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 12-Jan-2010

| Storage | Active storage (GL) | Weekly change (GL) | Diversion (GL) | This week | From 1 May 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Lake Eucumbene - Total | 1 117 | -45 | Snowy-Murray | +29 | 441 |
| Snowy-Murray Component | 750 | -27 | Tooma-Tumut | +6 | 227 |
| Target Storage | 1 520 | | Nett Diversion | 23.0 | 214 |
| | | | Murray 1 Release | +33 | 655 |

## Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

| New South Wales | This week | From 1 July 2009 |
|---|---|---|
| Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net) | 4.0 | 110.3 |
| Wakool Sys Allowance | 1.2 | 37.1 |
| Western Murray Irrig. | 1.6 | 14.1 |
| Licensed Pumps | 2.9 | 51.3 |
| Lower Darling | 0.3 | 5.3 |
| **TOTAL** | **9.9** | **218.0** |

| Victoria | This week | From 1 July 2009 |
|---|---|---|
| Yarrawonga Main Channel (net) | 6.6 | 74 |
| Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net) | 4.2 | 121 |
| Sunraysia Pumped Districts | 5.5 | 64 |
| Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s) | 3.5 | 6 |
| Licensed pumps - LMW | 11.2 | 141 |
| **TOTAL** | **31.0** | 407 |

* Figures derived from Estimates and Monthly Data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All Data is rounded to nearest 100 ML for the above**

## Flow to South Australia (GL)

| | |
|---|---|
| Entitlement this month | 217 * |
| Flow this week | 47.9 |
| Flow so far this month | 88 |
| Flow last month | 155 |

(6 800 ML/day)

* Reduced to approx. 210 GL during January drought contingency operations

## Salinity (EC)

**(microsiemens/cm @ 25° C)**

| | Current | Average over the last week | Average since 1 August 2009 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Swan Hill | 70 | 60 | 60 |
| Euston | 80 | 80 | 90 |
| Red Cliffs | 110 | 120 | 110 |
| Merbein | 130 | 160 | 100 |
| Burtundy (Darling) | 620 | 620 | 540 |
| Lock 9 | 160 | 140 | 140 |
| Lake Victoria | 190 | 180 | 200 |
| Berri | 190 | 200 | 360 |
| Waikerie | - | - | 520 |
| Morgan | 390 | 400 | 570 |
| Mannum | 760 | 760 | 630 |
| Murray Bridge | 740 | 740 | 690 |
| Milang (Lake Alex.) | 5 960 | 6 020 | 5 440 |
| Poltalloch (Lake Alex.) | 5 320 | 5 100 | 4 990 |
| Meningie (Lake Alb.) | 15 100 | 13 630 | 10 450 |
| Goolwa Barrages | 13 150 | 12 580 | 13 550 |

## Week ending Wednesday 13 Jan 2010

## River Levels and Flows

| River Murray | Minor Flood stage (m) | Gauge height local (m) | Gauge height (m AHD) | Flow (ML/day) | Trend | Average flow this week (ML/day) | Average flow last week (ML/day) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Khancoban | - | - | - | 4 240 | F | 5 200 | 3 360 |
| Jingellic | 4.0 | 1.92 | 208.44 | 6 510 | R | 5 490 | 3 710 |
| Tallandoon ( Mitta Mitta River ) | 4.2 | 1.50 | 218.39 | 650 | R | 620 | 1 000 |
| Heywoods | 5.5 | 2.82 | 156.45 | 11 770 | S | 11 670 | 10 370 |
| Doctors Point | 5.5 | 2.87 | 151.34 | 12 800 | R | 12 710 | 11 680 |
| Albury | 4.3 | 1.85 | 149.29 | - | - | - | - |
| Corowa | 7.0 | 2.63 | 128.65 | 12 600 | S | 12 080 | 12 290 |
| Yarrawonga Weir (d/s) | 6.4 | 1.65 | 116.69 | 10 030 | R | 9 970 | 10 390 |
| Tocumwal | 6.4 | 2.16 | 106.00 | 9 800 | S | 9 910 | 10 200 |
| Torrumbarry Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 2.34 | 80.89 | 7 070 | F | 7 200 | 7 200 |
| Swan Hill | 4.5 | 1.42 | 64.34 | 7 330 | S | 7 330 | 7 570 |
| Wakool Junction | 8.8 | 3.07 | 52.19 | 8 460 | S | 8 580 | 8 820 |
| Euston Weir (d/s) | 8.8 | 1.96 | 43.80 | 9 590 | S | 9 840 | 10 010 |
| Mildura Weir (d/s) | | - | - | 6 890 | F | 7 040 | 6 910 |
| Wentworth Weir (d/s) | 7.3 | 3.04 | 27.80 | 6 010 | R | 5 860 | 5 950 |
| Rufus Junction | - | 3.35 | 20.28 | 6 450 | R | 6 120 | 5 880 |
| Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s) | - | -0.40 | - | 2 700 | R | 2 770 | 2 090 |
| **Tributaries** | | | | | | | |
| Kiewa at Bandiana | 2.7 | 1.24 | 154.47 | 910 | R | 700 | 1 180 |
| Ovens at Wangaratta | 11.9 | 7.89 | 145.57 | 600 | F | 830 | 2 190 |
| Goulburn at McCoys Bridge | 9.0 | 1.29 | 92.71 | 630 | F | 790 | 670 |
| Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s) | - | 2.16 | 81.93 | 2 220 | S | 2 320 | 2 590 |
| Edward at Liewah | - | 2.72 | 58.10 | 2 170 | S | 2 160 | 2 170 |
| Wakool at Stoney Crossing | - | 1.28 | 54.77 | 190 | S | 220 | 240 |
| Murrumbidgee at Balranald | 5.0 | 1.62 | 57.58 | 1 150 | F | 1 180 | 1 110 |
| Barwon at Mungindi | - | 3.54 | - | 900 | R | 500 | 120 |
| Darling at Bourke | - | 10.38 | - | 42 150 | R | 40 740 | 30 530 |
| Darling at Burtundy Rocks | - | 0.68 | - | 50 | F | 50 | 40 |

| **Natural Inflow to Hume** (ie pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme) | n/a | n/a |
|---|---|---|

## Weirs and Locks

**Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)**

| Murray | FSL (m AHD) | u/s | d/s | | FSL (m AHD) | u/s | d/s |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yarrawonga | 124.90 | -0.17 | - | No. 7 Rufus River | 22.10 | +0.04 | +1.15 |
| No 26 Torrumbarry | 86.05 | -0.01 | - | No. 6 Murtho | 19.25 | +0.05 | +0.03 |
| No. 15 Euston | 47.60 | +0.00 | - | No. 5 Renmark | 16.30 | -0.02 | +0.17 |
| No. 11 Mildura | 34.40 | +0.06 | +0.26 | No. 4 Bookpurnong | 13.20 | -0.02 | +0.72 |
| No. 10 Wentworth | 30.80 | +0.06 | +0.40 | No.3 Overland Corner | 9.80 | -0.04 | +0.17 |
| No. 9 Kulnine | 27.40 | +0.01 | +0.00 | No. 2 Waikerie | 6.10 | -0.03 | +0.22 |
| No. 8 Wangumma | 24.60 | -0.03 | +1.14 | No 1. Blanchetown | 3.20 | -0.01 | -1.15 |

| Murrumbidgee | FSL (m AHD) | relation to FSL | d/s gauge ht. local (m) | d/s gauge ht. (m AHD) | Flow (ML/day) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. 7 Maude | 75.40 | -1.88 | 1.13 | 70.48 | 999 |
| No. 5 Redbank | 66.90 | -0.07 | 0.97 | 62.27 | 1186 |

## Lower Lakes

**FSL = 0.75 m AHD**

| | (m AHD) |
|---|---|
| Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days | -0.83 |

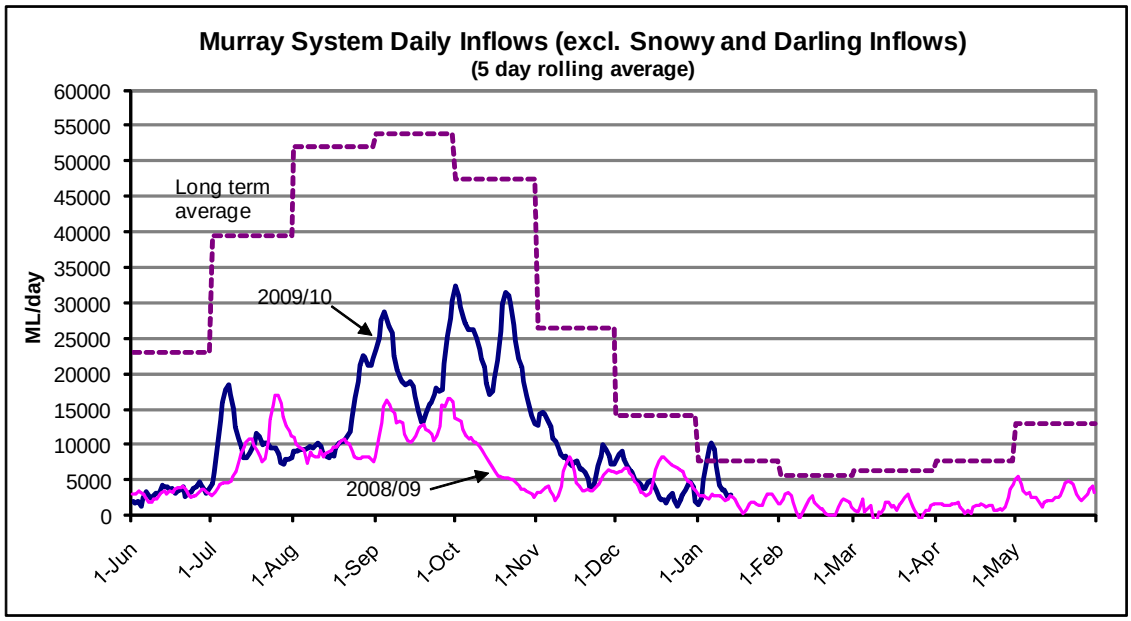
## Barrages

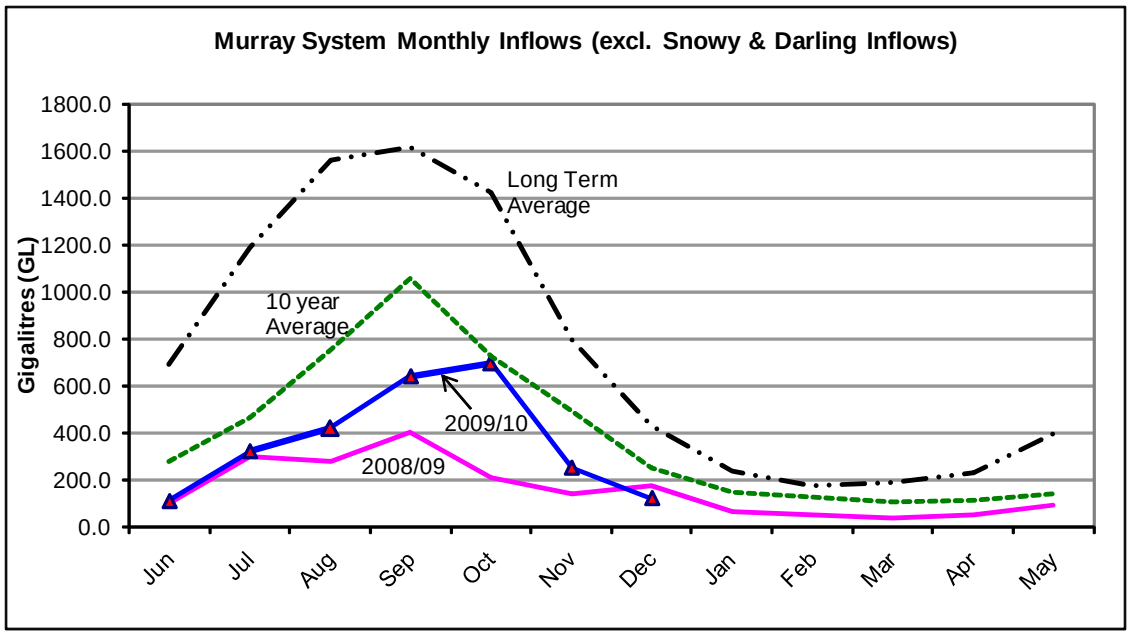
**Fishways @ Barrages**

| | Openings | Level (m AHD) | Status | Rock Ramp | Vertcal Slot |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Goolwa | 128 openings | 0.32 | All closed | - | Closed |
| Mundoo | 26 openings | - | All closed | - | - |
| Boundary Creek | 6 openings | - | All closed | - | - |
| Ewe Island | 111 gates | - | All closed | - | - |
| Tauwitchere | 322 gates | - | All closed | Closed | Closed |

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level

## Week ending Wednesday 13 January 2010




### State Allocations (as at 15 January 2010)

**NSW - Murray Valley**

| | |
|---|---|
| High security | 97% |
| General security | 13% |

**NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley**

| | |
|---|---|
| High security | 95% |
| General security | 18% |

**NSW - Lower Darling**

| | |
|---|---|
| High security | 100% |
| General security | 100% |

**Victoria - Murray Valley**

| | |
|---|---|
| high reliability | 63% |

**Victoria - Goulburn Valley**

| | |
|---|---|
| high reliability | 55% |

**South Australia - Murray Valley**

| | |
|---|---|
| High security | 48% |

NSW : http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/About-us/Media-releases/media/default.aspx
VIC : http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp
SA : http://www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/media.html

NSW GOVERNMENT | Office of Water

# News release

**Friday, 15 January 2010**

## General security allocation increases for NSW irrigators in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Darling Rivers

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced that the general security water allocation in the Murray Valley would increase to 13 per cent of entitlement and that general security allocation in the lower Darling River would increase to 100 per cent of entitlement.

Mr Harriss said that today's increases are the result of the significant volumes forecast to flow into the Menindee Lakes system following the floods generated in northern NSW over the Christmas-New Year period, and the proposed volumes that will be released from the Menindee Lakes into the Murray River.

"The general security allocation in the Murrumbidgee Valley will also increase by 3 percent to 18 percent of entitlement, which is the result of small inflows into Burrinjuck and Blowering dams and less than forecast transmission losses," he said.

Mr Harriss said that flows from the Menindee Lakes to the Lower Darling River will be increased over the coming few days to about 9,000 megalitres per day and landowners are advised to move their pumps and other property accordingly.

"These flows will then be maintained for up to two weeks before being gradually reduced."

"The water flowing from the Lower Darling into the River Murray will be re-regulated in Lake Victoria and will provide an improvement in water availability for NSW and also will provide for increased environmental flows in South Australia," he said

"How the water reaching the Murray will be used to get the best environmental outcomes, is currently subject to negotiations between NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the Commonwealth Governments, said Mr Harriss

Mr Harriss said that NSW has requested the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to approve the temporary trade of water out of the Lower Darling River valley, subject to ensuring there are no impacts on water availability to other states or licensed water users.

Mr Harriss said that details of water management in the Murrumbidgee, Murray and Lower Darling river valleys are available in today's Critical Water Planning communiqués, published on the Office of Water website at www.water.nsw.gov.au.

**Media contact:** Bunty Driver 0407 40 3234