

Monday, 17 August 2009

IRRIGATION ALLOCATIONS REMAIN AT 5PC

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald said today that River Murray irrigation allocations will remain at 5 percent as dry conditions and low inflows continue across the Murray-Darling Basin.

Minister Maywald says inflows into the system have remained low, and River Murray storages are at just 21pc.

“A total of 330 gigalitres flowed into the River Murray system last month, well below the long-term average July inflow of 1190 GL,” Minister Maywald says.

“The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is about 1980 GL (21pc capacity), compared with the total volume in storage at the same time last year of 2318 GL (24pc capacity).

“This is well below the long-term average for mid-August of about 6900 GL (74pc capacity).

“Salinity levels between the border and Lock 1, and at Mannum and Murray Bridge, generally remain low. However, salinity levels in the Lower Lakes remain high.

“The average water level in Lake Alexandrina is currently about minus 0.79m AHD, and at Lake Albert is currently about minus 0.19m AHD.

“The Murray-Darling Basin Authority has advised that inflows have been sufficient to offset contingencies to ensure river flows and that SA currently has an advance of 140 GL which will be repaid at the rate of 50pc of allocated improvements to SA.”

Allocation will continue to be updated on the 1st and 15th of each month, or the first business day if those dates fall on a weekend.

For more information about conditions in the River Murray or wider Murray-Darling Basin visit www.dwlbc.sa.gov.au/murray/drought/