
Thursday, 15 October 2009

IRRIGATION ALLOCATIONS INCREASE TO 34PC

South Australian River Murray licence holders will be able to access 34 percent of their entitlement from today, an increase of 9pc.

Minister for the River Murray Karlene Maywald says the extra allocation is possible because of increased water availability in the River Murray system.

“The Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s latest water resources assessment shows an overall improvement in the shared resource of about 200 gigalitres,” she said.

“South Australia is entitled to 74 GL of this improvement.

“After using 20 GL to repay in full our advance of water received at the start of 2009-10, we have 54 GL to provide for general allocations.

“The 34pc allocation is the highest in South Australia since 2006-07, when allocations were at 60pc.

“While there has been some improvement in inflows, water resource availability throughout the southern Murray-Darling Basin remains at low levels.

“The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is about 2714 GL (29pc), compared to about 2600 GL (28pc) at the same time last year.”

Allocation announcements will continue to be made on the 1st and 15th of each month, or the first business day following 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/