

Friday, 15 October 2010

510 GL OF WATER SECURED FOR 2011/12 WATER YEAR

Minister for the River Murray Paul Caica today announced 510 GL of water improvements have been assigned to the minimum reserve to help underpin the delivery of water to South Australia for 2011/12.

Mr Caica said South Australia will receive its full entitlement flow of 1,850 GL during 2010-11 and all improvements above this are now being directed towards the minimum reserve in accordance with the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement.

“This minimum reserve cannot be used during 2010-11 and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority’s latest assessment of River Murray resources has assigned these improvements into the minimum reserve for 2011-12.

“South Australia’s general allocations will remain at 67 per cent or 422 GL. This, together with the 228 GL of carryover which has already been allocated, takes us to our 650 GL allocation cap.

“Irrigators have had access to 100 percent of carryover since the start of July.”

Mr Caica said the forecast minimum inflow for September 2010 has increased to 2,850 GL, which is above the long-term average of about 1,600 GL.

“River Murray system inflow for the 2010-11 water year, to the end of September 2010, was about 5,330 GL, compared to the long-term average for the same period of 5,010 GL,” he said.

“This inflow is due primarily to the above average inflow received during September 2010.

“However, since early September rainfall over the River Murray and associated catchment areas has been low.

“This has resulted in minor drying of some key areas and inflows have returned to low levels in October.”

The current volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee Lakes and Lake Victoria is 6,784 GL or 73 percent capacity.

For more information about conditions in the River Murray or wider Murray-Darling Basin visit www.mdba.gov.au