



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

More water for the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys

2 November 2007

More water for the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys will be made available, but the drought could get worse with the traditionally wet months of September and October passing with little rain.

Inflows are well below the long-term average in most areas of NSW and with warmer, drier months approaching, its time to start planning ahead.

Together with local councils and industry, the NSW Government will continue to do all it can to keep water flowing to drought stricken NSW communities.

The Minister for Climate Change, Environment and Water Phil Koperberg today announced:

- **An increase for high security allocations in the Murrumbidgee Valley from 75 per cent to 80 per cent; and**
- **A further 10 per cent of suspended account water from 2006 in the Murray Valley will now be re-credited, bringing total repayments to 45 per cent.**

This increase will provide high security users in the Murrumbidgee with enough water for horticultural production and support the needs of intensive livestock and forestry industries until July 2008.

Enough water is available in the Murray to allow the contingency watering program to run till March 2008 but a number of creeks still do not have ongoing access to domestic and stock water, so tributary flows will be directed to these as a priority.

While the extra water is some good news for the region, the outlook for next year remains grim.

Inflows have been well below the average and, if the drought continues, there may not be enough water to meet all needs after June 2008.

Significant rainfall is needed over the coming months to turn this situation around.

All intensive livestock producers in the Murray and Murrumbidgee have been asked to assess what impact critically low water will have on their future viability.

Water availability across NSW is continually monitored by the Department of Water and Energy. More information will be available in the Department's critical water planning communiqué, due for release on 15 November. All the communiqués issued by the Department are available online via our [What's New](#) listing.