

Special Talking Water

Monday 20 January 2014



Murray Irrigation

Environmental water trade announced

The Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH) today announced that it will be making up to 10GL of Gwydir Valley water allocation available for sale.

The CEWH, David Papps, said the decision to enter the market coincides with the introduction of robust governance arrangements, including a trade framework, operating rules, procedures and protocols to ensure CEWH water market activity is conducted in a responsible, fair, equitable and transparent manner.

The CEWH says the first trade provides an opportunity to test the processes developed. Until such time as the CEWH has evaluated its systems, **no decisions regarding future trade have been made**¹.

The CEWH will use the proceeds of the sale to purchase water at another time, either within the Gwydir Valley or elsewhere in the Murray-Darling Basin, to provide greater environmental benefit. This is consistent with the conditions to trade as set out in the *Water Act 2007*.

This announcement is the culmination of more than two years consultation with industry and stakeholders, including Murray Irrigation.

The decision to trade in the Gwydir Valley is based on the CEWH's assessment that the allocations available for sale are not anticipated to be required to meet the objectives of its environmental watering plan in this or the next water year.

The National Irrigators' Council said the move to sell allocation is overdue and that due to the extreme variability of water availability, selling water makes environmental and economic sense.

Murray Irrigation will continue to monitor the CEWH's updates for the Murray catchment and inform customers if there is any change to its stated trade intentions for this catchment and other catchments in the southern connected Murray Darling Basin.

Further information on the CEWH trade and the trading framework and protocols, can be accessed online:

http://www.environment.gov.au/system/files/media-releases/c5dcbaeb-f731-46a4-8a7d-88187b434cda/files/mr20140120_0.pdf.



Anthony Couroupis
General Manager

¹ <http://www.environment.gov.au/topics/water/commonwealth-environmental-water-office/portfolio-management/portfolio-management>