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Commencing allocations for NSW Murray Valley and Lower Darling water users

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced commencing allocations for water users in the Murray and Lower Darling valleys for the new 2012/13 water year.

“In the NSW Murray Valley, high security licence holders will commence on 97 percent of entitlement, while general security licence holders will commence on 56 percent of entitlement,” he said.

“As water is used, and new inflows are captured, allocations are expected to increase.”

Mr Harriss said that in 2012/13, general security licence holders will also have access to water carried over from 2011/12, up to a maximum of 50 percent of entitlement.

“This carryover, plus allocations in 2012/13, cannot exceed the account limit of 110 percent of entitlement.”

“With approximately 690 gigalitres currently being held in private accounts (equivalent to over 41 percent) general security allocations are closer to 97 percent of entitlement for users on average.”

Domestic and stock licence holders in the NSW Murray will commence on 100 percent of entitlement. Likewise Town Water supply and Local Water Utility licence holders will also commence on 100 percent of entitlement.

In the Lower Darling, there is sufficient water to secure Broken Hill’s town water supply for at least 22 months.

“There is also enough water available to enable a high security and general security allocation of 100 percent of entitlement.,” said Mr Harriss

Licence holders are reminded that they are only permitted to take supplementary water from this water source in accordance with announcements made by the Minister and the conditions of their access licence.

Water would be shared in accordance with the rules outlined in *Water Sharing Plan for the Murray Lower Darling Regulated Rivers water source*.

The next announcement relating to the *Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Water Source* will be made on 15 August and then on the 15th of each month via media release until full allocations are reached. These are available from the NSW Office of Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

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Media Release

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