



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

## Small improvement in the Murray Valley

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9 October 2007

Licence holders within the Murray Lower Darling Water Sharing Plan area were today re-credited with a further 10 per cent of the water suspended in 2006/07. Water will be re-credited to accounts immediately and be available for use.

This improvement is the result of the combined effect of small rainfall events and some snow melt.

Currently there is enough water in the Murray Valley system to provide another period of contingency water to support high security permanent plantings and to meet the critical needs of all Murray Valley towns, high security intensive livestock, and forest industries for the remainder of the water year.

Under the re-negotiated tri-state water sharing arrangements, NSW borrowed 195 gigalitres of water early in the season from Victoria to secure town water supply and to supply the critical water of permanent plantings and other high security industries.

NSW has now repaid its part of that agreement and is now in the position to benefit from any future Murray Darling Basin inflows.

The outlook in the Murray Valley is still extremely critical.

Inflows are receding to the record low flows seen last year and no reserves have been set aside for 2008/09. The Murray Darling Ministerial Council will continue to investigate a "Southern Basin approach", which could be adopted if conditions continue to stay dry. This will include looking at the Murray, Murrumbidgee and relevant Victorian tributaries.

Future information relating to water availability in the Murray Valley will be made on the 15th of each month via the Murray Critical Water Communiqués available online at [www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au](http://www.naturalresources.nsw.gov.au).

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