



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Further restrictions necessary in Murray Valley

25 October 2007

Further water restrictions were today announced on the domestic use of groundwater and surface water taken from private works in the Murray Valley.

Restrictions now apply to:

- Landholders/householders using town water supply must now ensure their bore water use is in line with Council water restrictions; and
- Bores on properties outside the town water supply system can now not be used for watering lawns.

Prolonged drought and low rainfall during the normally wet months of August to October means the Murray Valley is now in a very serious state. It's only received one quarter of the average inflows for October and with no water set aside for 2008/09, everyone must make sacrifices to protect this valuable resource.

There is only enough water to meet essential needs and keep critical industries operating. Using water for lawns is a luxury we can't afford when farmers and other landowners are battling to keep stock alive.

The same groundwater restrictions had been in place in Howlong and Albury since January.

Evidence from groundwater monitoring has shown it's become necessary to extend this restriction further to include all NSW towns along the Murray River.

Many domestic bores had been installed in recent months throughout NSW including in the Murray Valley area.

All these bores are drawing water from the shallow aquifer connected to the river system and effectively drawing water from the same resource.

Groundwater pressure in the deep aquifer is also declining in many areas and we have a program throughout NSW to ensure groundwater entitlements are at sustainable levels.

The new restrictions in the Murray Valley would remain until water availability improves and the NSW Water Sharing Plan is reinstated.
