



2 July 2012

Commencing water allocations for the Lachlan Valley

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced Available Water Determinations for surface water users in the Lachlan Regulated River water source for the new 2012/2013 water year, commencing on 1 July 2012.

Local water utility, domestic and stock and high security licence holders will receive 100 per cent of allocation.

General security access licence holders on the Lachlan regulated river will have access to water carried over from the previous water year. This means these licence holders will have access to an average of 130 per cent of entitlement, subject to the actual volume of carryover for each individual.

The vast majority of licence holders will have carried over enough water to fill their A sub-accounts to 100 per cent for the 2012/2013 water year.

All general security accounts were reset on 8 March 2012 to 136 per cent following the first spill of Wyangala Dam since December 2000. With large volumes of account water also spilling into B sub-accounts, current availability assures high levels of productive water use over the next two years.

In recent months Wyangala Dam has been operated to provide airspace for flood mitigation purposes. Storage levels are currently at 95 per cent and there is an 80 per cent chance that the dam will fill by 1 September 2012.

Additional Available Water Determinations can only be made once account water is used and additional storable inflows are received. The NSW Office of Water will continue to closely monitor rainfall and river inflows as well as usage in the valley to determine when a subsequent allocation is available.

Full allocations have also been made for water users covered by the *Mandagery Creek* water sharing plan.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations can be found on the NSW Office of Water's website at - **www.water.nsw.gov.au**

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Media contact: Anne Brook 0419 120 527

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