



Friday, 20 January 2012

Borrow forward arrangements for Barwon-Darling Water Users

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss, today announced arrangements for Barwon-Darling Water Users in the 2011/12 water year that will enable users to borrow from next year's 2012/13 water allocation.

"The arrangement will allow Barwon-Darling water users to divert water from current high system flows and allow users to store water for next year should 2012/13 be dry.

"It will also ensure that no more than the long-term average annual Cap is used by the valley over the 2011/12 and 2012/13 water years."

Mr Harriss explained that with extended access to flows so far this water year, some users are now running up against their individual Cap share limit.

"These 'borrow' arrangements will allow individual water users, through a written expression of interest process, to gain forward access to all or part of their next year's (2012/13 water year) individual share of Cap. "

"In effect, individual water use over the two water years will be limited to twice an individual's annual Cap share limit."

An interim Cap Management action for the Barwon-Darling is currently in place for the 2011/12 water year while the revised Barwon-Darling Cap model undergoes the review and accreditation process required by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority and important community consultation on proposed water sharing rules is undertaken.

"The interim arrangement announced today limits the combined water use by Barwon-Darling water users to the long-term average Cap for the valley over the two-year period 2011/12 and 2012/13," Mr Harriss said.

"The development of a water sharing plan for the Barwon-Darling unregulated river is now well advanced and accreditation of the revised Barwon-Darling model is with the MDBA that will enable long term measures for Cap management to be set in place in the statutory water sharing plan," Mr Harriss said.

Enquiries about these borrow arrangements should be directed towards Mr Daniel Connor on (02) 6773 5294. Written expressions of interest should be marked with attention to Mr Daniel Connor and sent to Fax: (02) 6773 5288 or Email: daniel.connor@water.nsw.gov.au

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