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Release of stimulus flow from Pindari Dam

NSW Water Commissioner David Harriss today announced that a release of 16,000 megalitres from Pindari Dam to benefit the ecological values of the Severn River and downstream tributaries will begin on 1 December 2012.

“Conditions have changed rapidly since flooding rains saw Pindari Dam spill earlier in the year. Now due to drier conditions, the release of this environmental water will be a great benefit to the health and productivity of the river,” Mr Harriss said.

“The *NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Sharing Plan* allows for an environmental flow to be released from Pindari Dam to benefit the riparian ecological processes.”

“This release will be matched by a combination of Commonwealth environmental water entitlements and benefits provided by the release of water to meet general security irrigation orders.”

“For a period of 10 days the release will mimic a natural flow pattern that will enable ecological functions to be triggered within the Severn River.”

It is expected that the aquatic food chain will be stimulated providing food sources and habitat improvements for native fish, platypus and bird life.

The flows will continue downstream from the Severn River into the Macintyre River and beyond Goondiwindi to Mungindi, where in-stream environmental values will be targeted with the additional 8,000 megalitres of Commonwealth environmental water holdings.

“This flow event has been possible with the collaboration from several government agencies including the NSW Office of Water, State Water Corporation, the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, NSW DPI Fisheries, the Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.”

“Monitoring and evaluation of the physical and ecological response will be undertaken by the NSW Office of Water, Office of Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office,” Mr Harriss said.

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