



2 April 2013

Namoi and Border Rivers landholders asked to register for floodplain licence

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today encouraged landholders across the Namoi and Border Rivers floodplains to check their eligibility for a Floodplain Harvesting Licence.

“The Healthy Floodplains project is currently being rolled out in the Namoi and Border Rivers valleys, following the initial phase in the Gwydir Valley late last year,” said Mr Harriss.

“This project is primarily about improving the management of floodplain structures, which includes the regulation and licensing of floodplain harvesting activities to ensure the sharing of floodplain water between water users and the environment.”

“As water taken from the floodplains, other than basic landholder rights will need to be licensed, I encourage Namoi and Border Rivers floodplain landholders to complete a registration form to be considered for eligibility for a Floodplain Harvesting Licence.”

Mr Harriss said this process would provide valuable information regarding the location, size and impact of floodplain structures, including floodplain storages, which will assist in the implementation of the NSW Floodplain Harvesting Policy.

“Landholders that receive a floodplain harvesting licence will be guaranteed access to floodplain water and these licences will be able to be traded.”

“All floodplain harvesting activities in the project area will be incorporated into the NSW Licensing framework by the end of June 2015,” Mr Harriss said.

The project is being implemented across five northern valleys in NSW’s Murray-Darling Basin – the Gwydir, Border Rivers, Namoi, Macquarie and the unregulated Barwon-Darling River valley.

Funding for this project is provided under the Australian Government’s Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure program’s *Water for the Future initiative* and is part of the \$500 million NSW Sustaining the Basin Project.

The closing date for Namoi and Border Rivers registration is 1 July 2013.

Further information is available on the NSW Office of Water website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au/mdb or Freecall 1800 353 104 or email - information@water.nsw.gov.au

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