



Thursday 1 November 2012

Gwydir Valley landholders encouraged to participate in healthy floodplains

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today encouraged landholders across the Gwydir Valley floodplains to check their eligibility for a Floodplain Harvesting Licence.

“The first phase of the Healthy Floodplains project is being rolled out in the Gwydir Valley,” Mr Harriss said.

“This project is primarily about improving the management of floodplain structures and regulating and licensing floodplain harvesting activities to ensure the sharing of floodplain water between consumptive use and the environment.”

“As water taken from the floodplains, other than basic landholder rights will need to be licensed, I encourage Gwydir Valley floodplain landholders to complete an expression of interest form to be considered for eligibility for a Floodplain Harvesting Licence.”

Through this process valuable information will be collected 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, Mr Harriss said.

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

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

The funding for this project is provided under the Australian Government’s Water for the Future initiative and is part of the \$500 million NSW Sustaining the Basin Project.

The closing date for Gwydir Valley expression of interest is 30 November 2012.

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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