



Wednesday, 3 July 2013

More time to register an interest in a floodplain licence in the Namoi and Border Rivers

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced an extension of time for landholders wishing to register an interest in a floodplain harvesting access licence in the Namoi and Border Rivers regions.

Mr Harriss said that the Healthy Floodplains project is currently being rolled out across the Namoi and Border Rivers valleys, following the initial phase in the Gwydir Valley earlier this year.

“We initially opened the *Registration of Interest* period up for 3 months, however landholders have asked for more time and we are happy to provide this,

“Consequently, we will close off on the registration of interest process on 30 September 2013.”

Mr Harriss said that this project is about improving floodplain management, which includes the regulation and licensing of floodplain harvesting activities to ensure the sharing of floodplain water between water users and the environment.

“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 areas 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.

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

ENDS

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

Our news releases are on the web: www.water.nsw.gov.au Follow us on Twitter @OfficeofWater