



# Murrumbidgee Groundwater Inc.

PO Box 342, Finley NSW 2713, Australia.

## DOWN UNDER NEWSLETTER

### From the Chairman

August 2009

#### 100% Allocation

I am extremely pleased to report that the commencing groundwater allocation for the Lower Murrumbidgee announced on the 1st of July 2009 is 100%. Please see Department of Water and Energy media release on page 2 which gives a detailed explanation of the Available Water Determination (AWD). MGI were very active liaising with the authorities in regard to the AWD and are very happy with the positive outcome, however it is not anticipated that we will have the luxury of 100% next year. The Department granted us 100% this year after 3 consecutive dry years to assist with the tough circumstances and we thank them for their consideration.

#### Office of Water

Another win that we have had is the announcement of an Office of Water in the new Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (DECCW). The new Office of Water will be established in the DECCW which will include: the Water Management Division; Water and Legal Compliance Division; Water Utilities; Metropolitan Water plus a pro rata share of corporate resources from the Department of Water and Energy.

The new Office of Water will be headed by the Commissioner for Water.

#### Amendment to the Water Sharing Plans

The necessity for an amendment to the Water Sharing Plan was brought to our attention late May 2009. As a result we endorsed a motion at the last NSWIC meeting that the amendment be forwarded to the Minister for approval. Reasoning behind the amendment is that under the current rules any water owner that

trades temporary water in one particular year followed by a permanent transfer may end up with a negative balance even though he or she has not used or traded all of their water. The proposed amendment will remove the maximum account limit clause from the plan. This will mean that the volume of water in the account will only be limited by the maximum amount that can be carried over at the end of the year.

For further clarification on this issue please contact Prem Kumar on phone 02 6932 9117

#### MGI's active presence

I wish to point out that MGI's active presence and constant lobbying have greatly assisted these positive outcomes. I am loath to consider the actions that decision makers could potentially take without our organisation's persistence.

#### SunRice Premium Pool

You will see enclosed a letter, expression of interest and application form from SunRice informing that SunRice is likely to have the opportunity to purchase a significant volume of 2009/2010 groundwater allocation in the Lower Murrumbidgee aquifer. Please refer to the SunRice letter for important information that may appeal to you and assist your business decisions.

SunRice assisted with the printing and postage of this newsletter which is greatly appreciated by our organisation.

#### National Irrigators Council

The newly formed National Irrigators Council (NIC) has appointed Danny O'Brien as their (CEO). Danny joins the organisation with a wealth of experience due to his background in



Richard Stott - Chairman



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journalism and politics. MGI are supporters of NIC and will take your interests to this national body.

#### Communication

If you would like hot off the press information in relation to groundwater, please forward your email address to [jenniehehir@bigpond.com](mailto:jenniehehir@bigpond.com). Jennie will be more than happy to add you to her emailing list.

**Website: [www.mgi.org.au](http://www.mgi.org.au)**

Remember to check our website as well for relevant information.

Here's hoping the spring will not be as dry as the forecasters are predicting.

*Richard Stott - Chairman*

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## Media Release

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30 June 2009

### COMMENCING WATER ALLOCATIONS FOR THE LOWER MURRUMBIDGEE GROUNDWATER SOURCES

**EMBARGO: 7.00AM 1 JULY 2009**

The Department of Water and Energy today announced commencing water allocations for groundwater sources across the State, for the new 2009-2010 water year commencing on 1 July 2009.

An Available Water Determination (AWD) for each category of access licence for the water sharing plan for the Lower Murrumbidgee Shallow and Deep Groundwater sources has been made, to manage and share the groundwater resources of the Basin in a sustainable and equitable manner.

For both the Deep and Shallow Groundwater Sources local water utility, domestic and stock and Aquifer subcategory Aboriginal cultural licences will receive 100 per cent of entitlement.

The volume per unit share for aquifer access licences authorised to extract water from the shallow and deep groundwater sources will be 1 megalitre per share unit.

The volume per unit share for Supplementary water access licence holders in the deep groundwater source is 0.6 megalitre per share.

Supplementary water access licence holders are reminded that supplementary water allocations in the Lower Murrumbidgee Groundwater Sources may be taken at any time and at any rate during the current water year, subject to any restrictions announced by the Minister.

Additional information on AWDs is available on the Department's website at [www.dwe.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au) Alternatively; licence holders can phone their local DWE office for more information.

**ENDS**

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