

MEDIA RELEASE

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The River Murray - Forests

Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

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Allocation up but uncertainty continues for SA irrigators

The water allocation lottery continues for South Australian irrigators with news their share will increase from 16 to 25 percent for October.

Shadow River Murray Minister Adrian Pederick said the increase brought mixed blessings for irrigators trying to make short and long term decisions.

'The increase will be of great benefit to some, while others who may have recently decided to purchase more water to get through might now regret that decision.

'The uncertainty of these constant adjustments is complicating those decisions and leaving irrigators forever uncertain, trying to second-guess the government as well as the weather.

'To add insult to injury, we also learn today that NSW high security water is now 95 percent in the Murrumbidgee and 97 percent in the Murray Valley.

'Even general security water along the Lower Darling is at 25 percent, as it was last month.

'Given that SA only takes seven percent of the total amount extracted from the Murray Darling and bearing in mind that all SA water is high security, South Australians have a right to feel hard done by.

'What's needed here is some fairness and equity, and we'll never get that while the Murray Darling Basin is controlled by individual states.

'I call on all governments to accept that an independent body with full control over the entire basin is the only way to manage a system that knows no borders in the best interest of all water users.

'This would enable better and fairer decisions to be made, giving all water users greater certainty about allocations and availability for the coming season.'