

A1 - Domestic and stock water availability in each state

The systems for stock water are slightly different in each state, we would advise farmers to make contact with relevant state authorities so that they can answer specific questions on the availability of stock water in the local area. Contact numbers are outlined below.

New South Wales

Under normal arrangements in NSW water would be allocated in the following order of priority:

1. town water supply;
2. environment; and
3. stock component of Basic Landholder rights, high security, commercial and industrial and the stock component of domestic and stock licenses.

This strict interpretation of the priorities for supply will be reviewed to ensure consistency with implementation of restrictions in other states under the Murray-Darling Basin Dry Inflow Contingency Plan.

Currently providing water for broadacre stock in NSW has the same priority as other high security entitlements including intensive feed lots and is not guaranteed.

Contingency planning for the supply and management of stock water in the Murray System will be ongoing. For further information on the availability of stock and domestic water in NSW, the contact person is:

Bunty Driver
NSW Department of Water and Energy
Tel: 03 5898 3910
email: bunty.driver@dnr.nsw.gov.au

Victoria

People in northern Victoria with Domestic and Stock water supplied by the Rural Water Authorities should contact their local Authority if they require information. The 2006/07 irrigation season has closed in the irrigation areas with gravity supply through channels. As in all years customers are required to make their own provision for Domestic and Stock water requirements from the end of one season to the start of the following season. The irrigation channels will not be drained this winter, except where it is unavoidable due to essential works.

In the event that the 2007/08 irrigation season opens later than 15 August due to an ongoing shortage of water, the Water Authorities will inform their customers of the arrangements for Domestic and Stock supplies through a variety of means including customer newsletters.

There are no changes to Domestic and Stock supplies from streams and groundwater.

For further information on the availability of stock and domestic water in Victoria Goulburn-Murray Water customers should contact their local office or Jeff Parry, 03 5484 0400, Lower Murray Water customers should contact their hotline on 03 5051 3400 and First Mildura Irrigation Trust customers should contact 03 5021 1811.

South Australia

People taking water from the River Murray in South Australia for any purpose need a water licence, unless the water is only taken and used for stock and/or domestic purposes on land that directly fronts the river (ie riparian land). Domestic use means the taking of water for ordinary household purposes and includes the watering of a garden used in conjunction with a dwelling. Stock use means the provision of drinking water for stock and does not include sufficient water to enable intensive livestock production uses, such as feedlot production.

An allowance for water for domestic and grazing stock purposes (both licensed and riparian) has been included in the worst-case scenario flow to South Australia of 487 gigalitres for 2007-08. On 1 July 2007, people pumping water directly from the River Murray will be able to take water for domestic and grazing stock use (both licensed and riparian), regardless of the availability of water for irrigation.

However, all water taken directly from the river for domestic use (both riparian and licensed) is, and will continue to be, subject to the same water restrictions that apply to SA Water's urban domestic users. These are currently at Level 3, but are likely to be increased to a higher level at the beginning of 2007-08.

The Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation is currently working through a number of supply and licensing issues with individual stock and domestic water users, including people who access domestic water through Irrigation Trusts. In addition, arrangements have been made in some areas, particularly around the Lower Lakes, for stock and domestic water to be provided through shared infrastructure, such as standpipes, or via temporary water carting.

For further information on the availability of stock and domestic water in South Australia, the contact person is:

Julie Cann

Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation

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Fax: 08 8463 6840

email: cann.julie@sau.gov.sa.gov.au