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# «talkingwater»

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## from the desk



### Allocations outlook 2008 / 09

The likely allocations for this year are probably one of the most talked about issues in our area. Obviously the available allocations have a major impact on the viability of our local irrigators which then flows through to all areas of our economy. Many irrigators may struggle to afford additional temporary water, particularly if prices reach the same levels as last year. Given it is such an important issue the following is a summary of the most up to date information available in respect of likely allocations for each state as at the 1st July 2008.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES

NSW Murray Valley  
High security opening allocation 0%  
General security opening allocation 0%  
Carryover 100% from 1/7/08

NSW Murrumbidgee Valley  
High security opening allocation 0%  
General security opening allocation 0%  
Carryover 100% from 1/7/08

NSW Lower Darling  
High security opening allocation 100%  
General security opening allocation 0%  
Carryover 100% from 1/7/08

Of all the states it would appear that NSW seem to be best placed to deliver the highest allocation for high security this irrigation year. Resources available to NSW are better than this time last year which is part due to the additional water in storage in the Menindee Lakes system. NSW has a relatively small amount of high security water to deliver to irrigators (approx 200GL) particularly in comparison to Victoria. Last year the Murrumbidgee Valley was the standout area with 90% allocation given to high security and 13% provided to general security.

#### VICTORIA

Vic Murray System  
High reliability opening allocation 0%  
Carryover 100% once local delivery system is running

Vic Goulburn System  
High reliability opening allocation 0%  
Carryover 100% once local delivery system is running

The allocation outlook for Victoria seems bleak with extremely low water reserves. This year allocations will almost entirely depend on inflows over coming months. The latest allocation outlook from the water authorities for the Murray system is below:

Inflow Conditions	15-Feb-09
Wet	100%
Average	69%
Dry	0%

Should the 2007/08 inflow conditions be repeated it is likely to produce a Murray seasonal allocation of 30% of high-reliability water shares and a 40% allocation in the Goulburn system.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Opening allocation 2%  
Carryover 50% from 1/7/08

SA has indicated that it is anticipated that up to 80% of carry-over will be available from 1 September. The latest projections for SA show that, depending on how water is allocated, there is a:  
- 75% chance allocations will be 32% by the end of 2008-09; and  
- 50% chance allocations will be higher than 32% by the end of 2008-09.

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