



Know-how for Horticulture™



Australian Government
**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**



MEDIA RELEASE

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Water allocations prompt planning for horticulturalists

With the NSW Department of Water and Energy announcing water allocations of zero per cent for high security users to start the season, horticulture irrigators in the Riverina are in un-chartered territory.

The situation is causing many growers to examine their options and they're being urged to consider a service being offered through the Murrumbidgee Horticulture Council.

Executive Director Karen Hutchinson says there's plenty of decision-making to be done over coming months.

"The catchment has just recorded its lowest ever inflows for the month of May, making the Department very cautious. Even though we hope allocations will improve rapidly between now and October, we can't take anything for granted.

"Whether growers have carry-over water or not, the sooner they do some short and longer term planning, the better able they will be to respond to further announcements," Ms Hutchinson said.

One-on-one, free, confidential sessions are being offered between now and October to help horticulture irrigators access the financial and agronomic information they need to make business decisions in the face of reduced water availability.

"We've employed local people with expertise in finance or horticulture to help growers manage their businesses today, and plan for tomorrow.

"Many people are pulling together financial information to have their tax returns done, so it's a perfect opportunity to do some business planning as well.

"The sessions will provide a sounding board for growers as they consider their options and work out an action plan based on their personal situation," Ms Hutchinson said.

To book your free session call the Murrumbidgee Horticulture Council on 02 6964 2420 or email admin@murrumbidgeehort.org.au

The project is being run by Horticulture Australia Limited in partnership with industry and supported by the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. It operates across the southern Murray-Darling Basin through the Goulburn Valley, Swan Hill, Sunraysia and South Australia as well as the Riverina.

For more information go to the HAL website, www.horticulture.com.au/mdbdroughtinfo

In partnership with industry and supported by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Horticulture Australia Limited has developed this project "Drought Information Delivery for Horticulture in the Murray Darling Basin" (MDB) as part of the Australian Government's Irrigation Industries Workshop Programme.

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