



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 Goulburn Murray Water announcing water allocations of zero per cent for high reliability users to start the season, horticulture irrigators in Sunraysia are again facing a tough year.

The situation is causing many growers to examine their options and they're being urged to consider a service being offered through the Australian Table Grape Association on behalf of the Murray Valley Horticultural Alliance for all horticulture irrigators, not just grape growers.

Chief Executive Officer of the Association, Jeff Scott, says it's now about risk management.

"While the storages are in better shape than last year, it's mostly carry over water rather than inflows. Even if allocations do increase over coming months, it is unlikely to be by much without significant rain.

"Growers need to be planning strategically for the chance of being able to access extra water or not, and how best to use their carry-over in the meantime," Mr Scott 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.

"It's an ideal time for growers to review their situation, particularly as they will be getting a clearer picture as part of preparing their tax returns.

"The sessions will point them in the direction of relevant information and services as well as help them to work through their options," Mr Scott said.

To book your free session call the Australian Table Grape Association on 03 5021 5718 or email [atga@ncable.com.au](mailto:atga@ncable.com.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, Riverina and South Australia as well as Sunraysia.

For more information go to the HAL website, [www.horticulture.com.au/mdbdroughtinfo](http://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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