



The Peak body for five landholder associations and 1600 irrigators in the Murray Valley

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Media Release

SRI welcomes the extension of Exceptional Circumstances

Southern Riverina Irrigators welcomes the Federal Government decision to extend Exceptional Circumstances (EC) for farmers in the Riverina and Murray Valley regions.

The cut-off date for EC funding had been 30 September 2008, causing extreme stress for farmers still experiencing drought conditions of record low rainfall on crops, pastures and in the catchments.

“The extension of EC funding will give farmers some security for an additional six months. However, it would appear the assistance will still be required following the 31 March 2009 due to water storages remaining at very low levels and the prospect of a water allocation being extremely slim,” said SRI Deputy Chairman Tim McKindlay.

“SRI along with other lobby groups have been in constant contact with politicians about the necessity for the continuation of EC as well as the desperate need for government to recognise that farmers in the Murray Valley are struggling to meet their fixed water charges.

“This declaration by the Federal Government reinforces the fact that this region is still suffering the effects of drought and adds weight to the case for waiving annual fixed charges,” Mr McKindlay concluded.

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The End.