



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

Southern Riverina Irrigators

MEDIA RELEASE

Southern Riverina Irrigators welcome the lifting of the embargo. The NSW Government has reached agreement with the Commonwealth, over environmental water purchases in NSW.

There has been widespread recognition that purchases and benefits for the environment should be spread equitably across the Murray Darling Basin. Today's announcement that a volumetric agreement limit, of 890 gigalitres for NSW over five years, will see NSW continue to fulfil its share of basin buybacks.

While the embargo has placed difficulties on individuals, SRI understands the NSW Governments position to support NSW communities by seeking a fairer deal with environmental purchases across the Murray Darling Basin.

However, restoring investor confidence should now be a priority, both at a community and farm level. SRI remains concerned that volumetric restrictions undermine the water property right. Addressing this and ensuring that Governments recognise environmental purchases in the future, will reassure businesses.

Approximately 393 gigalitres have already been purchased in NSW for the environment. Southern Riverina Irrigators have argued that water purchased for the environment now, should be recognised in future Basin planning, specifically in relation to the setting of the future Basin Cap.

It is vital that Governments continue to recognise the risks to regional communities and ensure a fair system in future water planning.

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