

WATER TRADES DEADLINE APPROACHES

13 May 2009

Temporary water trades in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Darling valleys will close on Sunday, 31 May 2009.

State Water Corporation today reminded customers they needed to lodge Applications to Assign Water Allocations (temporary trades) with the organisation before the deadline and to ensure they have sufficient water for the remainder of the 2008-09 water year.

State Water Manager Customer Operations David Andersen said customers should ensure they have enough water to maintain **all** of their water access licences in a credit balance until the end of June this year.

"Where necessary, customers have until close of business on Friday 29 May 2009 to lodge Applications to Assign Water Allocation along with the correct fee at their local State Water office," Mr Andersen said.

"We urge customers when submitting temporary trade applications to consider their requirements for the rest of the water year and not leave themselves short."

Applications can be lodged up until Sunday 31 May via email or fax with fees needing to be paid by either credit card or EFT.

Customers are asked to lodge their applications early to avoid the rush and to help identify potential problems ensuring assignments are not refused or rejected.

"Five-to-one volumetric penalties may apply to water access licences that have exceeded their water availability at the end of the 2008-09 water year," he said.

"This means a balance of minus 100ML could be penalised up to 500ML."

"This includes customers who fail to trade water from licences with credit balances to those with negative balances owned by the same licence holder."

Fines and Stop Work orders may also apply to customers with negative balances.

Customers needing more information about their water availability or water allocation assignments should contact State Water on **1300 662077**.

Customers can ensure that their water account balances are up to date by providing a current meter reading.

-ENDS-

Media enquiries and interviews: Jane Urquhart 02 6841 2087 or 0429 449 711