

# PREPARING FOR IRRIGATION SEASON 2011-12

Storages across northern Victoria are now holding more water than at the same time in the past 13 years. Lake Eildon is 84% full, Lake Eppalock is above 97%, and Victoria's share of Hume is at 92%, and of Dartmouth is at 65% of capacity.

High rainfall in the catchments and low demand for irrigation water have resulted in record high volumes of undelivered water, which will be carried over into the coming season. All systems will open with an allocation on 1 July - for seasonal outlook see [www.g-mwater.com.au/news/media-releases](http://www.g-mwater.com.au/news/media-releases).

Combined with water carried over, many irrigators will start the season with their full entitlement available in their allocation bank accounts.

## What you need to know about carryover and spillable water on the Murray, Goulburn & Campaspe

- ◆ All of your unused water (less 5% for evaporation) carries over automatically in your allocation bank account (ABA).
- ◆ Water up to your full entitlement volume – from carryover or new season allocations – will be available to you in your ABA.
- ◆ Any additional water will be retained in your spillable account if there is spare capacity in the storage.
- ◆ When the resource manager declares a low risk of spill, this water becomes available in your ABA for the rest of the season.
- ◆ There is a charge for water returned from spillable accounts so that people who hold more water in storage than their entitlement volume contribute their fair share of storage costs. This contribution is used to reduce fixed charges for all entitlement holders in following seasons.
- ◆ Water in your spillable account is only lost if the dams spill. This is to free up storage to hold inflows for new allocations for all entitlement holders.
- ◆ You do not pay charges for any water that spills.

### Likelihood of spills

The resource manager will make a statement about the risk of spill in the opening allocation announcement on 1 July. This will determine the availability of any water above entitlement volume that is held in spillable water accounts.

G-MW's seasonal outlook suggests there is a relatively low chance of Dartmouth Reservoir spilling during 2011-12, but this may not be able to be confirmed with certainty until later in the winter or spring. There is a higher potential for spills from Lake Eildon and Lake Eppalock.

### Trade and the ballot

Goulburn-Murray Water and Lower Murray Water will each conduct a ballot on Wednesday 13 July to decide the processing order for all applications received between 20 June and 8 July 2011 that impact on trade limits. Please contact your water corporation for more details.

Applications to trade allocation can be submitted at any time.

### End of allocation trade suspension

The temporary suspensions of water allocation trade announced in April 2011 will come to an end 1 July 2011.

### Charges for spillable water accounts in 2011-12

Charges apply for each megalitre (ML) of water returned from spillable accounts to ABAs, which happens as soon as a low risk of spill is declared.

This fee makes sure all water share owners holding more than their entitlement volume contribute their fair share of costs for the extra storage space they can access for the remainder of the season.

Like the existing entitlement storage fee, this fee is charged against a water share. The owner of the water share when the fee is raised will be responsible for paying it.

The rates to apply in the 2011-12 season will be confirmed in water corporations' pricing schedules once these are approved by the Essential Services Commission.



For more information please contact

Goulburn-Murray Water on 1800 013 357 [www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)

Lower Murray Water on (03) 5051 3400 [www.lmw.vic.gov.au](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au)