

***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Increased water allocations for the Belubula River**

Friday 20 February 2008

NSW Water Minister Phil Costa today announced the water allocation for high security users on the Belubula River has increased to 100 per cent of entitlement.

“Small inflows into Carcoar Dam have increased the water level to 11.2 per cent of capacity, which is enough to increase the high security water allocation from 50 to 100 per cent,” Mr Costa said.

“It has been an extremely hot, dry summer and this additional water will be a welcome relief to the region’s high-employment irrigation and grape industries.”

This is the first increase for Belubula high security users since their initial water allocation of 50 per cent was announced in July 2008. However, there is still not enough water in Carcoar Dam to make any allocation for general security licensees.

“As throughout most of inland NSW, the central west catchment has received no significant rainfall during the summer months,” the Minister said.

“The water level in Carcoar Dam is still quite low and at this stage the water allocation for general security licence holders will remain at zero.

“However, these irrigators can continue to pump water from unregulated flows in the Belubula River downstream of Carcoar Dam.

“I do remind all water licence holders to adhere to their water licence conditions and familiarise themselves with NSW water laws.”

There is no town water supply or stock and domestic water delivered from Carcoar Dam.

The Department of Water and Energy will continue to monitor water availability closely and review allocations as new resources become available.

Further information on water availability in the State’s major river valleys is available on the Department’s website at [www.dwe.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dwe.nsw.gov.au).

**Ends**

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