



NSW irrigators borrow 93,000ml from Snowy

Irrigators in the southern Riverina have borrowed 92,346 megalitres from their future allocations to ensure they have enough water this year. The cost of the deal is more than \$4.1 million.

The water will be used on 431 properties in Murray Irrigation Ltd.

Up to 100,000ML was available in the borrow deal from Snowy Hydro Ltd. SunRice is assisting growers using the water on rice by paying \$27/ML will be independently taken up by river pumpers for rice production.

Only 2,000ML of the 5,000ML set aside for non-rice enterprises was taken up, with these growers - mostly dairy farmers - paying the full purchase price of \$42/ML.

Murray Irrigation's general manager, George Warne said, "With the general security allocation on zero the deal would allow some farmers to secure a start for the season or top up water car-

ried over from last season. Access to this water will greatly assist rice production in our area which will benefit our regional community.

"This water is available for farmers because of the co-operation between Murray Irrigation, SunRice, SnowyHydro and the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources."

Mr Warne said that Murray Irrigation staff had been kept busy preparing the contracts and getting them finalised all within a week or two. We've had hundreds of farmers come into our offices over a three-day period to actually sign their contracts," he said.

"In accordance with our contract with Snowy Hydro and the department, the water borrowed this year will have to be replaced in coming seasons, but only when allocations are much higher," Mr Warne said.