



Victorian Farmers Federation

United Dairyfarmers of Victoria

District Council 2 and 3 Regional Update



Carryover:

The State Government announced that Carryover for 2007/08 would be introduced permanently, and the carryover model would remain the same as last year until allocations reach 80%, at which point the model will be reviewed.

This means that irrigators can carryover 30% of their high reliability water shares and that the volume carried over plus the seasonal allocation could not be more than 100% water entitlement. Any carryover above 30% high reliability water shares will automatically be carried over against low reliability water shares.

Unfortunately this is not the model that neither the VFF nor District Council 3 requested. DSE distributed an alternative option for comment in October which would allow farmers to carryover low reliability water shares first. To our disappointment the Minister did not support this alternative. We argued that dairy farmers in particular need to manage their own risk and have greater flexibility to carryover low reliability water shares first.

We will continue to lobby on this issue, for further information visit www.udvnorth.org.au.

Unconfirmed Ownership of Water Shares:

Farmers in the past week that have unconfirmed water share ownership would have received a letter from DSE that they need to respond to this month. This has occurred on properties where water rights have been amalgamated. There is the opportunity to split these water shares between different people listed as owners, we would encourage people in this situation to consider the advantages of putting their low reliability water shares in a separate name.

This may allow you to transfer unused water at the end of the season to the low reliability entitlement. If this was done this carryover would not be lost until you received 100% low reliability water shares.

Offers to take over G-MW assets

Some farmers have recently been contacted by G-MW to take over parts of the channel system.

It is important that farmers thoroughly consider these approaches and the amount of incentives/compensation being offered. Many of the projects that have been announced in the past and continue on today have less funding per megalitre of water savings, than what is being proposed under the Foodbowl project.

Farmers being approached regarding older projects with lower dollars available for megalitre savings should be mindful that they are not disadvantaged.

Water Purchases for the Environment:

The Murray Darling Basin Commission (MDBC) has confirmed it will enter the water market to purchase an additional 50,000 megalitres, this is on top of the 20,000ML they purchased in August this year.

We continue to argue that investment in infrastructure should be the top priority, and that any water purchased by the MDBC must be deducted from Victoria's commitments under the Living Murray Program.

Hay Insurance:

With recent hay catching fire, we are urging all farmers to review their insurance to ensure their hay is covered.

www.udvnorth.org.au