

27th August 2018

Open Letter

To all Australians,

A public meeting in Deniliquin this week was attended by a true cross section of our community and highlighted a vital issue for our nation. Currently NSW Murray Valley General Security Irrigation licences are on zero percent water allocation, while the major storages have considerable quantities of water. As a consequence, our farmers are unable to finish winter crops which are dying, or grow fodder for their drought stricken colleagues.

Farmers in the NSW Murray Valley understand there are rules that govern water sharing in the Southern Basin, however NSW Murray Valley are urging the Federal and NSW State Governments, with their Water Managers to explore every possible avenue to take immediate steps to access an early allocation for NSW Murray General Security Farmers.

This will enable the winter cereal crops to be finished and stock fodder to be grown, however they must have immediate access to water. This will not only help with drought relief but also provide a flow on effect to the regional economies.

This is a critical situation and we urge politicians along with regulatory bodies to investigate every avenue to assist with drought relief. This needs to happen now.

Yours sincerely,

NSW Murray Valley Rally Attendees (estimated between 550 and 600)

The following organisations also endorse this open letter -

Edward River Council

Rice Growers Association

Murray Valley Private Diverters

Murray Irrigation Limited

Speak Up Campaign

Southern Riverina Irrigators

Berrigan Shire Council

West Corrugan Irrigation District

National Irrigators Council

