

# DROUGHT SUPPORT INITIATIVE

<b>Name of initiative</b>	<b>Rebate for Fixed Water Charges 2009-10</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To provide water rate relief for farmers who are receiving less than 30% allocation of their entitlement on 1 December 2009.
<b>Details</b>	<p>Rural water users receiving less than 30% allocation of their normal entitlement based on the 1 December 2009 water allocation announcement will be eligible for a rebate of up to \$1000 on their fixed water charges, with a 50% rebate on any balance above \$1000.</p> <p>For bills with a fixed water charge of up to \$1000 the charge will be paid in full. For bills with a fixed water charge of over \$1000, the rebate will pay the first \$1000 in full and 50% of the balance, e.g. a bill with a fixed water charge of \$2000 will get a rebate of \$1500.</p> <p>Publicly listed companies are not eligible for the rebate.</p> <p>No rebates are available for drainage or drainage diversion charges.</p> <p>The rebate only applies to fixed water charges and will apply to each separately serviced property based on each water corporation's current billing practices.</p> <p>This means a farming enterprise may be eligible for a number of rebates if, under the current charging arrangements, it owns a number of separately serviced properties.</p> <p>The assistance will be provided in line with each water corporation's current billing practices and water corporations will automatically adjust their customers' accounts.</p>
<b>Who is eligible?</b>	<p>Eligible rural water customers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Irrigators supplied by <i>regulated systems</i><sup>1</sup> who are receiving less than 30% of their normal entitlement based on the 1 December 2009 water allocation announcement.</li><li>• <i>Regulated surface water</i> diverters receiving less than 30% of their normal entitlement based on the 1 December 2009 announcement.</li><li>• Stock and domestic customers supplied by <i>regulated systems</i> that are operating at less than 30% of their normal allocation based on the 1 December 2009 announcement.</li></ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>continued . . .</i></p>

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## Who is eligible?

- Groundwater diverters within the *Water Supply and Protection Areas*<sup>2</sup> who are receiving less than an amount equivalent to 30% of their normal entitlement as at 1 December 2009.
- *Unregulated surface water*<sup>3</sup> diverters likely to receive less than 30% of their water as assessed by the water corporation on 1 December 2009.

<sup>1</sup>*Regulated systems* are those where large dams or weirs regulate the flow of the river.

<sup>2</sup>*Water Supply Protection Areas* are land areas declared under the Water Act 1989 to protect groundwater or surface water resources.

<sup>3</sup>*Unregulated river systems* are systems without major dams or weirs built to assist in supplying or extracting water.

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## Further information

For more information contact the Drought Information Line on 136 186.

For administration of the rebate contact your water corporation:

Coliban Water on 1300 363 200

[www.coliban.com.au](http://www.coliban.com.au)

Goulburn-Murray Water on 1800 013 357

[www.g-mwater.com.au](http://www.g-mwater.com.au)

Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water on 1300 659 961

[www.gwmwater.org.au](http://www.gwmwater.org.au)

Lower Murray Water on 5051 3400

[www.lmw.vic.gov.au](http://www.lmw.vic.gov.au)

Melbourne Water on 131 722

[www.melbournewater.com.au](http://www.melbournewater.com.au)

Southern Rural Water on 1300 139 510

[www.srw.com.au](http://www.srw.com.au)

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## Last updated

October 2009

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