

## **Managing initial applications to trade – the rules**

The Water Registrar is simultaneously mailing letters to all irrigators and regulated diverters in the second week of July. The letters detail ownership and entitlements recorded in the new water register as of 1 July 2007.

**Please keep this letter in a safe place because you will need these important details to trade or transfer your unbundled entitlements.**

Once you get these details you can fill in the appropriate, original and uniquely numbered application forms available from your water authority and submit them for processing. Take your time to get your application right – there is no advantage in being the first to lodge. So that no applicant is disadvantaged by slower postal services, water authorities will treat all fully-completed applications received by 5 pm on 6 August as being lodged at the same time. The 4 per cent limit on permanent trade out of irrigation areas and 10 per cent limit on ownership of water not associated with land may affect the number of applications that can be approved to transfer water shares.

Water authorities expect a significant number of applications, so a ballot will be held to decide the order for approving those applications received by 5 pm on 6 August.

Applications received after this date will be processed after the balloted applications.

The ballot will be run under independent supervision and will include applications received by First Mildura Irrigation Trust, Goulburn-Murray Water and Lower Murray Water.

Once the ballot is held, the new water register will start processing applications.

The main ballot rules are:

- a) All fully-completed applications received by 5 pm on 6 August will be included in the ballot.
- b) Water authorities will check applications received in person at the counter, but it is up to applicants to make sure they are properly completed, including meeting the 100-point identification check for a transfer or a limited term transfer.
- c) The ballot will set the order in which applications are considered for approval.
- d) If an application is incomplete or has errors, it will be returned to the applicant and loses its place in the approval queue.
- e) If the limit is reached before an application is considered, it will be refused according to the rules and a letter will be sent to the applicant.
- f) Application fees will be refunded for any applications refused because of the limits, for the 10 business day transitional period only.

Applications to confirm unconfirmed water shares can be submitted separately to the Water Registrar and will not be part of the ballot. Confirmation has to be finalised before any subsequent transactions except for a transfer or limited term transfer of a whole water share where water shares are unconfirmed under clause 17(1)(a) and 17(1)(b). The subsequent transaction can be submitted for the ballot if confirmation does not divide the water share.

The ballot is only for applications received in the 10 business day period. Those submitted after this period will be processed in the order they are received.

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