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South Australia should honour water agreement

The NSW Farmers' Association is questioning the South Australian Government's demands for a share of the NSW flood waters.

According to NSW Farmers' Association water spokesperson, John Ward, the demands contravene the existing water sharing agreement signed by the South Australian Government.

"The Murray Darling Basin Agreement, which has been signed by all States, including South Australia, was put in place to ensure all States receive a fair and equitable share of Murray Darling Basin water," Mr Ward said.

"This is the first major rain event in Northern NSW for many years and South Australia must not view every rain event as an opportunity to call for more water for their State and must honour the current agreement that is in place."

According to Mr Ward, such demands from South Australia are unreasonable given the disparate water allocations for farmers in NSW and South Australia.

"Licensed general security users of Murray River water in South Australia are currently able to use 48% of their allocations.

"Meanwhile, here in NSW, Lachlan Valley general security users have had zero general security allocations for the past three years.

"And our Murray Valley general security irrigators have had zero allocation for the past two years and have only recently have been upgraded to 10%.

"These demands are not only inappropriate, they are also unviable.

"This flood event has occurred in Northern NSW and not in the Murrumbidgee and Murray Valleys. Getting water down to South Australia via the Menindee Lakes is highly inefficient and is unlikely to be of any benefit to South Australia," Mr Ward said.

The Association has welcomed the NSW Government's commitment to adhere to the existing sharing agreement.

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