



Monday, 2 September 2013

Increase to the Murray water allocation but Murrumbidgee remains unchanged

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, announced an increase of 22 percent to the Murray valley general security allocation, but said that the Murrumbidgee allocation would remain unchanged at 28 percent of entitlement.

“Good rainfall over the past month has seen a strong improvement to NSW Murray water availability. There is now sufficient water available to increase the general security allocation in the NSW Murray valley by 22 percent, to 79 percent of entitlement.”

“Unfortunately, there has not been the same rainfall and runoff in the Murrumbidgee valley, where the general security allocation remains unchanged on 28 percent of entitlement.”

Mr Harriss said that supplementary access has been extended into September in the NSW Murray, but the current unregulated flow event is coming to an end in the Murrumbidgee.

While there has been some small increase in water stored in Burrinjuck Dam (up 3 percent to 50 percent of capacity) there is still an imbalance in the Murrumbidgee Dams with Blowering Dam at 90 percent of capacity.

“While it is business as usual for the moment with all current announced allocation and carryover fully deliverable, if this imbalance continues, there may be delivery constraints in meeting potential peak summer irrigation demand.”

However it is still early in the season with the typically wetter months of September and October ahead of us.”

Mr Harriss said that allocation trade into the Murrumbidgee valley has now reached its limit and further trades into the valley will only be approved against equivalent orders for trade out of the valley.

Additionally, temporary trade within the Murrumbidgee valley from a high security licences closed on 1 September.

All other trade in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee, including across the Barmah Choke, remains unrestricted.

The Bureau of Meteorology continues to forecast a high likelihood of at least median rainfall conditions in the period September to November.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations can be found on the NSW Office of Water’s website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Ends

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