



Monday 16 September 2013

## Increase to the Murray and Murrumbidgee Water Allocations

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, announced an increase of 12 percent to the Murray Valley general security allocation while in the Murrumbidgee Valley, general security accounts will be credited with a further 5 percent of entitlement.

Continuing inflows has seen a steady improvement to NSW Murray water availability meaning that there is sufficient water available to increase the general security allocation in the NSW Murray Valley to 91 percent of entitlement.”

Mr Harriss said that while there has been enough improvement in water availability for a 10 percent increase in the Murrumbidgee general security allocation, only 5 percent of this can be delivered with certainty before the end of February.

“Therefore Murrumbidgee general security accounts will be credited with a further 5 percent now, taking the available allocation to 33 percent of entitlement immediately, with the balance being deliverable ( that is the additional 5 percent) after February.”

Deliverability constraints will be alleviated as water is used and with rainfall in the Burrinjuck catchment.

“Until then, the system will continue to be managed by taking as much as possible from Blowering storage and conserving water in Burrinjuck Dam to meet peak summer demand,” said Mr Harriss.

Mr Harriss confirmed that all water currently allocated, including carryover, is fully deliverable.

“There has been a small increase in water stored in Burrinjuck Dam (up 2 percent to 52 percent of capacity) while Blowering Dam has fallen 3 percent to 87 percent of capacity.

“ Hume and Dartmouth dams are effectively full while Menindee Lakes is at 70 percent of capacity.”

Mr Harriss said that supplementary access has begun to close in the upstream reaches of the NSW Murray as inflows fall and demand increases.

“It is expected that supplementary access in the Murrumbidgee Valley will close this week.”

Mr Harriss reiterated that applications for allocation trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley cannot be processed until trade **out** of the valley picks up because valley limits have been reached.

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# Media Release

Although trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is restricted and temporary trade from high security licences closed on 1 September, all other trades within the valley and from the valley continue.

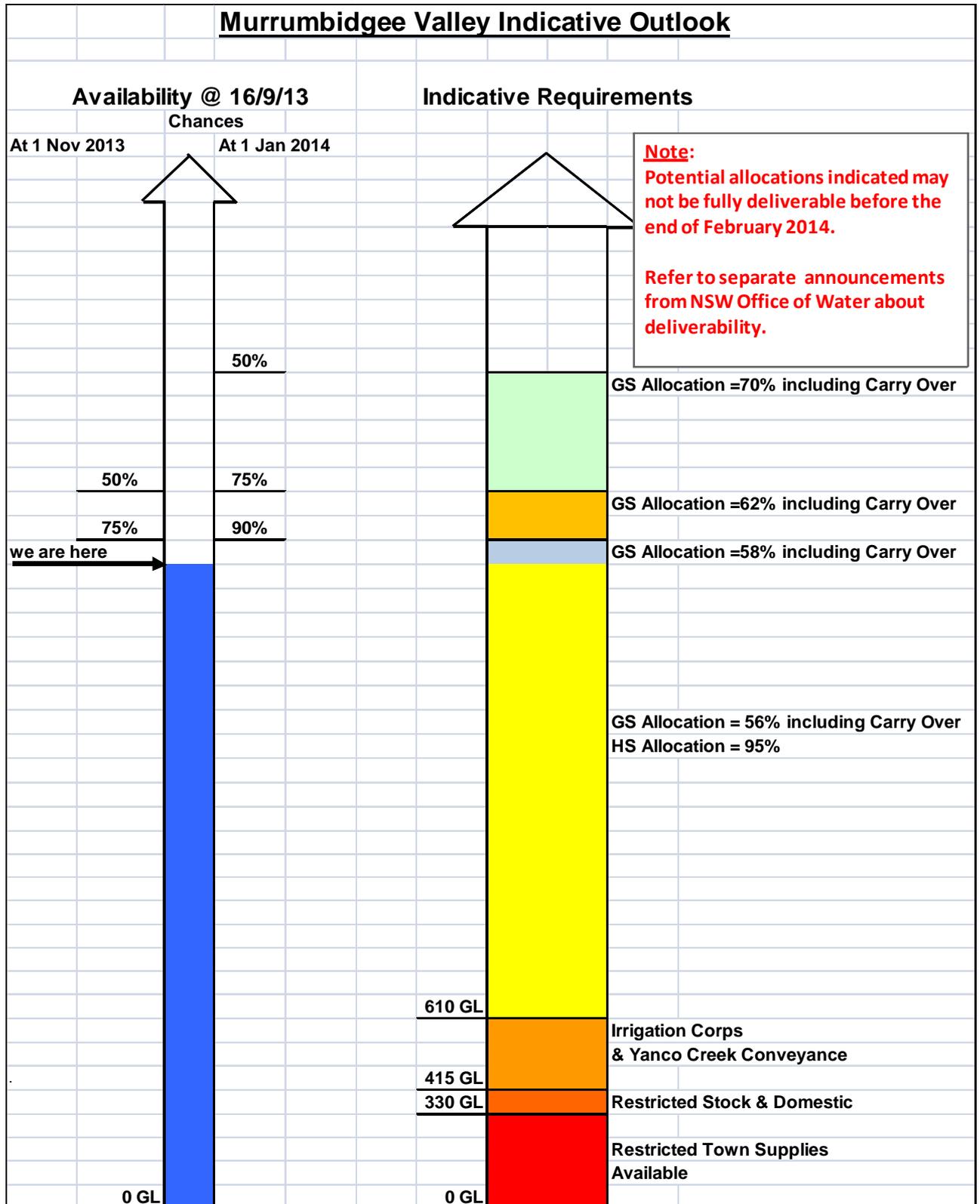
Trade in the NSW Murray, including across the Barmah Choke, remains unrestricted.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations can be found on the NSW Office of Water's website at - [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Ends**

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