



NSW Murray water allocation outlook 2014/15

17 March 2014

Key information

- Storages are more than 700,000 ML lower than this time last year and NSW share of resource is only 54 percent of what was available at last year's forecast 1 July allocations.
- Once the commencing allocation is announced on 1 July 2014, regular assessments will be undertaken and allocation announcements made by the 15th of each month or next working day following, for the remainder of the water year.
- Indicative assessments may be made between the formal assessments.
- The rules for water sharing are outlined in the *NSW Murray Regulated River Water Sharing Plan* and will continue in 2014/15 including that carryover of water in accounts is limited to a maximum of 50 percent of entitlement for general security licences only.
- It is difficult to predict end-of-year carryover as it is highly dependent on weather conditions over the next few months and individual decisions by water users.
- Closing dates for allocation trade of general security water with the Murrumbidgee Valley have been extended so that trade within the NSW Murray Valley and intervalley trade into and out of the Murrumbidgee Valley will continue until the end of May 2014. Interstate allocation trade closes on the 30th April.
- All allocation trade will then resume on 1 July 2014.
- An update to this preliminary forecast of water availability for 2014/15 will be made in mid-May.

Storages – State Shares at end January 2014

Data Courtesy of MDBA

Storage	NSW	Victoria	South Australia	Total
Hume (FSL 3,005 GL) Currently 1,770 GL	28%	31%	0%	59%
Dartmouth (FSL 3,856 GL) Currently 3,571 GL	42%	50%	0.5%	92%
Lake Victoria (FSL 677 GL) Currently 539 GL	39%	38%	1.4%	78%
Menindee * (FSL 1,731 GL) Currently 541 GL	14%	12%	0%	26%

* Menindee Lakes currently in NSW control therefore resource not distributable

* Under the MDBA Agreement NSW and Victoria are required to meet South Australian entitlement flow from their respective shares of Murray resources.

Indicative allocations

- Full allocations can be expected for all **town water** and **domestic & stock** access licences, and all **Lower Darling water users**, including **Lower Darling general security** entitlements.
- Full allocations for **supplementary** access licence holders, which is available subject to announced periods of supplementary flows.
- In addition all **carryover** in general security accounts will be fully deliverable, up to a maximum of 50 percent of entitlement.
- NSW Murray **High Security** access licences are expected to receive 97 percent entitlement.
- At this stage it is estimated that general security **carryover** will **average around of 30 percent** of entitlement, however this is highly dependent on weather conditions over the next few months and individual decisions by water users.
- It is expected that opening **general security** allocation will be zero (0) percent of entitlement if dry conditions continue. Under the Water Sharing Plan, the NSW share of the Barmah-Millewa Forest account water may be borrowed to provide for general security where the general security plus average carryover is less than 30 percent.
- Full **conveyance** allocation will **NOT** be available at 1 July under drought inflow conditions. It is estimated that up to 80 GL can be made available at 1 July, and this will accrue with resource improvements to target (165 GL) before allocations commence for general security entitlements.
- There was no allocation to Murray Additional Environmental Allowance (AEA) this water year (2013/14), as water was pre-released from Hume for flood management purposes during the year. However, the AEA (6 GL) will be set aside for potential use in 2014/15.

Chances of Improvement

The chances of improved general security allocation based on different inflow conditions are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions ^{##}	Forecast General Security Allocation [#] (percent)		
	1 July 2014	1 Sept 2014	1 Nov 2014
99 chances in 100 (drought) (99%)	0	0	0
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	0	6	22
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	4	14	42
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	10	29	70

Assumes an average Carryover of 30 %

Multi-history modelling using all years

It should be noted that Murray Valley inflow conditions have been below the long-term average over summer, with February inflows only 45 percent of the long-term average.

More information

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