



NSW Murray water allocation outlook 2014/15

15 May 2014

Key information

- In 2014/15 the rules for water sharing outlined in the *NSW Murray Regulated River Water Sharing Plan* will continue, including that carryover of water in accounts is limited to a maximum of 50 percent of entitlement for general security licences only.
- 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.
- System inflows to the River Murray system since September 2013 have been well below the long-term average and also below the average for the last 10 years. Summer and Autumn inflow volumes have been similar to last year.
- Final end-of-year carryover is difficult to predict precisely, as it is subject to weather conditions and individual decisions by water users, but it is estimated will average about 30 percent this year.
- 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 inter-valley trade into the Murrumbidgee Valley will continue until the end of May 2014. (Trade out of the Murrumbidgee valley is currently at its limit and suspended until further notice. Trades into the valley will help alleviate the situation).
- Inter-state allocation trade, and trade to and from the Lower Darling, is now closed.
- Allocation trade, apart from inter-valley Lower Darling trade, will resume on 1 July 2014.

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, subject to announced periods of supplementary flows.
- All **carryover** in general security accounts will be fully deliverable, up to a maximum of 50 percent of entitlement.
- It is estimated that general security **carryover** will **average around 30 percent** of entitlement, however this is dependent on weather conditions and individual decisions by water users and will be finalised in July
- NSW Murray **High Security** access licences will receive 97 percent entitlement.
- It is expected that opening **general security** allocation will be up to five (5) percent of entitlement under very dry conditions. Under the Water Sharing Plan, the NSW share of the Barmah-Millewa Forest account water may be borrowed and used for allocations if the general security plus average carryover is less than 30 percent.

- **Conveyance** allocation, commensurate with announced allocations, will be available at 1 July.
- In 2013/14 Murray **Additional Environmental Allowance** (AEA) spilled from account through pre-release from Hume for flood management purposes. In accordance with the water sharing plan the AEA will be credited with 6 GL on 1 July for potential use in 2014/15.
- The **Barmah-Millewa Allowance** has been set aside in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- If announced general security plus average carryover is less than 30 percent, then the Barmah-Millewa Allowance can be borrowed. At this stage this is unlikely to be necessary.

Storages* – State Shares at end April 2014

Data Courtesy of MDBA

Storage	NSW	Victoria	South Australia	Total
Hume (FSL 3,005 GL) Currently 1,130 GL	14%	23%	0%	37%
Dartmouth (FSL 3,856 GL) Currently 3,425 GL	38%	50%	1%	89%
Lake Victoria (FSL 677 GL)** Currently 422 GL	35%	26%	1%	62%
Menindee *** (FSL 1,731 GL) Currently 389 GL	22%	0%	0%	22%

* Under the MDBA Agreement NSW and Vic are required to meet S Aust entitlement flow from their shares of Murray resources.

** Current maintenance works at Lake Victoria means that FSL is temporarily less than this value

*** Menindee Lakes currently in NSW control therefore resource not distributable

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%)	3	3	10
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	5	10	26
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	7	20	50
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	12	30	76

Announced allocation only

Multi-history modelling using all years

The Bureau of Meteorology is monitoring the development of El Niño conditions in 2014-15. Currently the seasonal outlook to the end of July is for neutral conditions, that is, an even chance of median rainfall. However if El Niño conditions continue to develop, a drier outlook for the year is more likely.

More information: Bunty Driver M 0407 403234 www.water.nsw.gov.au