



Tuesday, 15 July 2014

Recent rainfall boosts Murray and Murrumbidgee general security water allocations

Acting Deputy Director General, Water, Michael Bullen, today announced an increase to the water allocations for general security users in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

“Good rainfall in the upper parts of both the Murray and Murrumbidgee catchments has enabled a 3 percent increase to the general security allocation in the NSW Murray Valley bringing it to 9 percent of entitlement,

“While in the Murrumbidgee Valley the general security allocation will increase by 7 percent to 17 percent of entitlement.”

“Murray inflows have improved are better than for this time last year, but they are still below the long term average for June,” said Mr Bullen.

“Supplementary access has been available in the Murrumbidgee Valley since the beginning of July.”

“Flows now reaching the River Murray have allowed the commencement of supplementary access in the NSW Murray for the first time this year.

Mr Bullen said that Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 59 percent and 92 percent of capacity respectively, and increasing steadily, while Burrinjuck and Blowering storages are 68 percent and 65 percent respectively and rising.

Mr Bullen also reminded water users that the trade restriction across the Barmah Choke remained relaxed but was being reviewed monthly.

“Trade out of the Murrumbidgee Valley is at its limit and remains closed, while trade to and from the Lower Darling is also closed while there are low levels of water in the Menindee Lakes System.

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

Ends

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

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Chances of Improvement

The chances of inflows being above historical minimums, and therefore the likelihood of improved allocations, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 October General Security Allocations	
	NSW Murray	Murrumbidgee
Worst case (current allocation)	9%	17%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	17%	26%
3 chances in 4 (75%)	32%	35%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	54%	47%

Using all years of inflow records.

However, the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting rainfall conditions to be drier than median over the next three months across NSW.

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