



Friday, 1 August 2014

Continued improvement for Murray and Murrumbidgee general security water allocations

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

The NSW Murray general security allocation will increase by 3 percent to 12 percent of entitlement, while the Murrumbidgee general security allocation will increase by 7 percent to 24 percent of entitlement.

Mr Bullen said that this increase was the result of continued inflows generated in the upper parts of both the Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

“The periodic rainfall over the past fortnight on an already wet catchment is also enabling continued supplementary access in the NSW Murray downstream of Barmah, and in the Murrumbidgee valley,” he said.

“In addition, average private carryover in NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee accounts is 30 percent and 26 percent respectively, further adding to overall water availability.”

“Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 68 percent and 93 percent of capacity respectively, and are increasing steadily, while Burrinjuck Dam is now 73 percent of capacity and rising while Blowering is steady at 69 percent.”

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, as does trade to and from the Lower Darling because of limited resources 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

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)	12%	24%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	19%	30%
3 chances in 4 (75%)	38%	33%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	56%	37%

Using all years of inflow records. ** Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

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