



Wednesday, 1 October 2014

Small increase for Murray and Murrumbidgee general security water allocations

The NSW Office of Water today announced an increase to water allocations for general security users in both the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

The NSW Murray general security water allocation will increase by 6 percent to 34 percent of entitlement, while the Murrumbidgee general security allocation will increase by 3 percent to 37 percent of entitlement.

The bulk of this improvement has come from recent legislative changes that have seen a return to the use of a less conservative inflow sequence, meaning that more water is available now.

Contingency measures will be used to overcome a repeat of the Millennium drought, rather than locking up more reserves up in storage.

The generally dry conditions have prompted early significant irrigation demand.

Additionally, 75,000 megalitres of Murrumbidgee improvement has been set aside in *Environmental Water Allowance* and *Provisional Storage Volume* accounts.

The trade restriction across the Barmah Choke in the Murray valley continues to be relaxed, however allocation trade **from** the Murrumbidgee valley and trade **to and from** the Lower Darling, remains closed.

A bulk water transfer is underway from Dartmouth Dam to Hume to balance the storages.

Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 78 percent and 94 percent of capacity respectively, while in the Murrumbidgee valley Burrinjuck Dam is now 84 percent of capacity and falling, as is Blowering Dam, now 69 percent.

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 M 0407403234

Our news releases are on the web: www.water.nsw.gov.au Follow us on Twitter @OfficeofWater