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NSW Murrumbidgee allocation and Murray trade restrictions

Acting Deputy Director General Water, Michael Bullen, today announced the closure of trades out of the Murrumbidgee Valley.

This step is necessary to manage the Inter-Valley Trade (IVT) account that has seen over 50,000 megalitres traded out of the valley in just two weeks, causing the IVT to reach 150,000 megalitres, which is well beyond its normal operating range.

“This rate of trade-out is far in excess of the rate at which the corresponding water can be physically delivered out of the valley,” Mr Bullen said.

“Trade out of the Murrumbidgee Valley will only be re-opened once there is a degree of flexibility within the normal IVT account operating range of up to 100,000 megalitres.”

“Allocation trade **into** the Murrumbidgee valley and **within** the valley is not affected.”

“It is important that trade water is delivered efficiently to ensure that there are no third party impacts,” Mr Bullen said.

Additionally, Mr Bullen also confirmed the re-introduction of the trade restriction across the Barmah Choke in the Murray River by the MDBA.

The restriction had been relaxed since 2006/07.

The amount of downstream trade across the choke will be limited by the amount of trade moving upstream.

“Whilst trade can continue across the choke, it is limited to there **being no net increase in trade from upstream to downstream across the Barmah choke**,” Mr Bullen said.

“Applications for trade can be made as usual with State Water; however, it is important to note that the **Murray Darling Basin Authority** will manage the trade capacity **on a day-to-day** basis and ensure that the trade rules are adhered to by jurisdictions,” said Mr Bullen

The re-introduction of the Barmah trade restriction is essential to protect delivery of existing entitlements.

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

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