

# Special Talking Water

Wednesday 29 October 2014



Murray Irrigation

## Trade restrictions

Trade of allocation from above Barmah Choke to downstream is now closed as is trade of allocation out of the Murrumbidgee Valley.

Barmah Choke trade restrictions were reinstated by the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) from 5.00pm Tuesday 28 October while Murrumbidgee trade restrictions were applied by the NSW Office of Water (NOW) on Wednesday 29 October.

### Barmah Choke

Murray Irrigation's licence is upstream of the choke. As a result of the closure, customers cannot trade or transfer allocation to a licence downstream of the choke, including river licences within the Wakool system.

Customers can still trade allocation onto Murray Irrigation's licence from licences downstream of the choke.

The Barmah Choke is a natural constraint in the Murray River system limiting the volume of water that can be delivered from upstream storages. The MDBA said current dry conditions combined with high water demands and no ability to call on flows from Menindee Lakes means there will be increased demand for the river channel. The MDBA said the restriction in trade was to protect the delivery of downstream water entitlements.

River Murray water planning for the summer will now rely on meeting downstream demands by drawing water from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee rivers and utilising Murray Irrigation's Mulwala Canal to bypass the choke.

The MDBA has established a web page where customers can monitor the choke trade balance and trade opportunities: [www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/barmah-choke](http://www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/barmah-choke).

### Murrumbidgee

Trade out of the Murrumbidgee was closed by NOW as of 29 October 2014, only 14 days after it was reopened.

NOW said it was necessary to close allocation

trade out of the Murrumbidgee again following large volumes of trade out of the valley over the preceding fortnight. Over 50,000ML was traded out of the Valley in two weeks and the Inter-Valley Trade (IVT) account balance is now 150,000ML, well in excess of the 100,000ML limit.

Trade out of the Murrumbidgee will not recommence until the IVT falls below its operating limit of 100,000ML. This can happen either through trade into the valley or through delivery of a volume of the IVT balance that would bring it below the limit.

Trade into the Murrumbidgee valley and within the valley is not effected.

Details of the IVT account can be found at: [www.statewater.com.au/Customer%20service/water-ordering-trading-pricing/Murrumbidgee%20Inter%20Valley%20Trade%20Account%20Status](http://www.statewater.com.au/Customer%20service/water-ordering-trading-pricing/Murrumbidgee%20Inter%20Valley%20Trade%20Account%20Status).

Copies of the two announcements are on Murray Irrigation's website: [www.murrayirrigation.com.au/water-resources-updates/](http://www.murrayirrigation.com.au/water-resources-updates/).6

For further information customers can contact Murray Irrigation's Water Trade staff via reception on T. 1300 138 265.

**The next NSW Office of Water allocation announcement will be made on Monday 3 November, 2014.**

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