



Monday, 1 December 2014

Water allocations remain unchanged for Murray and Murrumbidgee general security water users

NSW Department of Primary Industries Acting Deputy Director General Water, Michael Bullen, today said that there would be no change to general security water allocations in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

“The rainfall this past week across both catchments was welcome, but patchy and has not been enough to generate inflows sufficient to improve allocations at this time,” said Mr Bullen.

The NSW Murray general security allocation remains at 45 percent of entitlement, plus the unused water from last year that was carried-over in private accounts.

“This is about 30 percent of entitlement on average.”

Similarly, in the Murrumbidgee Valley, the general security allocation remains at 40 percent of entitlement, plus individual carryover.

This is approximately 26 percent of entitlement on average.

Mr Bullen said that recent comments in the media that water allocations in these valleys would be reduced due to the dry conditions was misleading and wrong.

“All water in accounts in both the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee this water year is fully deliverable, meaning that there will be no reduction to the current announced allocation for this water year.”

“Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 65 percent and 88 percent of capacity respectively and they continue to fall as demand for irrigation water grows.”

“In the Murrumbidgee Valley, Burrinjuck and Blowering dams are also falling, currently holding 72 percent and 43 percent of capacity respectively.”

Allocation trade **within** and **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley can continue, but trade **out** remains closed until the undelivered trade water, reflected by the balance of the Inter Valley Trade account, currently 132,000 megalitres, falls comfortably below 100,000 megalitres.

Mr Bullen also reminded water users that the trade restriction across the Barmah Choke in the Murray is operating, meaning that trade downstream is only allowed to the extent that there has been upstream trade. “There can be no **net** trade downstream across the choke,” said Mr Bullen.

The next water allocation announcement and water availability outlook will be made by the NSW Office of Water on Monday 15 December 2014.

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