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## Small improvement to NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee general security allocations

NSW Department of Primary Industries Deputy Director General Water, Gavin Hanlon, today announced an increase to water allocations for general security water users in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee regulated river water sources.

“Available resources have improved sufficiently in the last fortnight to increase general security allocations in the NSW Murray by 1 percent to 53 percent and by 3 percent to 49 percent in the Murrumbidgee Valley,” Mr Hanlon said.

“However, despite some useful rainfall in January, conditions are turning dry again and the outlook into autumn is for rainfall to be less than average.”

“There is no change to inter-valley trade arrangements, which is currently unrestricted for the Murrumbidgee valley, closed for the Lower Darling and, in the Murray, restricted around the Barmah Choke, meaning that there can be no net trade downstream across the choke.”

Mr Hanlon said that strong irrigation demand over summer has drawn heavily on storages.

“In the Murrumbidgee valley, Burrinjuck storage has fallen to 53 percent of full capacity and Blowering is currently 31 percent full.”

“While in the Murray, Hume storage has fallen to 46 percent of capacity and Dartmouth is just over 80 percent full,” said Mr Hanlon.

Conditions continue to be closely monitored and the result of the next resource assessment will be announced on Monday 16 February 2015.

**ENDS**

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