



Monday, 16 February 2015

Increase in general security allocations for the Murray and Murrumbidgee valley irrigators

NSW Department of Primary Industries, Deputy Director General Water, Gavin Hanlon, today announced a small increase to the water allocation for general security water users in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee regulated rivers.

“Reduced delivery losses and storage inflows, and particularly improvement in the Snowy Scheme’s Murray resource, has enabled an 6 percent increase to the general security allocation for the NSW Murray Valley by to 59 percent, and a 2 percent in the Murrumbidgee Valley to 51 percent of entitlement,” Mr Hanlon said

There is no change to current inter-valley trade arrangements, which are 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 releases from storages are forecast to continue through autumn if conditions remain dry. In the Murrumbidgee valley, Burrinjuck storage has fallen to 43 percent of full capacity and Blowering is currently 30 percent full.

In the Murray, Hume storage has fallen to 42 percent of capacity and Dartmouth is just over 80 percent full.

Conditions continue to be closely monitored and the result of the next resource assessment will be announced on Monday 2 March 2015.

Ends

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

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Data Sheet

2014-15 Resource Distribution (as at 16 February 2015)

	NSW Murray Volume (GL)	Murrumbidgee Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	2,240	2,730
less		
Carryover (incl. M'bidgee IVT c/over)	498	632 ⁽⁶⁾
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	243	137
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54	79
Reserves ⁽²⁾	34	75
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	241	332
Announced High Security	183	341
Announced General Security	987 (59%)	965 (51%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation) ⁽⁴⁾		169 ⁽⁵⁾

Notes

1. Rules based environmental water – water required to be set aside primarily under water sharing plan rules to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
2. Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV).
3. Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued to Irrigation corporations to facilitate delivery of water through their channel systems. Allocation to this category is prescribed in the water sharing plans and is a function of current high and general security allocations. (This category of licence can carry over up to 30% of entitlement in the Murrumbidgee but none in the NSW Murray).
4. 'Losses' is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river to meet demands for the remainder of the year. They do not appear in the Murray distribution because they are debited by Murray Darling Basin Authority before NSW is provided its share of Murray resource. They include storage evaporation, transmission losses, operational loss and assumes a return to dry conditions. This estimate is constantly refined as the year unfolds.
5. This loss term has fallen by 35 GL since the last assessment, meaning losses have been less severe than anticipated, thereby enabling this water to be allocated to water users.
6. This carryover term has reduced since last assessment because the allocation increase is now causing some (conveyance) account limits to be reached meaning that carryover spills from the account/s and becomes part of the available resource.

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