



1 April 2015

NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee general security allocations remain unchanged

Department of Primary Industries Deputy Director General Water, Gavin Hanlon, today announced that general security water allocations in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys would remain unchanged as there had been no improvement in available water resources.

“Persistent hot and dry weather over the past fortnight has led to continued high demand for water and high system losses across both valleys,” Mr Hanlon said.

“There has been little runoff from the patchy rainfall across storage catchment areas.”

Mr Hanlon also expressed caution about future conditions.

“Although the rainfall outlook into autumn shows an improvement in the likelihood of getting at least median rainfall, there are still indications that an El-Nino system may develop later in the year causing a return to generally dry conditions,” he said.

“Trade arrangements in the Murrumbidgee and NSW Murray valleys remain unchanged from last month with some capacity still available for trade downstream across the Barmah choke by virtue of net trades upstream.”

Hume and Dartmouth storages are now 23 per cent and 77 per cent full respectively and levels are continuing to fall to meet downstream demand.

In the Murrumbidgee Valley, Burrinjuck Dam is currently at 32 per cent of capacity and Blowering Dam is 27 per cent.

“Due to continued high demands, river levels along the Murray over Easter this year are likely to remain high, similar to those in recent months.

“Holiday makers, businesses and communities are encouraged to keep up to date with live river level information, which is available on the Office of Water website,” Mr Hanlon said.

The outcome of the next resource assessment will be announced on Wednesday 15 April, while the recent outlooks for 1 July allocations will be updated on Friday 15 May 2015.

ENDS

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