



Wednesday, 15 April 2015

Increase to Murrumbidgee general security water users

Department of Primary Industries Deputy Director General Water, Gavin Hanlon, today announced an immediate increase of two percentage points to the Murrumbidgee general security allocation but no change to the NSW Murray general security allocation.

“Rainfall in the upper parts of the Burrinjuck Dam catchment has enabled a two percentage point increase to the general security allocation in the NSW Murrumbidgee bringing it to 53 per cent of entitlement,” Mr Hanlon said.

“Unfortunately the Murray valley has mostly missed out on good rainfall last week and inflows have remained well below the long term average for this time of year.”

Mr Hanlon also advised that this would be the last allocation announcement for the year.

“Any further resource improvement at this late time of the water year will go towards a better opening season allocation on 1 July,” Mr Hanlon said.

“This means that 2014-15 water availability, that is general security allocation plus carryover, is 91 per cent and 79 per cent for the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys respectively.

“The rainfall outlook for autumn indicates the likelihood of better than median rainfall, but there are still indications that an El-Nino system may develop later in the year and bring a return to generally dry conditions.

“In the Murray valley Hume and Dartmouth storages are now 20 per cent and 76 per cent full respectively, while in the Murrumbidgee Burrinjuck is now 36 per cent of capacity, having risen, while Blowering is steady at 26 per cent.”

Mr Hanlon said trade arrangements in the Murrumbidgee and NSW Murray valleys remain unchanged from last month.

“Water users are reminded that the end-of-year close to inter-state trade is the end of April, while Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade closes at the end of May, Mr Hanlon said.

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Media Release

An update to the Murray and Murrumbidgee water allocation outlook for 2015-16 will be provided on Friday 15 May 2015.

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