

Special Talking Water

Friday 15 May 2015



Murray Irrigation

NSW Office of Water outlook for NSW Murray 2015/16

Late this afternoon the NSW Office of Water released its updated outlook.

Opening allocations for NSW Murray General Security for 2015/16 are expected to be zero percent.

The NSW Office of Water has advised the forecast water availability for 2015/16 has deteriorated since the March seasonal outlook due to very dry system inflows over the last few months.

System inflows into the River Murray have been well below the long term average and the average for the last 10 years.

Storages are 1,500GL lower than this time last year and are around 25 percent lower than the long-term average for this time of year.

Indicative allocations for 1 July 2015

- Full allocations for town water and stock and domestic;
- Up to 50 percent carryover on general security entitlements will be available in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan. Current estimates is that average general security carryover is likely to be around 30 percent;
- High security licences are expected to receive 80 percent allocation;
- Only 80GL conveyance allocation will be available at 1 July, expected to accrue up to the target 165GL before general security allocations commence;
- Opening general security allocation of zero percent of entitlement unless there is significant rainfall.

Chances of improvement

Conditions	Forecast General Security Allocation – assumes average carryover of 30 percent		
	1 July 2015	1 Sept 2015	1 Nov 2015
Drought (99%)	0	0	0
Very Dry (90%)	0	0	0
Current conditions			
Dry (75%)	0	0	14
Average (50%)	0	1	35
Wet (25%)	0	18	71

The NSW Office of Water advise there is a small risk that inflows similar to that during the millennium drought may occur which may require contingency measures to be introduced to ensure critical water needs can be met.

Commencing allocations will be announced on 1 July 2015 with regular assessments made on the first and 15th of each month, or the next working day, for the remainder of the water year. A further resource availability outlook will be made on Monday 17 August 2015.

A copy of the Office of Water announcement is available in the 'Water Resources Updates' section of the Murray Irrigation website: www.murrayirrigation.com.au.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer McLeod".

Jennifer McLeod, Executive Manager Customer and External Relations