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Murrumbidgee general security allocation improves - NSW Murray remains unchanged

DPI Water today announced an increase for general security water users in the Murrumbidgee, while the Murray general security allocation remains unchanged.

The NSW Murrumbidgee general security allocation will increase by 5 per cent to 17 per cent of entitlement.

This increase in the Murrumbidgee is the result of better inflows in upper parts of the valley. Rainfall and tributary inflows downstream of the storages also allowed some supplementary access to be announced.

Unfortunately, conditions in the Murray Valley have not been as good, meaning that there has been insufficient improvement to provide an increase to NSW Murray allocations.

There is currently 835,000 megalitres of water assured for NSW Murray water users this year, assuming extremely dry inflow conditions, and this has been fully allocated including 500,000 megalitres of unused general security allocation from last year.

Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 36 per cent and 72 per cent of capacity respectively.

In the Murrumbidgee Valley, Burrinjuck and Blowering dams are rising slowly, currently holding 54 per cent and 39 per cent of capacity respectively.

There is also no change to inter-valley trade arrangements, which are currently unrestricted for the Murrumbidgee Valley and closed for the Lower Darling.

In the NSW Murray, trade across the Barmah Choke remains restricted to 'no net trade downstream'. Current capacity for downstream trade is about 32,000 megalitres.

The next water allocation announcement will be made by the DPI Water on Monday 17 August 2015 and will include water availability outlooks for mid-October and mid-December, covering a range of possible inflow scenarios.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations can be found on the DPI Water's website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au

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