

# Special Talking Water

Monday 15 February 2016



Murray Irrigation

## NSW Murray outlook for 2016/17

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) Water this morning released the first NSW Murray outlook for season 2016/17.

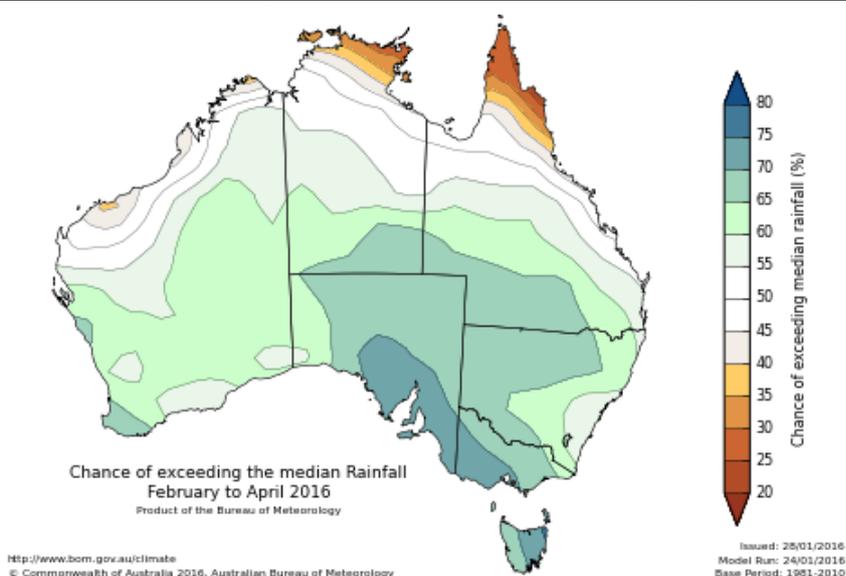
This preliminary forecast is a month earlier than usual to keep water users informed so that farm business decisions can be made in the lead up to the new water year on Friday 1 July 2016.

Customers should keep in mind that this is an early, conservative forecast of possible water availability on 1 July. It includes necessary assumptions.

### Key points from this morning's update include:

- Security of water for towns, and domestic and stock access licences, is assured.
- Based on an extremely dry inflow scenario for the remainder of this season, full high security allocation in the NSW Murray may be delayed. However, this is not unusual (in 2015/16, high security opened at 80 percent).
- The recent Bureau of Meteorology forecast for February to April 2016 indicates improved chances of favourable rainfall conditions and cooler temperatures, which could assist water availability.
- However, the catchment is moisture deficient and system inflows in 2015/16 are well below the long-term average and below the average for the last 10 years. Storage in Hume and Dartmouth is about 1,524GL lower than this time last year.
- For this reason, it is likely that general security allocation will commence at zero percent of entitlement.
- It is estimated that carryover could be 500GL, which is similar to the last two years.

Potential inflow conditions	1 Sept 2016	1 Nov 2016
Extremely dry (99%)	0	0
Very Dry (90%) – currently tracking	0	3
Dry (75%)	1	22
Average (50%)	17	31
Wet (25%)	30	53



Water availability forecasts for the start of next water year (1 July 2016) will continue to be updated on a monthly basis as the new water year approaches. The next forecast to be provided on Tuesday 15 March 2016.

The full DPI Water announcement can be accessed via the 'Water Resources Updates' section of Murray Irrigation's website: [www.murrayirrigation.com.au](http://www.murrayirrigation.com.au).

**Michael Renehan, CEO**