



1 October 2013

General security allocation increased in Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced an increase of 9 percent of entitlement in Murray valley general security allocation, while in the Murrumbidgee valley, general security accounts will be credited with an increase of 10 percent of entitlement.

“Continuing inflows has seen a steady improvement to NSW Murray water availability, meaning that there is sufficient water available to increase the general security allocation in the NSW Murray valley to 100 percent of entitlement,” said Mr Harriss.

Mr Harriss said that the general security allocation in the Murrumbidgee valley has now risen to 48 percent of entitlement, but irrigators will only be able to access 43 percent of their allocation, plus all their carry-over, prior to the end of February. The additional 5 percent of entitlement will be available after February 2014.

“While there has been some significant improvement in water levels in Burrinjuck Dam, because of the imbalance between Burrinjuck and Blowering dams, the deliverability of all water before the end of February is still not possible.”

Mr Harriss said that releases will continue to be made preferentially from Blowering Dam to conserve water in Burrinjuck Dam to meet peak summer demand.

During September there has been an increase in water stored in Burrinjuck Dam (up 17 percent to 67 percent of capacity) while Blowering Dam has increased by 3 percent to 90 percent of capacity.

“In the Murray valley, Hume and Dartmouth dams remain effectively full, while Menindee Lakes on the Darling River is slowly receding and is currently at 68 percent of capacity.”

Mr Harriss reiterated that applications for allocation trade into the Murrumbidgee valley will not be processed until trade out of the valley occurs, as any additional water traded in will exacerbate the current delivery constraints.

“Although trade into the Murrumbidgee valley is restricted and trade from high security licences closed on 1 September, all other trades within the valley and from the valley continue.”

“Trade in the NSW Murray, including across the Barmah Choke, remains unrestricted,” Mr Harriss said.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations can be found on the NSW Office of Water’s website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Ends

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