



29 April 2014

Trade from the Murrumbidgee Valley suspended

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today confirmed that allocation trades from the Murrumbidgee Valley have reached their limit and that further trade out of the valley is suspended.

“The undelivered volume of trade water to be transferred out of the valley is now over 100,000 megalitres and that approving additional trades out the valley would mean excessive delivery losses, due to the physical channel constraints near Balranald,” said Mr Harriss.

“After the summer peak demand, combined with modest Autumn rainfall, water users have been trading their unused water out the Murrumbidgee Valley.”

“However, there is a limit to the additional volumes of water that can be physically transferred efficiently out of the Murrumbidgee Valley to match the trades.”

“Therefore, I have instructed State Water Corporation to suspend the processing of applications to trade from the Murrumbidgee valley until further notice.”

“Applications for trade into and within the Murrumbidgee Valley will still be accepted and continues unaffected.”

Mr Harriss said the Office of Water, in consultation with State Water Corporation, will monitor the situation and notify water users when trade out of the Murrumbidgee Valley can be reopened.

“Water users are reminded that the end-of-year close to Murrumbidgee Inter-state trade is the end of April, and that the end-of-year close to Murrumbidgee Inter-valley trade within NSW is the end of May,” Mr Harriss said.

ENDS

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Key facts

- The Inter-Valley Transfer (IVT) account tracks the net volume of trade activity into and out of the Murrumbidgee Valley over time. This account is normally managed between the limits of 0 GL and +100 GL.
- These limits reflect the physical constraints in delivering trade water.
- The IVT account should not exceed 100 GL as that is the volume of water that can be efficiently delivered through Balranald each year. Beyond this, channel capacity is exceeded and delivery losses increase significantly.
- This upper limit has now been reached because of increased trade out of the Valley due to recent rainfall and low end-of-year irrigation demand.
- Trades **into** the valley will reduce the IVT balance to within the efficient operating range for the account and allow trade **out** of the valley to resume.
- Therefore, no further trades out of the Murrumbidgee Valley will be approved until further notice.
- Applicants whose trades were received but not approved, will be contacted to see whether they wish to withdraw their application and receive a refund of application fee, or wait in queue until the IVT account balance recovers.
- Trade **into** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley continues unaffected.

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