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Dry conditions mean no improvement for NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee general security water allocations

NSW Department of Primary Industries Acting Deputy Director General Water, Michael Bullen, today said that continued dry conditions meant no further water could be allocated for general security users in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys at this time.

He also confirmed recent announcements that temporary trade out of the Murrumbidgee valley had closed and that the Murray Darling Basin Authority has reinstated the trade restriction across the Barmah choke in the Murray Valley.

“There has been no rainfall of any significance across the catchments in the last two weeks and temperatures have been well above median,” Mr Bullen said.

“This means that there is insufficient water to make a further allocation to users at this time.”

The NSW Murray general security allocation remains at 39 percent of entitlement, plus the unused water from last year that was carried-over in private accounts, being about 30 percent of entitlement on average.

In the Murrumbidgee, general security allocation remains at 40 percent of entitlement, plus 26 percent average carryover.

“The outlook continues to be for likely hot and dry conditions this summer.”

“Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 73 percent and 91 percent of capacity respectively and they continue to fall as demand for irrigation water grows.”

“In the Murrumbidgee Valley, Burrinjuck and Blowering dams are also falling, currently holding 58 percent and 78 percent of capacity respectively.”

“Allocation trade within and into the Murrumbidgee Valley can continue, but trade out has been closed.

“Also, the trade restriction across the Barmah Choke is now operating, meaning that trade downstream is only allowed to the extent there has been upstream trade – there can be no net trade downstream across the choke,” said Mr Bullen.

The next water allocation announcement and water availability outlook will be made by the NSW office of Water on Monday 17 November.

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

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