



Thursday, 15 January 2015

Rainfall brings some improvement to NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee general security allocations

NSW Department of Primary Industries Acting Deputy Director General Water, Bruce Cooper, today announced an increase to water allocations for general security water users in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee regulated river water sources.

“Good rainfall this month and reduced demand has enabled the general security allocation to increase 3 percent to 52 percent in the NSW Murray and by 6 percent to 46 percent in the Murrumbidgee Valley,” Mr Cooper said.

“With average carryover in these valleys of 30 percent and 26 percent respectively, this means that overall general security water availability is now at 82 percent of entitlement in the NSW Murray and 72 percent in the Murrumbidgee”.

“The rainfall in the Murrumbidgee has also enabled supplementary access downstream from Gogeldrie Weir to be announced,

“Additionally, the delivery of trade water to the Murray in December and January has enabled the resumption of trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley.”

Mr Cooper said that Burrinjuck storage has improved from a low of 580 gegalitres last weekend, to 595 gegalitres (58 percent of capacity) while Blowering Dam has improved from 500 gegalitres in early January to 525 gegalitres (31 percent of capacity)

Releases from the storages are being managed to balance their risk of future spill should conditions turn wet, whilst meeting downstream demands.

In the Murray, Dartmouth Dam is steady with 3,185 gegalitres (82 percent of capacity) while Lake Hume is storing 1,598 gegalitres (53 percent of capacity).

Conditions will continue to be closely monitored and the result of the next resource assessment will be announced on Monday 2 February 2015.

Ends

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

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Data Sheet

2014-15 Resource Distribution (as at 15 January 2015)

	NSW Murray Volume (GL)	Murrumbidgee Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	2,110	2,722
less		
Carryover (incl. M'bidgee IVT c/over)	498	645
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	243	147
Towns, Stock, Domestic Reserves ⁽²⁾	54	79
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	30	75
Announced High Security	232	322
Announced General Security	183	341
Losses (transmission, evaporation) ⁽⁴⁾	870 (52%)	870 (46%)
		240

Notes

1. Rules based environmental water – water required to be set aside primarily under water sharing plan rules to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements. **Excludes** 'licence-based' environmental water.
2. Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical human needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV).
3. Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued to Irrigation corporations to facilitate delivery of water through their channel systems. Allocation to this category is prescribed in the water sharing plans and is a function of current high and general security allocations.
4. 'Losses' is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river to meet demands for the remainder of the year. They do not appear in the Murray distribution because they are debited by Murray Darling Basin Authority before NSW is provided its share of Murray resource. They include storage evaporation, transmission losses, operational loss and assumes a return to dry conditions. This estimate is constantly refined as the year unfolds.

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