



General security allocation increases for NSW irrigators in the Murray, Murrumbidgee and Lower Darling Rivers

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced that the general security water allocation in the Murray Valley would increase to 13 per cent of entitlement and that general security allocation in the lower Darling River would increase to 100 per cent of entitlement.

Mr Harriss said that today's increases are the result of the significant volumes forecast to flow into the Menindee Lakes system following the floods generated in northern NSW over the Christmas-New Year period, and the proposed volumes that will be released from the Menindee Lakes into the Murray River.

"The general security allocation in the Murrumbidgee Valley will also increase by 3 percent to 18 percent of entitlement, which is the result of small inflows into Burrinjuck and Blowering dams and less than forecast transmission losses," he said.

Mr Harriss said that flows from the Menindee Lakes to the Lower Darling River will be increased over the coming few days to about 9,000 megalitres per day and landowners are advised to move their pumps and other property accordingly.

"These flows will then be maintained for up to two weeks before being gradually reduced."

"The water flowing from the Lower Darling into the River Murray will be re-regulated in Lake Victoria and will provide an improvement in water availability for NSW and also will provide for increased environmental flows in South Australia," he said

"How the water reaching the Murray will be used to get the best environmental outcomes, is currently subject to negotiations between NSW, Victoria, South Australia and the Commonwealth Governments, said Mr Harriss

Mr Harriss said that NSW has requested the Murray-Darling Basin Authority to approve the temporary trade of water out of the Lower Darling River valley, subject to ensuring there are no impacts on water availability to other states or licensed water users.

Mr Harriss said that details of water management in the Murrumbidgee, Murray and Lower Darling river valleys are available in today's Critical Water Planning communiqué, published on the Office of Water website at www.water.nsw.gov.au.

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