

1 July 2018

Opening allocations for NSW Murray Valley and Lower Darling water users

The NSW Department of Industry today announced opening water allocations for licenced water users in the NSW Murray and Lower Darling regulated and unregulated water sources for the new 2018-19 water year, commencing 1 July 2018.

NSW Murray regulated river high security licence holders will commence on 0.97 megalitres per unit share of entitlement, while general security licence holders will not receive an allocation at this time.

In accordance with the water sharing plan, the Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Allowance has been borrowed in full to assist consumptive water users. It will be repaid once general security allocations reach 30 per cent of entitlement.

General security licence holders in the NSW Murray will have full access to water carried over from 2017-18, which is approximately 30 per cent on average, noting that planned carryover volumes are an individual decision for businesses and not all users will have unused water in their accounts to carry forward.

Carryover in general security accounts, plus the sum of allocations in 2018-19, cannot exceed the account limit of 110 per cent of entitlement.

Local water utility, domestic and stock and all high security sub-categories (town water supply, research, and community and education) access licence holders in the NSW Murray regulated river receive an allocation of 100 per cent of entitlement.

Supplementary water access licence holders receive an allocation of 1 megalitre per unit share of entitlement.

Regulated river (conveyance) access licence holders will receive an allocation of 0.1212 megalitres per unit share of entitlement. This licence category will be first priority for allocation as new water becomes available.

Stock and domestic and local water utility access licence holders in the Lower Darling regulated water source will receive 100 per cent of entitlement.

Lower Darling high security and supplementary water licence holders receive 1 megalitre per unit share of entitlement, while general security licence holders will not receive an allocation at this time.

Licence holders are reminded that they are only permitted to take supplementary water from these water sources in accordance with announcements made by the Minister and under conditions of their water licence.

Licence holders in the NSW Murray unregulated and alluvial water sources receive an allocation of 100 per cent or 1 megalitre per unit share of entitlement.

Domestic and stock, local water utility, unregulated river and aquifer access licence holders within the area covered by the Lower Murray-Darling unregulated and alluvial water sharing plan will also receive an allocation of 100 per cent or 1 megalitre per unit share of entitlement.

NSW Murray inter and intra valley trade will be in accordance with existing procedures and protocols, including no net trade downstream of the Barmah choke. The Barmah Choke trade capacity is reset on 1 July with an allowable downstream trade volume commensurate with water savings upstream of the choke that no longer need delivery downstream through the choke.

The 2017-18 Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance carries into the 2018-19 water year unchanged. Daily updates relating to the IVT account balance and opening or closing triggers are available through the WaterNSW website (www.waternsw.com.au).

The next water allocation announcement will be made on 16 July 2018.

Additional information on available water determinations can be found on the NSW Department of Industry website at - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

ENDS

Learn more about how the NSW Government is driving reform in water management in NSW: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water-reform