

1 May 2019

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water allocation update

Current water allocations in the NSW Murray and Lower Darling regulated river water sources **remain unchanged**.

The allocation statements at this time of the water year are typically provided mid-monthly; however, given the water shortage conditions, this abbreviated statement is being issued to confirm conditions and keep water users updated. The next comprehensive statement will be issued on Wednesday 15 May 2019.

April has been a very dry month, with inflows tracking well below average. A minor resource improvement of 5,000 megalitres (ML) is set aside to meet 1 July 2019 commitments.

The Lower Darling is at the maximum Stage 4 drought criticality with the Menindee Lakes system at record low levels of just 1.0 per cent full, holding only 16,800 ML. Remaining supplies are restricted to critical needs only.

Despite the difficult conditions, River Murray operations can continue to deliver water orders as usual meaning the Stage 1 drought criticality remains unchanged.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover	Drought Stage
Murray	97%	0%	31%	 Stage 1
Lower Darling	100%	0%	15%	 Stage 4

Murray storage levels (as at 30 April 2019)*

- Dartmouth Dam is 63 per cent full – steady – holding 2,443,000 ML.
- Hume Dam is 14 per cent full – falling – holding 406,000 ML.
- Lake Victoria is 25 per cent full – falling – holding 168,000 ML.

* NSW share of this water is approximately 24%, 60% and 45% for these storages respectively, or 32% in total.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling valleys will be issued on **Wednesday 15 May 2019**. It will be the final allocation update for this water year. It will provide the best estimates of expected opening (1 July) water availability and allocations, and the likelihood of improvement under different inflow scenarios.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Industry's new monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.