



RIVER MURRAY WEEKLY REPORT

FOR THE WEEK ENDING WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2014

Trim Ref: D14/41435

Rainfall and Inflows

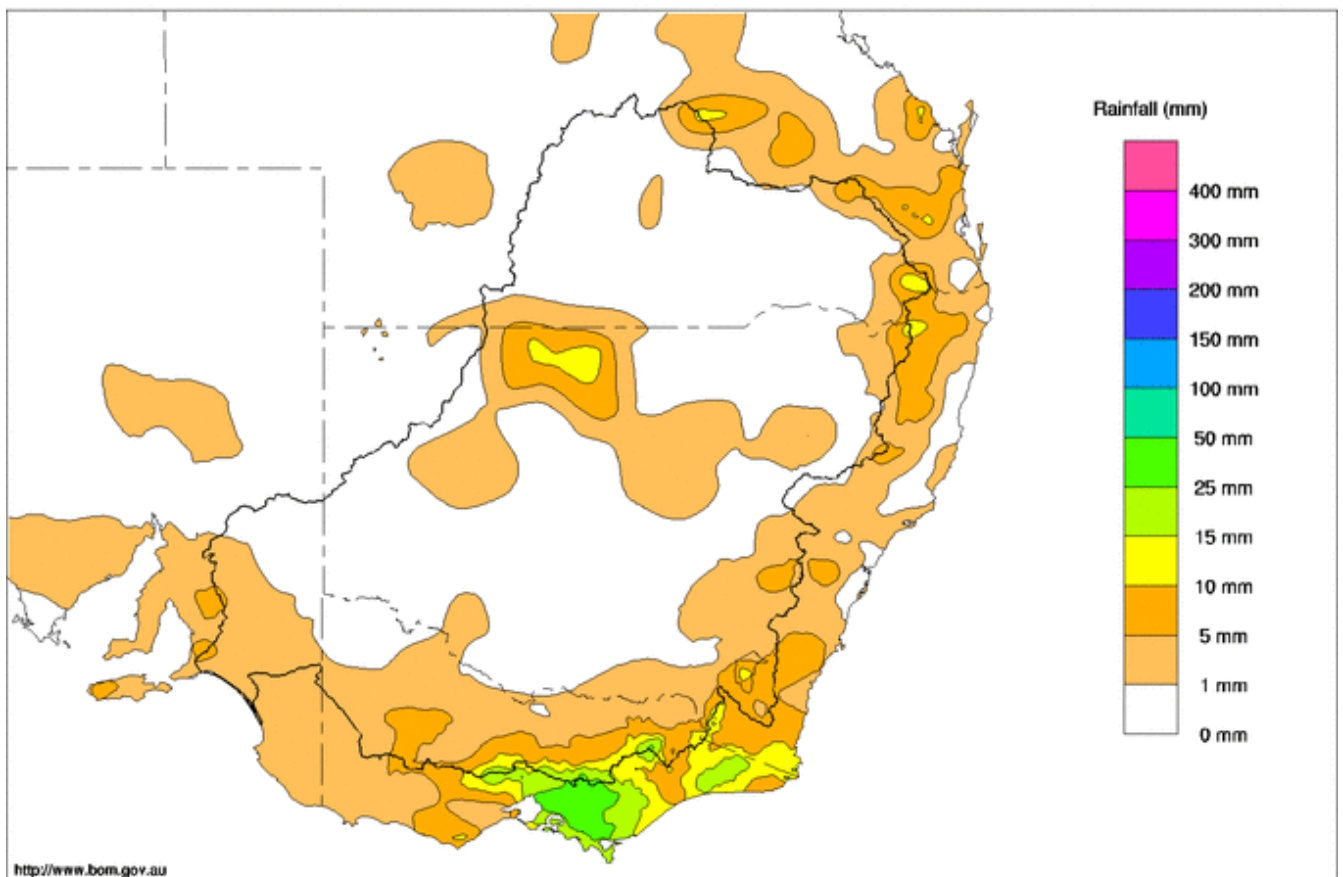
Large parts of the Murray-Darling Basin remained hot and dry this week, with most rain falling around the edges of the basin (Map 1). Average maximum temperatures for Deniliquin on the Edward-Wakool and Mildura on the Murray were around 30 degrees Celsius for the week.

A surface trough over western New South Wales associated with a low pressure system centred over western Victoria triggered isolated thunderstorms through inland and eastern New South Wales. A surface trough over Bass Strait and a broad trough of low pressure across southern and western New South Wales resulted in light rainfall through much of Victoria and parts of southeast South Australia.

In Victoria, Mount Hotham recorded 25 mm of rainfall, Rocky Valley 21 mm and Hinnomunjie 14 mm. In NSW, areas in north-west NSW received modest rainfall with totals of 18 mm recorded at Quambone and 12 mm at Bourke. In Qld, there was rainfall in the upper Condamine catchment with Yangan recording 15 mm and The Head recording 13 mm.

Murray-Darling Rainfall Totals (mm) Week Ending 29th October 2014

Australian Bureau of Meteorology



<http://www.bom.gov.au>

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Issued: 29/10/2014

Map 1 - Murray-Darling Basin rainfall for the week ending 29th October 2014 (Source: Bureau of Meteorology).

The tributaries in the upper Murray catchments continued receding this week with only light rainfall. The flow in the Mitta Mitta at Hinnomunjie receded to under 600 ML/day and the flow on the upper Murray at Biggara fell below 700 ML/day. On the Ovens River, the flow at Wangaratta has remained relatively steady this week averaging 1,100 ML/day.



River Operations

- Trade from above the Barmah Choke restricted – see attached media release;
- Closure of trade out of the Murrumbidgee Valley – see attached media release;
- Bulk transfers continue from Dartmouth to Hume Reservoir;
- Pulse of environmental water from the Goulburn River reaches Euston.

MDBA total storage decreased by 133 GL this week, with the active storage now 6,130 GL (73% capacity).

At **Dartmouth** Reservoir, the current storage volume is 3,538 GL (92% capacity) which is a decrease of 36 GL since last week. The release from Dartmouth was increased to 7,000 ML/day at Colemans gauge late last week, but will be gradually reduced to 3,000 ML/day in the coming week. These high releases are transferring water to Hume Reservoir to assist with meeting downstream demand.

At **Hume** Reservoir, the storage volume decreased by 64 GL to 2,198 GL (73% capacity). The release during the past week has varied between 17,000 and 19,000 ML/day. Releases of around 16,000 ML/day are anticipated for the coming week.

At **Yarrawonga** Weir, the level of Lake Mulwala is around 124.8 m AHD and the release remains at 10,300 ML/day. This flow is maintaining the Barmah Choke at close to capacity (see Photo 1), with additional water flowing downstream via the Edward Escape from Mulwala Canal. Diversions through Yarrawonga Main Channel and Mulwala Canal totalled 61 GL during the week – slightly more than last week.



Photo 2 – River Murray at Barmah-Millewa Forest, upstream of the Edward offtake on 29 October (Photo courtesy Keith Ward, Goulburn-Broken Catchment Management Authority).



The combined flow through the **Edward** and Gulpa offtakes has been steady at around 1,950 ML/day. The flow downstream of Stevens Weir has averaged around 2,050 ML/day, while diversion to the Wakool Main Canal has averaged about 1,100 ML/day. Downstream on the **Wakool** River, the flow at Kyalite is expected to steadily rise for the next week or so.

On the **Goulburn** River, the flow at McCoys Bridge has receded from a peak of 7,700 ML/day at the weekend and is currently 6,600 ML/day. The flow is expected to return to about 900 ML/day during early November and remain steady at this rate prior to another flow pulse in late November.

Water levels along the Murray will fluctuate noticeably as the pulse moves downstream. For more information, please refer to the [flow advice](#) issued on 21 October. People along the river, including recreational users, are advised to visit MDBA's website for the latest information about [river flows and levels](#). For more information on how MDBA takes account of communities' recreational needs, see the [MDBA River Operations and Recreation](#) page.

On the lower **Murrumbidgee** River, the flow at Balranald is currently 1,600 ML/day, and is expected to remain in the range 1,000–1,600 ML/day in the coming weeks.

At **Euston** Weir, the flow has risen to 10,150 ML/day and is expected to reach around 12,000 ML/day early next week before gradually receding. This increase in flow is due to the pulse of water from the Goulburn River.

Downstream at **Mildura** and **Wentworth**, the flow in the Murray is rising with peak flows of at least 11,000 ML/day expected in early-mid November.

At **Lake Victoria**, the level is 26.26 m AHD, with a volume of 588 GL (87% capacity). The flow to South Australia is currently 9,500 ML/day. This flow will increase to 10,000 ML/day on 1 November with continued delivery of environmental water traded from further upstream on the Murray as well as from the Goulburn system. This water is being used to test the new works on the Chowilla Floodplain, as well as to maintain barrage outflows.

At the **Lower Lakes**, the 5-day average level in Lake Alexandrina is 0.67 m AHD. Flow into the Coorong through the Barrages is estimated at around 2,000 ML/day.

For media inquiries contact the Media Officer on 02 6279 0141

DAVID DREVERMAN
Executive Director, River Management



Water in Storage

Week ending Wednesday 29 Oct 2014

MDBA Storages	Full Supply Level	Full Supply Volume (GL)	Current Storage Level	Current Storage		Dead Storage (GL)	Active Storage (GL)	Change in Total Storage for the Week (GL)
	(m AHD)		(m AHD)	(GL)	%			
Dartmouth Reservoir	486.00	3 856	481.03	3 538	92%	71	3 467	-36
Hume Reservoir	192.00	3 005	187.61	2 198	73%	23	2 175	-64
Lake Victoria	27.00	677	26.26	588	87%	100	488	-22
Menindee Lakes		1 731*		279	16%	(- -) #	0	-11
Total		9 269		6 603	71%	--	6 130	-133
Total Active MDBA Storage							73% ^	

Major State Storages

Burrinjuck Reservoir	1 026	803	78%	3	800	-20
Blowering Reservoir	1 631	964	59%	24	940	-35
Eildon Reservoir	3 334	2 781	83%	100	2 681	-47

* Menindee surcharge capacity – 2050 GL

** All Data is rounded to nearest GL **

NSW takes control of Menindee Lakes when storage falls below 480 GL, and control reverts to MDBA when storage next reaches 640 GL

^ % of total active MDBA storage

Snowy Mountains Scheme

Snowy diversions for week ending 28 Oct 2014

Storage	Active Storage (GL)	Weekly Change (GL)	Diversions (GL)	This Week	From 1 May 2014
Lake Eucumbene - Total	2 193	n/a	Snowy-Murray	+0	202
Snowy-Murray Component	1 020	n/a	Tooma-Tumut	+1	169
Target Storage	1 400		Net Diversion	-1	33
			Murray 1 Release	+2	408

Major Diversions from Murray and Lower Darling (GL) *

New South Wales	This Week	From 1 July 2014	Victoria	This Week	From 1 July 2014
Murray Irrig. Ltd (Net)	35.4	278	Yarrowonga Main Channel (net)	11.9	83
Wakool Sys Allowance	3.3	18	Torrumbarry System + Nyah (net)	0.2	256
Western Murray Irrigation	0.7	5	Sunraysia Pumped Districts	2.8	22
Licensed Pumps	6.6	73	Licensed pumps - GMW (Nyah+u/s)	0.6	8
Lower Darling	0.4	15	Licensed pumps - LMW	5	53
TOTAL	46.4	389	TOTAL	20.5	422

* Figures derived from estimates and monthly data. Please note that not all data may have been available at the time of creating this report.

** All data above is rounded to nearest 100 ML for weekly data and nearest GL for cumulative data**

Flow to South Australia (GL)

* Flow to SA will be greater than normal entitlement for this month due to the delivery of additional environmental water.

Entitlement this month	170.0 *
Flow this week	65.5
Flow so far this month	257.9
Flow last month	184.0

(9 400 ML/day)

Salinity (EC) (microSiemens/cm at 25° C)

	Current	Average over the last week	Average since 1 August 2014
Swan Hill	20	100	100
Euston	-	-	110
Red Cliffs	130	130	130
Merbein	140	140	140
Burtundy (Darling)	710	690	770
Lock 9	150	150	150
Lake Victoria	220	210	200
Berri	230	240	220
Waikerie	330	310	290
Morgan	n/a	300	280
Mannum	300	260	330
Murray Bridge	320	330	390
Milang (Lake Alex.)	730	740	740
Poltalloch (Lake Alex.)	620	610	570
Meningie (Lake Alb.)	2 300	2 370	2 280
Goolwa Barrages	1 530	1 040	1 160



River Levels and Flows

Week ending Wednesday 29 Oct 2014

River Murray	Minor Flood Stage (m)	Gauge Height		Flow (ML/day)	Trend	Average Flow this Week (ML/day)	Average Flow last Week (ML/day)
		local (m)	(m AHD)				
Khancoban	-	-	-	1 290	R	1 140	2 110
Jingellic	4.0	1.45	207.97	2 820	F	3 160	4 710
Tallandoon (Mitta Mitta River)	4.2	3.04	219.93	7 440	R	6 900	5 330
Heywoods	5.5	3.13	156.76	16 940	F	17 910	17 530
Doctors Point	5.5	3.18	151.65	16 960	R	17 920	18 230
Albury	4.3	2.22	149.66	-	-	-	-
Corowa	3.8	3.48	129.50	17 310	F	18 160	17 230
Yarrawonga Weir (d/s)	6.4	1.69	116.73	10 240	F	10 310	10 270
Tocumwal	6.4	2.33	106.17	9 880	R	9 850	9 760
Torrumbarry Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.84	82.39	12 550	F	12 250	8 840
Swan Hill	4.5	2.08	65.00	11 650	R	10 040	8 140
Wakool Junction	8.8	3.71	52.83	11 010	R	9 630	8 600
Euston Weir (d/s)	8.8	1.98	43.82	10 150	R	8 650	8 190
Mildura Weir (d/s)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wentworth Weir (d/s)	7.3	3.13	27.89	8 670	R	7 810	8 100
Rufus Junction	-	3.84	20.77	8 720	R	8 570	8 870
Blanchetown (Lock 1 d/s)	-	0.76	-	5 740	R	5 890	5 540
Tributaries							
Kiewa at Bandiana	2.7	1.09	154.32	650	R	760	1 230
Ovens at Wangaratta	11.9	8.21	145.89	1 130	R	1 080	1 320
Goulburn at McCoys Bridge	9.0	4.24	95.66	6 620	F	7 260	4 240
Edward at Stevens Weir (d/s)	-	2.22	81.99	2 330	F	2 050	1 350
Edward at Liewah	-	1.81	57.19	1 130	R	740	600
Wakool at Stoney Crossing	-	1.49	54.98	580	R	560	590
Murrumbidgee at Balranald	5.0	2.03	57.99	1 590	R	1 330	1 030
Barwon at Mungindi	-	2.90	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Bourke	-	3.79	-	0	F	0	0
Darling at Burtundy Rocks	-	0.69	-	50	R	40	40

Natural Inflow to Hume (i.e. Pre Dartmouth & Snowy Mountains scheme)	5 410	7 130
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Weirs and Locks Pool levels above or below Full Supply Level (FSL)

Murray	FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s		FSL (m AHD)	u/s	d/s
Yarrawonga	124.90	-0.08	-	No. 7 Rufus River	22.10	+0.06	+1.50
No. 26 Torrumbarry	86.05	+0.00	-	No. 6 Murtho	19.25	+0.40	+0.18
No. 15 Euston	47.60	+0.16	-	No. 5 Renmark	16.30	+0.10	+0.30
No. 11 Mildura	34.40	+0.05	+0.24	No. 4 Bookpurnong	13.20	+0.08	+0.91
No. 10 Wentworth	30.80	+0.08	+0.49	No. 3 Overland Corner	9.80	+0.03	+0.61
No. 9 Kulnine	27.40	+0.19	+0.90	No. 2 Waikerie	6.10	+0.42	+0.62
No. 8 Wangumma	24.60	+0.85	+0.24	No. 1 Blanchetown	3.20	+0.42	+0.01

Lower Lakes FSL = 0.75 m AHD

Lake Alexandrina average level for the past 5 days (m AHD)	0.67
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Barrages

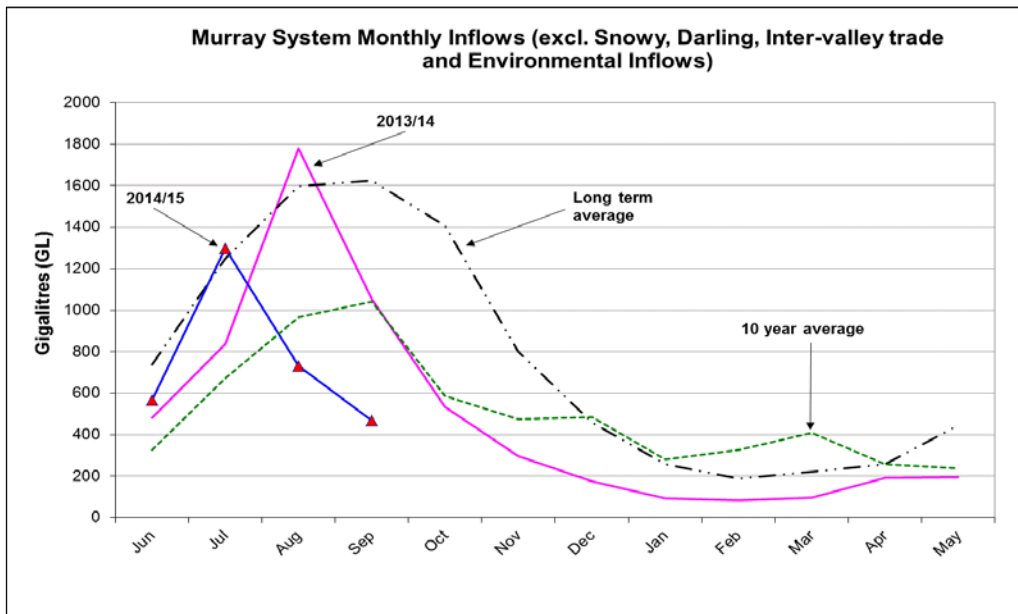
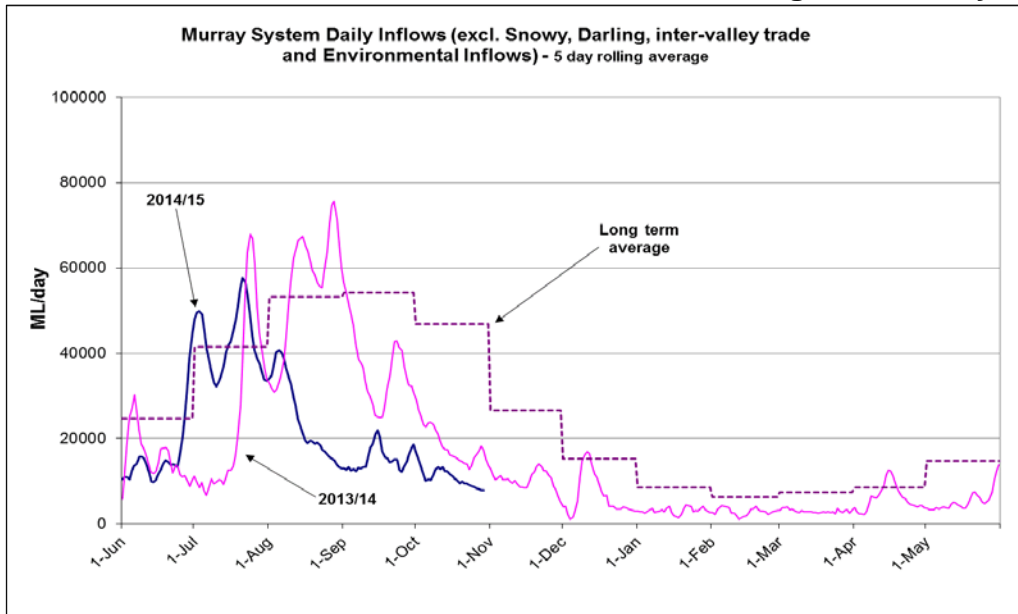
Fishways at Barrages

	Openings	Level (m AHD)	No. Open	Rock Ramp	Vertical Slot
Goolwa	128 openings	0.66	All closed	-	Open
Mundoo	26 openings	0.66	All closed	-	-
Boundary Creek	6 openings	-	0.1	-	-
Ewe Island	111 gates	-	All closed	-	-
Tauwitchere	322 gates	0.69	4	Open	Open

AHD = Level relative to Australian Height Datum, i.e. height above sea level



Week ending Wednesday 29 Oct 2014



State Allocations (as at 29 Oct 2014)

NSW - Murray Valley

High security	97%
General security	39%

Victorian - Murray Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Murrumbidgee Valley

High security	95%
General security	40%

Victorian - Goulburn Valley

High reliability	100%
Low reliability	0%

NSW - Lower Darling

High security	100%
General security	100%

South Australia - Murray Valley

High security	100%
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NSW : <http://www.water.nsw.gov.au/Water-management/Water-availability/Water-allocations/Water-allocations-summary/water-allocations-summary/default.aspx>
 VIC : <http://www.g-mwater.com.au/water-resources/allocations/current.asp>
 SA : <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/managing-natural-resources/river-murray>

MEDIA RELEASE

28 October 2014



Choke trade restricted

From 5.00pm today, Tuesday 28 October 2014, trade from above the Barmah Choke to below the choke will be restricted to protect delivery of downstream water entitlements.

Trade downstream can only occur if upstream trade of the same or greater net volume has already occurred.

Entitlement holders downstream of the choke can continue to trade allocations upstream. This will create more opportunities for downstream trading through the choke.

MDBA River Management executive director David Dreverman said the restriction was to prevent water trades from making additional demands on the channel capacity at the choke.

"We've made this decision following an assessment of current water resource and operational conditions," Mr Dreverman said.

"At the moment it's very dry and the dry conditions are forecast to continue— that means we're probably heading into a period of high demand for water entitlements.

"Furthermore, there are reasonable water allocations currently available and most water is stored in our major storages upstream of the choke, meaning there will be heavy demand on the channel.

"There's also no ability to draw on water from the Menindee Lakes.

"So, to protect delivery of existing entitlements, it's necessary to re-instate the trade restriction.

"Water planning for summer is now relying on meeting downstream demands by drawing water from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee rivers, and using the Mulwala Canal and its escapes to bypass the choke."

Water is available to be called from the Goulburn and Murrumbidgee rivers as a result of earlier trades.

Mr Dreverman said the MDBA would continue to monitor the situation and if circumstances allowed, the restriction would be relaxed.

“This restriction reduces the risk of excessive demands on the channel, but very high temperatures and hot wind causing excessive evaporation may still pose a risk.”

The trade restriction across the Barmah Choke has been relaxed since the 2007/08 water year because the conditions in recent years have limited risks to channel capacity.

Trade in (permanent) water entitlements from above to below the choke remains restricted, in accordance with the rules of the basin governments’ Murray– Darling Basin Agreement.

Basin states will be working with the MDBA to track trades through the choke and determine trade opportunities. The current trade balance for the choke can be found at www.mdba.gov.au/river-data/barmah-choke

Trade applications will continue to be processed by Basin states as per standard processes. In the first instance, water market participants should contact their state trading authority for more information.

ENDS

For more information, contact the MDBA Media office at media@mdba.gov.au or 02 6279 0141 Follow @MD_Basin_Auth on Twitter: http://twitter.com/MD_Basin_Auth

Join the discussion on the MDBA blog: <http://freeflow.mdba.gov.au>



29 October 2014

NSW Murrumbidgee allocation and Murray trade restrictions

Acting Deputy Director General Water, Michael Bullen, today announced the closure of trades out of the Murrumbidgee Valley.

This step is necessary to manage the Inter-Valley Trade (IVT) account that has seen over 50,000 megalitres traded out of the valley in just two weeks, causing the IVT to reach 150,000 megalitres, which is well beyond its normal operating range.

“This rate of trade-out is far in excess of the rate at which the corresponding water can be physically delivered out of the valley,” Mr Bullen said.

“Trade out of the Murrumbidgee Valley will only be re-opened once there is a degree of flexibility within the normal IVT account operating range of up to 100,000 megalitres.”

“Allocation trade **into** the Murrumbidgee valley and **within** the valley is not affected.”

“It is important that trade water is delivered efficiently to ensure that there are no third party impacts,” Mr Bullen said.

Additionally, Mr Bullen also confirmed the re-introduction of the trade restriction across the Barmah Choke in the Murray River by the MDBA.

The restriction had been relaxed since 2006/07.

The amount of downstream trade across the choke will be limited by the amount of trade moving upstream.

“Whilst trade can continue across the choke, it is limited to there **being no net increase in trade from upstream to downstream across the Barmah choke**,” Mr Bullen said.

“Applications for trade can be made as usual with State Water; however, it is important to note that the **Murray Darling Basin Authority** will manage the trade capacity **on a day-to-day** basis and ensure that the trade rules are adhered to by jurisdictions,” said Mr Bullen

The re-introduction of the Barmah trade restriction is essential to protect delivery of existing entitlements.

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

ENDS

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507

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