



Thursday, 1 May 2014

Trade to access Lake Cawndilla water to close

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced that allocation trade to access water in Lake Cawndilla will close on 15 May 2014.

“In mid-February, when total storage fell below 480,000 megalitres and the Menindee Lakes System came under NSW control, the focus of operations at the Menindee Lakes turned to conserving water for as long as possible to meet the needs of Lower Darling water users and town water supply,” said Mr Harriss.

“This meant that trades into and out of the Lower Darling River Valley would generally not be permitted.”

“However, at that time, Lake Cawndilla, the lowest lake in the system, held about 180,000 megalitres of water that could not be readily used by local towns or water users on the lower Darling River.”

“Opportunity was extended for water users to temporary trade into the Lower Darling for delivery out of Lake Cawndilla and into Tandou Creek or the Great Anabranche of the Darling River.”

“Since February the volume in Lake Cawndilla has reduced by 30,000 megalitres, mainly by evaporation, meaning that additional access to Lake Cawndilla water is now very limited without affecting commitments in 2014/15”

“As a consequence, applications for allocation trade into the Lower Darling, for delivery from Lake Cawndilla will be accepted up to 15 May 2014 and for a total volume of 10,000 megalitres.”

“If applications are received in this period for more than 10,000 megalitres, it is proposed that the volume will be shared on a pro-rata basis,” he said.

The NSW Office of Water will continue to monitor water availability as the levels in the Menindee Lakes continue to recede and will provide community updates and advice as appropriate.

ENDS

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