



Wednesday, 21 May 2014

Lachlan annual use limit at 100 percent for 2014/15

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, announced today that the annual use limit for general security water users in the *Lachlan Regulated River* will be 100 percent of entitlement for the 2014/15 water year.

“This provides certainty for water users planning their operations for the upcoming season,” said Mr Harriss.

This assessment of water availability draws on information collated in a large body of work undertaken by the NSW Office of Water to update the long-term *Lachlan Integrated Quantity and Quality Model (IQQM)*.

“When the water sharing plan was being developed in the early 2000s, the annual use limit was modelled to be 75 percent of entitlements, to ensure compliance with long term extraction limits,” said Mr Harriss

“Over the past twelve months, the NSW Office of Water has collated and modelled a wide range of up-to-date information obtained from questionnaires regarding cropping practices, water use data, remote sensing analysis, and communication with users and user representatives.”

“This information has been incorporated into the Lachlan IQQM which is used to determine the annual use limit that can be allowed, while complying with the water sharing plan for the regulated Lachlan River.”

“Annual water usage data and anecdotal information had suggested that water use in the Lachlan Valley had not grown beyond the limits set in the Plan provisions,” said Mr Harriss

“The updated modelling has now confirmed this.”

Mr Harriss said that management of valley-wide extractions is fundamental to maintaining the balance between consumptive use and water that is required to maintain the health and productivity of our river systems, including the Lachlan.

More information about water planning or modelling is available at www.water.nsw.gov.au

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