

MEDIA RELEASE



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Choke allocation trade to continue

Trading water from above the Barmah Choke to downstream of the choke will be allowed to continue into the 2014–15 water year.

MDBA chief executive Rhondda Dickson said an assessment had been made of the potential risks to channel capacity and it was determined risks were low at this time.

"We've looked at how much water is moving through the system, we've done an estimate of future demand, and we've looked at how much trade is taking place," Dr Dickson said.

"We're satisfied the trade restriction can be lifted without any risks to supplying water.

"However, as per our usual practice, we'll continue to monitor this and can re-instate the restriction if required."

Irrigators upstream of the choke can continue to trade water allocations downstream.

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

Under the agreement, the restriction on trading allocation water to downstream of the choke can be relaxed when there is a low risk of demand for water downstream of the choke exceeding channel capacity.

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