

IMPORTANT NOTICE

WATER RESTRICTIONS UPDATE #6

The water supply situation around the catchment has continued to deteriorate and we have continued to record inflow levels that are significantly lower than last year. Although we have been able to establish a 'buffer' on our lake storage level compared with last year, we are now drawing more from the lake than we did last year when we were on similar restrictions.

We had hoped that we could maintain the current 75% allocation regime through to the other side of the New Year period however because of the continuing increasing rate of decline on the storage, we believe that we need to tighten up earlier. If there is no significant rainfall over the next 10-12 days, we will be implementing a 50% regime prior to Xmas – on or around the 23rd December.

Irrigators should now anticipate a 50% allocation regime coming in to effect ahead of Xmas – on or around the 23rd December.

WATER STORAGE SITUATION

The lake level has continued to fall steadily and is now at 71.4%. This compares with 44.1% at the same time last year..

The inflows to the dam are lower now than they ever got to in December last year. Compared with last December, our inflows are 40% down and our drawdown of the lake is 60% higher so we are starting to steadily reduce the 20%+ buffer that we have established through an earlier start to restrictions.

RESTRICTIONS

We will continue to monitor the situation but will be preparing to move to a 50% allocation regime before Xmas.

We will again be working on a volumetric allocation regime so that we will require irrigators to work within 50% of their entitlement for the remaining week of December and through January.

The 75% regime will continue up to that time so that by the 23rd December, we will expect that no irrigators have used more than 75% of their entitlement for the 23 days of December. We will make a check on month-to-date water use next week and advise anyone who is operating ahead of that rate so they can adjust their use accordingly for the remainder of the period.

We operated at 50% for an extended period last season and we will be using our experience from that to manage the schemes this season. Most irrigators were able to manage themselves to average 50% take but there were some where a roster system worked best both on-farm and for us to operate the distribution.

Over the next week we will be contacting those that operated on a roster last season to confirm how you intend to operate so that we can have the most efficient plan in place for the 23rd.

Note that if we do get a reasonable amount of rain over the next 10-12 days, our fall-back will be to defer the 50% regime until the week of 4th January with likely implementation around the 7th. We will confirm this at the start of the Xmas week.

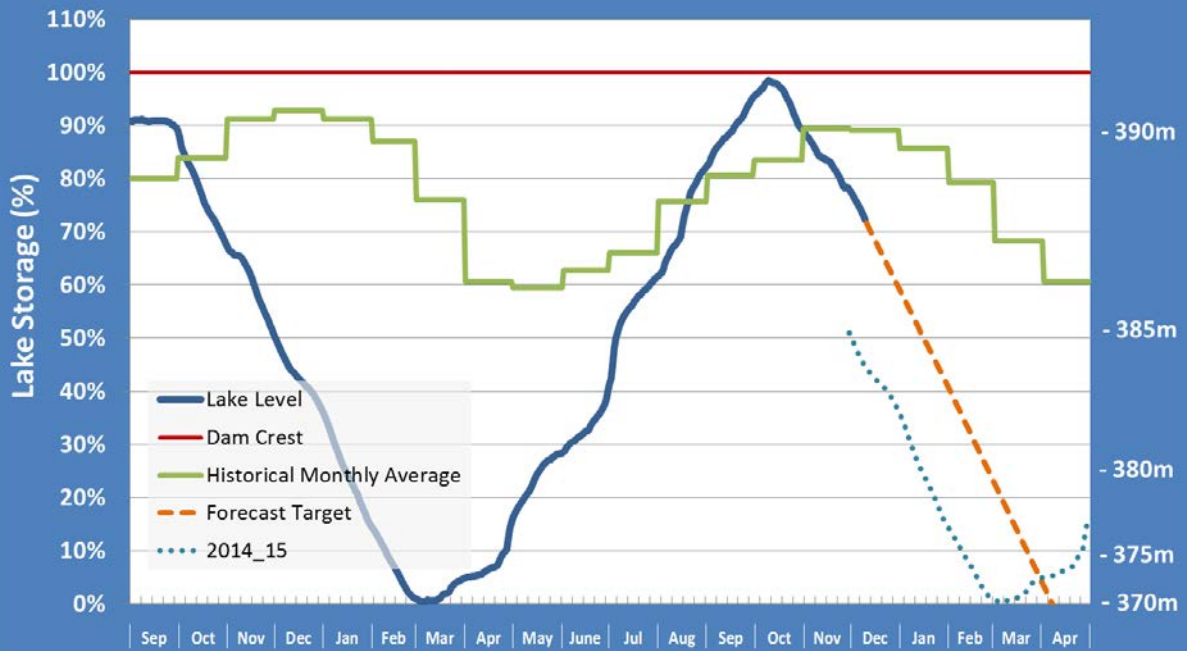
I regret to advise of these early restrictions but I do believe we need to take this action if we are to maintain any level of continuous supply through the season.

Regards

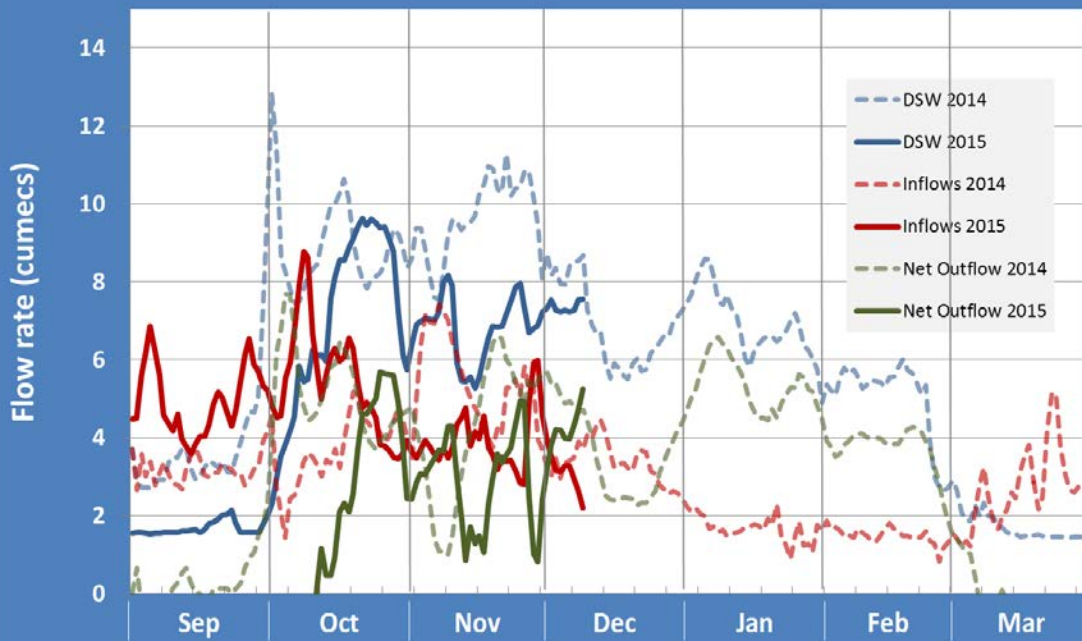


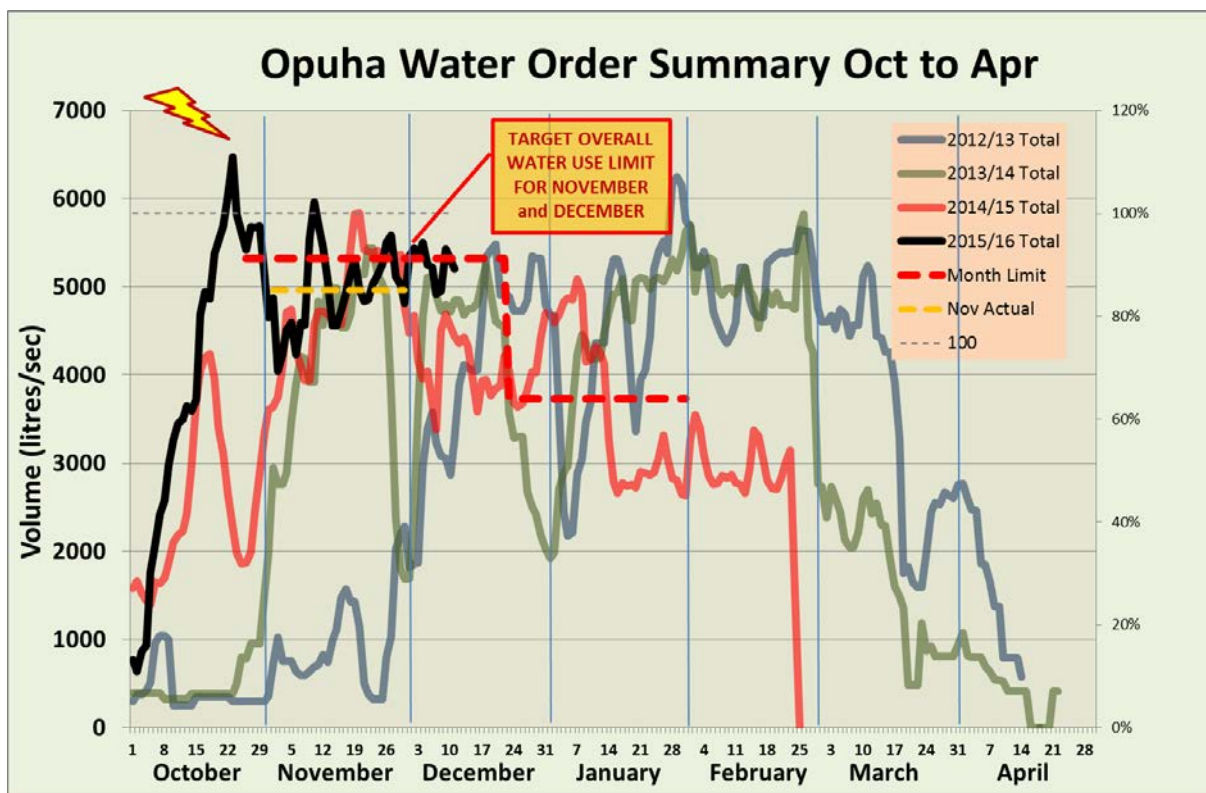
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Lake Level: Sep 2014 - Apr 2016



Lake Inflows and Releases: Sept-Mar





Statistical Summary	Units	Current Season	Previous Season
Lake Level			
Lake Storage Level		387.82m 71.4%	383.70m 44.1%
Monthly Historical Average- December		389.99m 89.1%	
Predicted date for zero storage level		6 April 2016	5 March 2016
Lake Flows			
Current Daily Inflow (5 days)	cumecs	2.19	3.51
Average Inflows for December	cumecs	3.01	3.36
Current Daily Release (5 days)	cumecs	7.45	8.17
Average Release for December	cumecs	7.34	6.93
Current Daily Decrease (5 days)		0.67% (~82mm)	0.62% (~105mm)
Average Daily Decrease for December		0.60%	0.47%
River Flows			
Saleyards Bridge Flow			
December	Min; Mean; Max	cumecs	5.7; 6.0; 6.2
	ORRP; WSD (excl. irrigation)	cumecs	6.0; 4.0
			6.0; 5.0
Irrigation			
Irrigation Demand:	Current	cumecs	4.92
	December [Min, Mean, Max]	cumecs	4.9; 5.3; 5.5
			3.4; 4.0; 4.7