

Accepted Manuscript

Research papers

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PII: S0022-1694(17)30814-4

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2017.11.049>

Reference: HYDROL 22407

To appear in: *Journal of Hydrology*

Received Date: 11 September 2017

Revised Date: 25 November 2017

Accepted Date: 27 November 2017



Please cite this article as: Nguyen-ky, T., Mushtaq, S., Loch, A., Reardon-Smith, K., An-Vo, D-A., Ngo-Cong, D., Tran-Cong, T., Predicting Water Allocation Trade Prices Using a Hybrid Artificial Neural Network-Bayesian Modelling Approach, *Journal of Hydrology* (2017), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhydrol.2017.11.049>

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PREDICTING WATER ALLOCATION TRADE PRICES USING A HYBRID ARTIFICIAL NEURAL NETWORK-BAYESIAN MODELLING APPROACH

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Key Points

- Artificial Neural Network (ANN) approaches were used to model and predict water trading prices in the Murry Irrigation area, Australia.
- Prices forecast using hybrid ANN-Bayesian modelling showed greater agreement with actual water prices.
- Water security allocations, cereal and meat prices were significant determinants of future water trading prices.

Abstract: This paper proposes an integrated (hybrid) Artificial Neural Network-Bayesian (ANN-B) modelling approach to improve the accuracy of predicting seasonal water allocation prices in Australia's Murry Irrigation Area, which is part of one of the world's largest interconnected water markets. Three models (basic, intermediate and full), accommodating different levels of data availability, were considered. Data were analyzed using both ANN and hybrid ANN-B approaches. Using the ANN-B modelling approach, which can simulate complex and non-linear processes, water allocation prices were predicted with a high degree of accuracy ($R_{BASIC} = 0.93$, $R_{INTER} = 0.96$ and $R_{FULL} = 0.99$); this was a higher level of accuracy than realized using ANN. This approach can potentially be integrated with online data systems to predict water allocation prices, enable better water allocation trade decisions, and improve the productivity and profitability of irrigated agriculture.

Keywords: Water allocation prices, Artificial Neural Network model, hybrid Artificial Neural Network-Bayesian model, water trade, price prediction.

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