



Thursday, 15 September 2011

Small improvement in general security allocations in the Southern Basin

NSW Water Commissioner, David Harriss, today announced an increase of 3 per cent for NSW Murray general security licence holders and an increase of 2 per cent for general security licence holders in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

Today's announcement brings the general security allocation in the NSW Murray to 18 per cent of entitlement which together with carry-over, means that Murray Valley general security users have, on-average, access to 86 per cent of entitlement.

Mr Harriss reminded all general security water users that they may divert water from continuing periods of supplementary flows without debit from their accounts, providing total water use in the current year does not exceed 110 per cent of entitlement.

"The small increase in the NSW Murray allocations is the result of an increase in the amount of water available to NSW under the normal sharing arrangements of the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement," said Mr Harriss.

He said that even though the past two months has been very dry, there is now a 50 per cent chance of reaching full general security allocations by the end of October and a 90 per cent chance by the end of January 2012.

"We have had little demand for water up until now, but with the onset of the warmer weather the release of water in the dams for irrigation and environmental flows means that subsequent inflow will result in quicker rises in allocations."

"In the Murrumbidgee Valley, the general security allocation has increased by 2 per cent to 59 percent of entitlement."

"This combined with carry-over gives the average Murrumbidgee general security water user access to an equivalent to 86 per cent of entitlement."

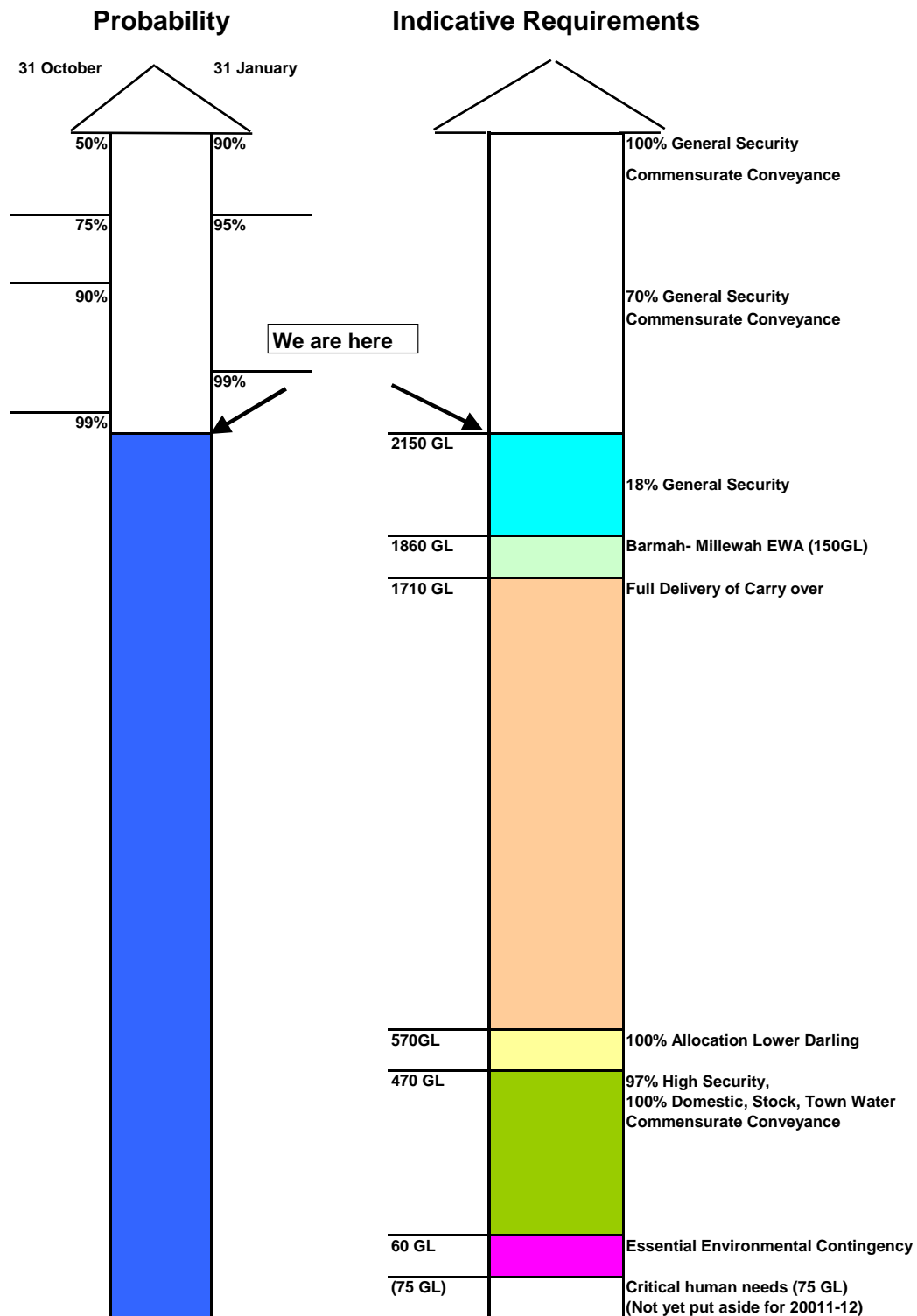
Mr Harriss said that while water availability in both valleys has not been this high so early in the season since the late 1990's, there was concern that it should be higher.

"We have reintroduced a graphic interpretation of the current available water for use this month to help illustrate potential for allocation increases, as we transition back to normal operations following the severe drought and subsequent floods," Mr Harriss said.

The current conditions also allow the relaxation of trade restrictions across the Barmah Choke to be continued.

More information on water allocations can be found on the NSW Office of Water website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au

□ **NSW Murray Valley Outlook**
As at 15 September 2011



NOTE: The volumes above are indicative only and should be used with caution. They may change depending on when improvements occur and if they are accompanied by heavy local rain.

Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

As at 15 September 2011

