

15 September 2017

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

The Murrumbidgee general security allocation has been **increased by 4 per cent to 33 per cent of entitlement**. This means, with carryover, overall general security water availability is 60 per cent in the valley. Intermittent rain in the upper catchment has continued in the past fortnight ensuring that storage levels continue to rise, with downstream tributaries below Wagga Wagga contributing inflows to the main river.

With general security allocation plus carryover now reaching 60 per cent, there is a requirement under the water sharing plan to begin to allocate 50,000 megalitres to the environmental water account (EWA1) and 25,000 megalitres to the provisional storage volume account (PSV1). This is required before general security allocations rise further.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	33%	27%

Storage levels (as at 14 September)

- Blowering Dam is 82 per cent full – falling – holding 1,350,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 60 per cent full – steady – holding 619,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates that generally average rainfall conditions are likely in the valley from October to December, with some areas likely to experience below average rainfall in November. Above average temperatures are also likely during the three months.

Both of Australia's major climate drivers at this time of year, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), remain neutral, so there is no strong driver pushing our climate towards widespread significantly wetter or drier conditions.

Trade

All Murrumbidgee Valley trade is open. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.watersw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and closure triggers.

Next announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be on **Tuesday 3 October 2017**.

An updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram, will be issued again on Monday 16 October 2017.

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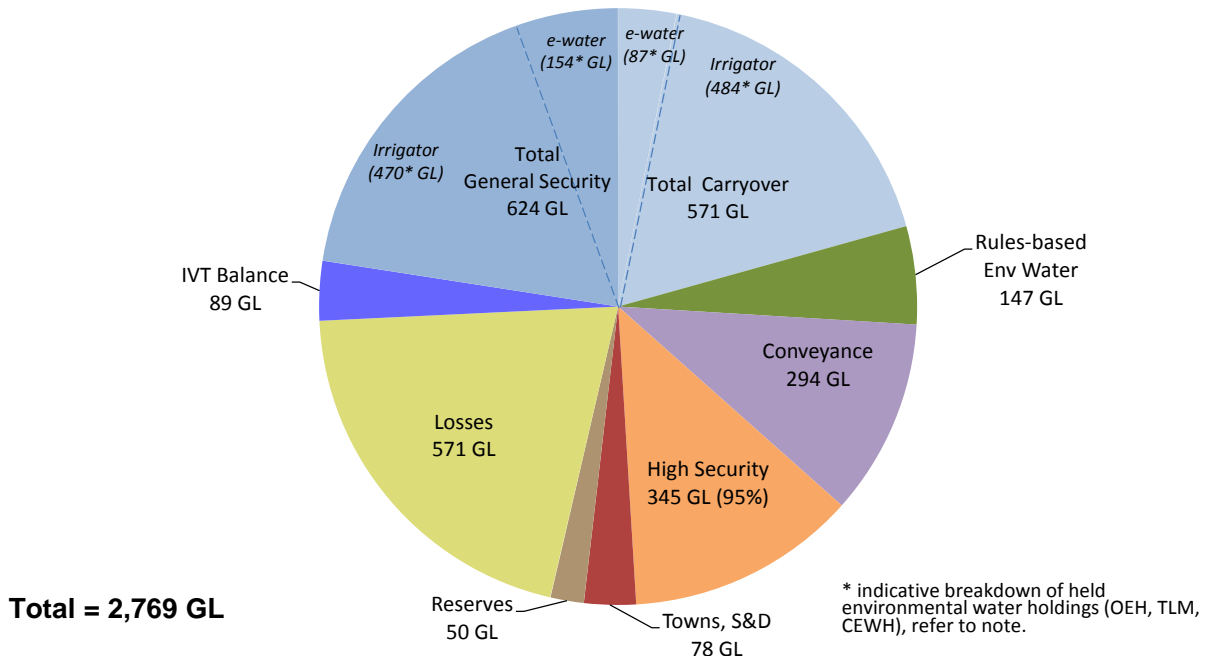
www.water.nsw.gov.au

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (15 September) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,769
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) ⁽²⁾	571
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	147
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽⁴⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	294
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁶⁾	571
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	89
Late Season Discount ⁽⁷⁾	0
Announced General Security	624 (33%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2017-18 Murrumbidgee Valley - 15 September 2017



Notes

- Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the day of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus drought inflows for rest of the year plus estimated usage to date including Snowy Hydro's net Jounama Release of 437 GL from 1 May 2017 to 1 September 2017.

- Rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements (currently 140 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as commitments are met and water is used during the year.
- Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25 GL per dam plus any Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2).
- Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued to Irrigation Corporations to facilitate delivery of water through their channel systems. Allocation to this category is prescribed in the water sharing plans and is a function of high and general security allocations. (This category of licence in the Murrumbidgee valley, like general security, can carry over up to 30% of entitlement).
- Losses – is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet demands for the remainder of the water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly updated as the year unfolds.
- Late Season Discount – is the estimated inflow volume that will arrive into storage late in the year, after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This water cannot be allocated to water users at the start of the water year otherwise there could be an expectation that the water is available for use before it is captured in storage.
- Held environmental water (HEW) – As a trial, general security allocation and carryover water administered by the environmental water holder has been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is total allocated in accounts (not usage) and includes 154 GL of GS, 12 GL of HS, 39 GL of conveyance allocation and 87 GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), The Living Murray (TLM) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		Mid Sep 2016 (GL)	Mid Sep 2017 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	1,013	615	Lower due to recent environmental releases and dry conditions
	Blowering	1,383	1,350	Similar
	Total	2,396	1,965	Lower
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational)*		506	571	Similar
1 July IVT carryover balance		100	89	Similar
Late Season Inflows		6	0	Similar
GS Available		61%	33%	28% lower allocation (but 11% higher carryover).
Average GS Carryover		19%	27%	Substantially higher this year

* Includes assumed loss from downstream of storages along the entire river length

Chances of improvement

The chances of inflows being above historical minimums, and therefore the likelihood of improved allocations, are as follows:

MURRUMBIDGEE Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 November 2017 General Security Allocations[^]	Forecast 1 February 2018 General Security Allocations[^]
Current allocation (99% inflows)	33%	33%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%) ^{^^}	33%	33%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	33%	33%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	40%	52%
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	48%	100%

Using all years of inflow records.

[^] Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

^{^^} [Currently tracking around here](#)

(The three month period from June to Aug 2017 = 88% AEP, days in Sep 2017 included in this assessment = 94% AEP).

NSW Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

As at 15 September 2017

