



1 November 2017

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water allocation update

Allocations

NSW Murray general security allocation **has increased by 2 per cent to 32 per cent of entitlement**, with a commensurate increase in allocation to conveyance entitlements.

Rainfall during October has been inconsistent, although there have been two reasonable events over the upper Murray catchments that have produced inflow improvements.

In accordance with the water sharing plan, the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) borrow has been **fully repaid as part of this assessment**.

Average carryover in NSW Murray general security water accounts is 44 per cent of entitlement, meaning that the total volume set aside for general security water users is approximately 1,265 GL or 76 per cent of entitlement on average. However, it is acknowledged that water availability for those who chose not to carry water over, is 32 per cent of entitlement.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	32%	44%
Lower Darling	100%	100%	

Upper Murray storage levels (as at 30 October 2017)

- Dartmouth Dam is 87 per cent full – rising – holding 3,338,000 megalitres (ML).
- Hume Dam is 85 per cent full – falling – holding 2,557,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November to January indicates an even chance of average rainfall conditions, with November likely to be drier than average for much of the valley. Above average temperatures are also likely over the three months, particularly in November for the eastern portion of the valley.

Though the Pacific Ocean is likely to continue cooling to La Niña levels, the conditions that typically appear to the north of Australia and in the eastern Indian Ocean with La Niña are unlikely to develop. This means that Australia may not receive the widespread heavy rainfall that is often seen with La Niña events.

Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to **'no net trade downstream'**. Downstream trade opens automatically to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade.

The trade restriction helps to protect existing downstream entitlement holders from an increased risk of delivery shortfall caused by the limited physical capacity of the Barmah choke.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Water users are encouraged to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website at - <http://www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/water-markets-trade/interstate-water-trade/barmah-choke-trade-balance> - for information about the trade balance and status of trade.

Lower Darling water source trade is open, including inter-valley trade. However, once the Menindee system falls below 480 GL (currently at 575 GL) and the Lower Darling becomes administratively separated from the Murray, trade with the Murray generally ceases until system recovery above 640GL.

Trade **out** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, but trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information about the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcement

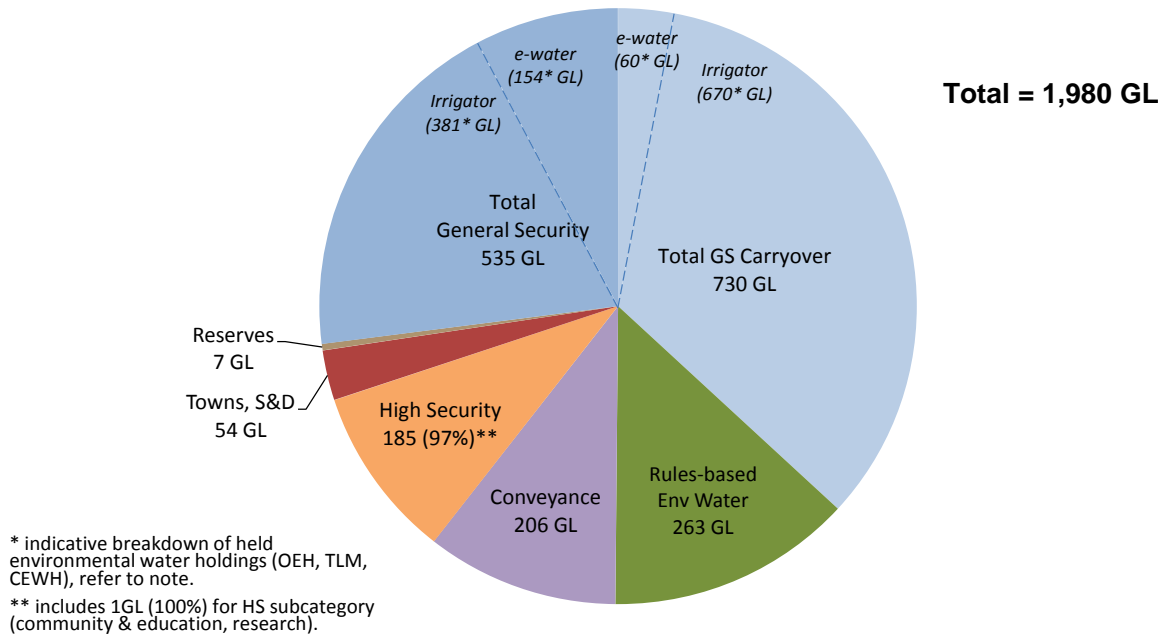
The next allocation update for the valley will be on **Wednesday 15 November 2017**, and will contain a final probability outlook for the year including the rocket diagram. In mid-March 2018, monthly outlooks for likely commencing water availability conditions on 1 July will begin, to help water users plan their end-of-year usage and carryover.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (16 October) for 2017-18	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,980
less	
Carryover ^{(2), (7)}	730
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	263
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	54 (100%)
Announced High Security subcategory (education, research) ⁽⁴⁾	1 (100%)
Announced High Security ⁽⁴⁾	184 (97%)
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	206
Reserves ⁽⁶⁾	7
Announced General Security ⁽⁷⁾	535 (32%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2017-18 NSW Murray - 1 Nov 2017



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as assessed and accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement at the time of the assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus assumed drought inflows for the rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR), as well as estimated usage to date. NSW is in Special Accounting with South Australia (SA) but this currently has no material impact on NSW allocations. Special accounting is triggered when NSW is forecast unable to meet the required reserve of 1,250 GL by the end of the water year to supply SA with its entitlement in the following water year. Details can be found in the MDB Agreement Clauses 123-129.
- (2) Carryover – NSW Murray general security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50 per cent of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 110 per cent of entitlement, which can consist of both allocation and carryover.
- (3) Primarily rules-based planned environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. In the NSW Murray this includes the Murray Additional Allowance (MAA) (about 6 GL), Wakool system requirements (up to 70 GL), and the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA)(currently 187GL). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW).
- (4) The *Water Sharing Plan for the New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016* has subcategories of high security licences in the Murray Water Source. High security subcategory licences under *Part 7 Division 2 Clause 46(2)* that are present in the Murray include community and education, research, and town water supply. At the commencement of each water year, these licences are to receive 100% allocation, while remaining high security licences are to receive 97% allocation. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the high security town water supply allocation volume has been grouped as "Towns, S&D".
- (5) 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 plan and is a function of current high and general security allocation.
- (6) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans; set aside for emergency purposes and critical needs.
- (7) 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 limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage or trade), and estimated to be 154 GL of GS, 24 GL of HS, 26 GL of conveyance allocation and 60 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). For more details on environmental holdings please refer to individual Agency websites.