



1 December 2017

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Murrumbidgee regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 33 per cent** of entitlement.

Inflows to the upper storages have remained weak despite some showers in recent days. While some tributaries have started to respond with slight flow improvement, more rain is needed to trigger meaningful storage improvements.

At the time of this statement, a significant rain band is approaching the catchments. This resource assessment does not include any potential improvements from the impending rainfall.

To assist water users, an interim resource assessment will be undertaken next week and an indication of improvement provided on Friday 8 December. However, any improvement will need to be confirmed through the usual resource assessment process and will be made available to water users in line with the usual mid-month water allocation statement on Friday 15 December.

It should be noted that the next available water must be allocated to the environmental water account (EWA1) and the provisional storage volume account (PSV1), some 50,000 and 25,000 megalitres respectively, in accordance with the water sharing plan rules, as general security allocation plus carryover has reached 60 per cent of entitlement.

Once these commitments are met, and there is confidence that high security and carryover commitments can also be met for next year, further improvement in general security water availability can then accrue.

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

Storage levels (as at 30 November)

- Blowering Dam is 55 per cent full – falling – holding 910,591 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 62 per cent full – steady – holding 641,031 ML.

Climatic outlook

The updated Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for summer (December to February) indicates that above average rainfall conditions are expected over the eastern part of the Murrumbidgee catchment. The rest of the catchment is still expected to experience average rainfall conditions. Summer daytime temperatures are expected to be average, with above average overnight temperatures.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook has been raised to La Niña ALERT due to continued cooling in the tropical Pacific. Although the chance of a La Niña forming in late 2017 is

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around 70 per cent, or triple the normal likelihood, climate models suggest that any event is likely to be weak and short-lived.

La Niña typically brings above average rainfall to eastern Australia during late spring and summer. However, sea surface temperature patterns are not currently typical of La Niña, reducing the likelihood of widespread summer rainfall. La Niña can also increase the chance of prolonged warm spells for southeast Australia.

Trade

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.watersw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information regarding the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcements

To assist water users, an interim resource assessment will be undertaken next week and an indication of improvement provided on Friday 8 December. However, any improvement will need to be confirmed through the usual resource assessment process and will be made available to water users in line with the usual mid-month water allocation statement on Friday 15 December.

There will be no statement on 1 January 2018.

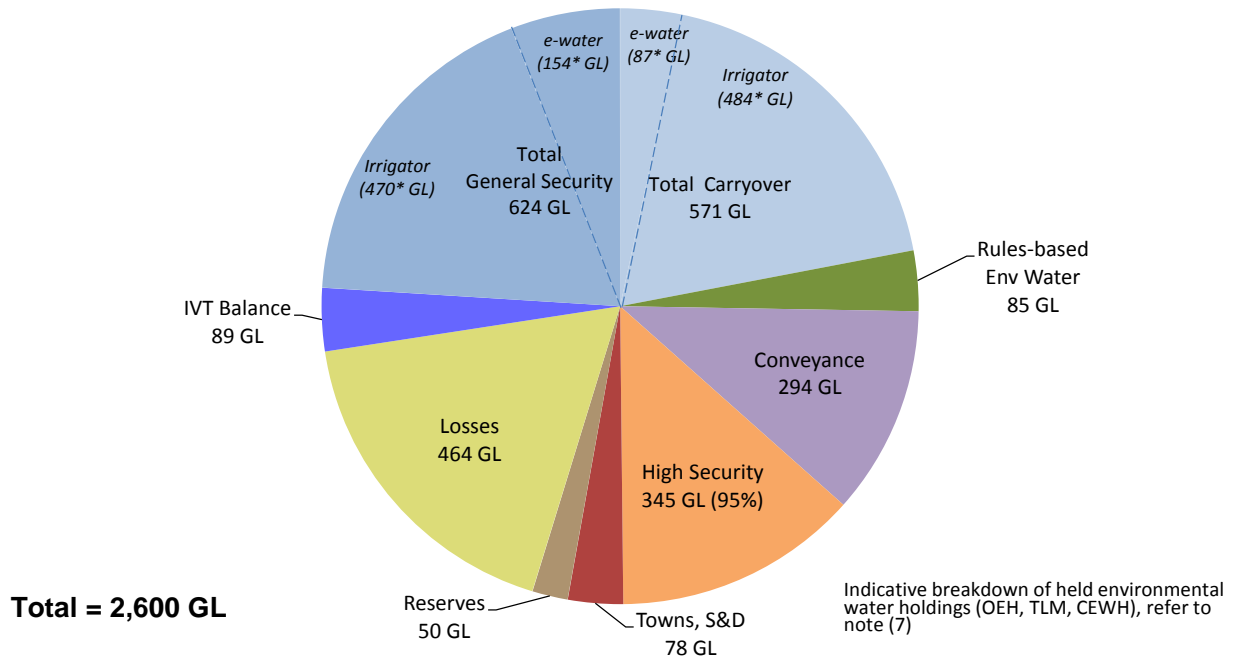
Fortnightly assessments and statements for the Murrumbidgee regulated river will resume in the new year on Monday 15 January 2018.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 December) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,600
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance)	571
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	85
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	294
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	464
Murrumbidgee IVT balance as at 1 July (i.e. carryover)	89
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0
Announced General Security	624 (33%)

**See notes below.*

Resource Distribution 2017-18 Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 December 2017



Notes

- 1) 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 426 GL from 1 May 2017 to 27 November 2017.
- 2) 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 64 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3) – balance currently 21 GL. 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.
- 3) 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).
- 4) 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).
- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 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 total allocated in accounts (not usage) and includes 154GL of GS, 12GL of HS, 39GL of conveyance allocation and 87GL 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.