

15 July 2016

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

NSW Murrumbidgee general security allocation has **increased 13 per cent to 33 per cent**, due to significant inflows over the past two weeks.

In addition, the translucent flows that have been triggered by the rules in the water sharing plan have allowed supplementary access to be announced since early June. Access now extends the full length of the Murrumbidgee Valley including Lowbidgee, and general security entitlement holders can also divert this supplementary water 'without debit'.

The rules-based environmental flows (translucent release) have also been of benefit to NSW Murray water users as they have contributed to supplementary access and a small increase in general security allocation.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	33%	19%

#### Storage levels (as at 14 July)

- Blowering Dam is 70 per cent full – rising - holding 1154,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 64 per cent full - rising - holding 656,000 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook indicates a high likelihood (at least a 75 to 80 per cent chance) of exceeding median rainfall conditions within the Murrumbidgee catchment over the 3 months to September. Cooler days are also very likely.

Climate models continue to indicate an equal chance of either neutral or La Niña conditions in the second half of 2016. La Niña is often, but not always, associated with above-average winter-spring rainfall in this region. However, if a La Niña event were to develop, models suggest it would not be as strong as the most recent La Niña in 2010–12.

#### Trade

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

#### Next announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee valley will be on **Monday 1 August 2016**.

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[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

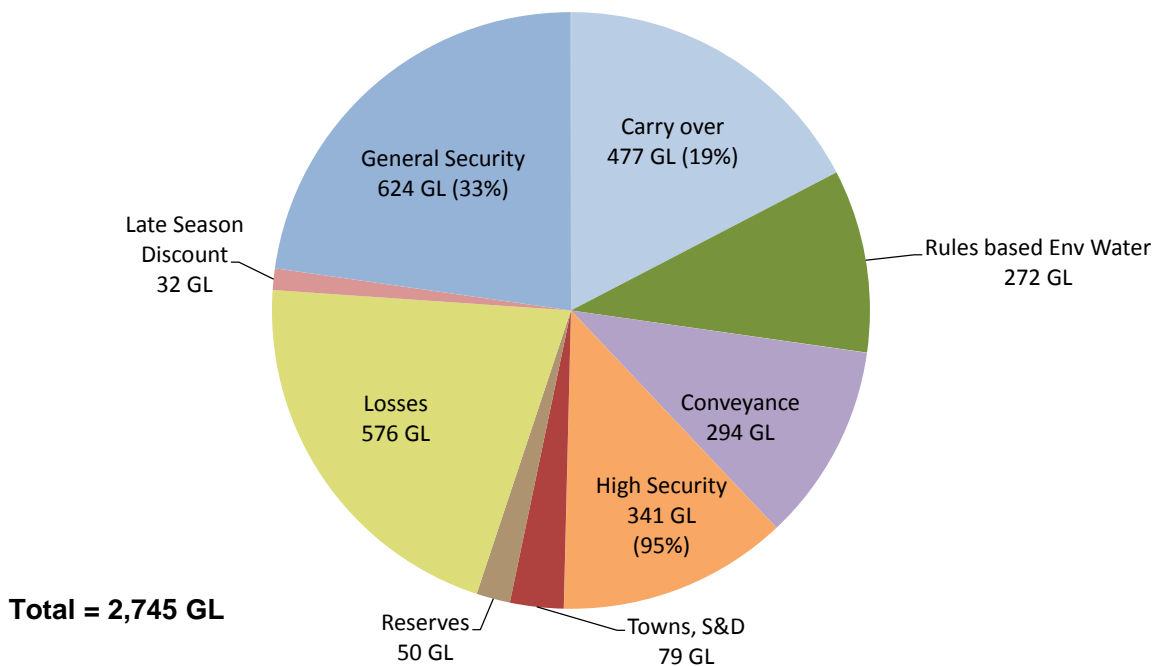
In mid-August, probability analyses will also be run to provide seasonal outlooks of likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios.

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 15 July) for 2016-17</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,745
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	477
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	272
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	294
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	624 (33%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	576
Late Season Discount <sup>(6)</sup>	32

**\*See notes below.**

**Resource Distribution 2016-17  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 15 July 2016**



## 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 Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR) plus usage to date.
- (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 207 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. 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 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 after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This Late Season Discount cannot be sustainably 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 has arrived in storage.