

1 November 2016

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is sufficient improvement in water availability **to increase allocation to Murrumbidgee general security entitlements by 5 per cent to 76 per cent.**

Continuing rainfall has seen storages remain effectively full and irrigation demand is minimal.

Supplementary access has been continuous since the start of the water year; however, regulated water delivery conditions will return as flood waters continue to recede.

Minor flooding is easing at Darlington Point and at Carrathool. At Hay Town, major flooding is easing slowly. Details can be found on the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) website - www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	76%	19%

Storage levels (as at 31 October)

- Blowering Dam is 96 per cent full - holding 1,568,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 99 per cent full - holding 1,016,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates November is likely to be drier than average in the Murrumbidgee catchment whereas the three months from November to January looks to have an equal chance of being above or below average rainfall conditions.

Warmer days and nights are likely across NSW and large parts of Queensland reflecting a shift from the previous update.

The current outlook reflects a weakening negative Indian Ocean Dipole, an ENSO-neutral tropical Pacific, and warm ocean temperatures around Australia's northern and eastern coastlines.

Trade

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

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Next announcements

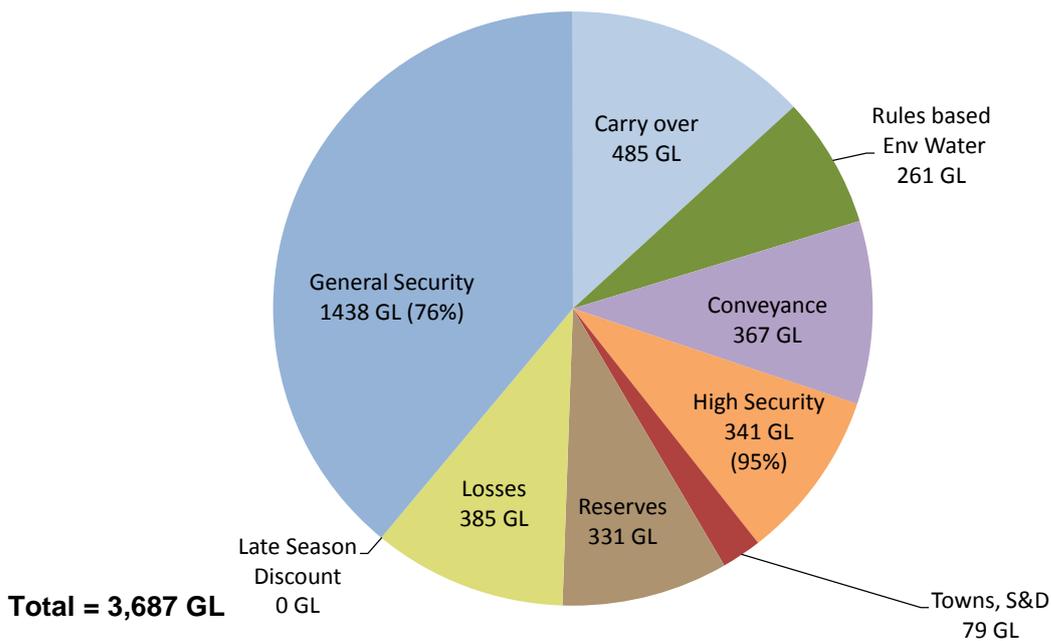
The next resource assessment and allocation update will be on **Tuesday 15 November 2016**.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 November) for 2016-17	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,687
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover) ⁽²⁾	485
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	261
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽⁴⁾	331
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	367
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	1,438 (76%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁶⁾	385
Late Season Discount ⁽⁷⁾	0

**See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution 2016-17
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 November 2016**



Notes

- (1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the time of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus assumed drought inflows for rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR) plus usage to date.
- (2) Carryover – Murrumbidgee general security water users can carryover a maximum of 30 per cent of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 100 per cent of entitlement, which can consist of both allocation and carryover. This means that those with maximum carryover have now forfeited 6 per cent of improvement which has been assigned to others. Further improvements boost allocations because carryover water will increasingly cause the forfeiture of water from full accounts and those with little or no carryover will be the beneficiaries of the forfeited water.
- (3) Rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements (currently 86 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. Environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3) currently total 261 GL.
- (4) Reserves – required under water sharing plans and long-standing established practise. Includes 50 GL operational reserve (25 GL in each dam) for low water availability and for high water availability 10 GL for each 1% increase in allocation when allocation plus carryover exceeds 90%. Also includes Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2). The PSV1 has a balance of 156 GL being 25 GL plus 8.75GL for each 1% increase in allocation when allocation plus carryover exceeds 80%. The PSV2 account has increased 75 GL because 50% of the EWA3 balance transferred on 1 November.
- (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 high and general security allocations. (This category of licence in the Murrumbidgee valley, like general security, can carry over up to 30% of entitlement).
- (6) '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.
- (7) Late Season Discount – is the estimated inflow volume that will arrive into storage after the peak irrigation demand (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.