



15 November 2016

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

**Allocations for Murrumbidgee general security licences holders has increased by 24 per cent, while high security licence holders are to receive an increase of 5 per cent.** This means that both licence categories have reached full entitlement. Full allocation is also available to conveyance entitlements.

The increase has been assisted by unregulated flows meeting operational losses, plus continuing inflows to storages keeping them near full for the commencement of irrigation demand.

Supplementary access continues to be available in the lower river sections (below Redbank Weir), however; the river has begun to transition to regulated conditions as warmer weather arrives. Water users should refer to WaterNSW's website for details about when and where supplementary access is available: <http://www.watarnsw.com.au/customer-service/news/supplementary>.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	100%	100%	n/a

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

- Blowering Dam is 95 per cent full - holding 1,550,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 97 per cent full - holding 999,000 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The climate outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology indicates that November is likely to be drier than average across southern mainland Australia. For the Murrumbidgee Basin generally, there is an even chance of getting average rainfall conditions in the three months November to January.

The negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) continues to decay and is likely to be nearing its end. The tropical Pacific Ocean remains El-Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral, with a weak La Niña-like pattern. This suggests that some La Niña-like impacts may occur even if an event does not fully develop. Both a negative IOD and La Niña typically contribute to increased rainfall in spring for eastern and central Australia.

#### 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.watarnsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee](http://www.watarnsw.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](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Next announcements**

With full allocations announced from this assessment, fortnightly water allocation statements will now cease for the remainder of this water year.

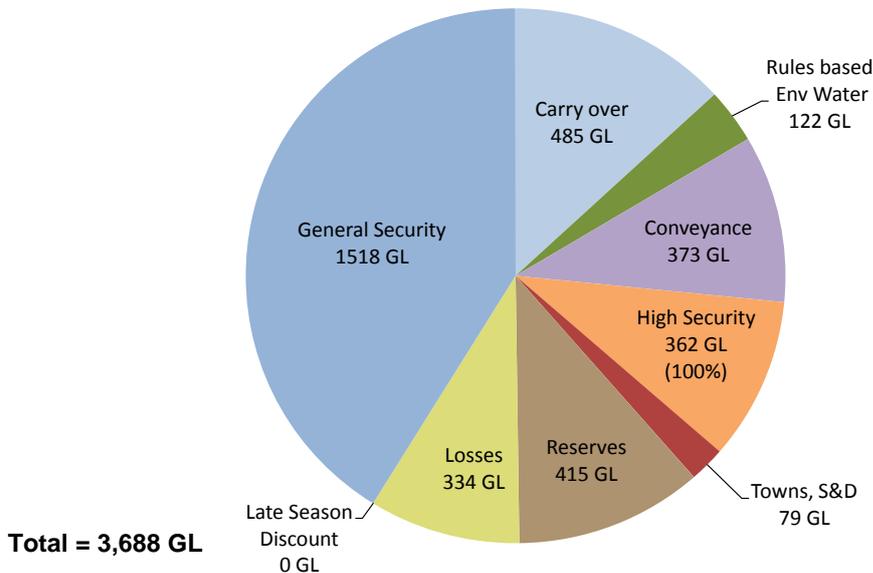
In addition, with little risk expected for allocations to high priority entitlements on 1 July 2017, the preliminary water availability outlooks for the start of the next water year (1 July 2017) will commence in mid-March 2017.

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 15 November) for 2016-17</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	3,688
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover) <sup>(2)</sup>	485
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	122
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(4)</sup>	415
Conveyance <sup>(5)</sup>	373
Announced High Security	362 (100%)
Announced General Security	1,518
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(6)</sup>	334
Late Season Discount <sup>(7)</sup>	0

*\*See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution 2016-17  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 15 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 30 per cent of improvement which has been assigned to others.
- (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 72 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. Environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3) currently total 50 GL as nearly all of EWA 2 & 3 has been used.
- (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 10 GL for each 1% increase in allocation for high water availability - when allocation plus carryover exceeds 90%. Also includes Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2). The PSV1 has a balance of 200 GL being 25 GL plus 8.75GL for each 1% increase in allocation when allocation plus carryover exceeds 80%. On 1 November, 50% (or 65 GL) of the EWA3 account balance was transferred to the PSV2 account and on 1 January the balance of the EWA 3 account will transfer to PSV2 in accordance with water sharing rules.
- (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 very 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 (typically reduced) 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.