



4 October 2016

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Murrumbidgee general security allocation **remains unchanged at 61 percent of entitlement.**

Average general security carryover is 19 per cent of entitlement, meaning that overall general security water availability remains at 80 per cent.

The resource improvement in the past fortnight was required to be assigned to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA3), in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan, since general security allocation plus carryover has reached 80 per cent.

Future resource improvements can now accrue to general security entitlement holders.

Conditions, including spill of water from storage and downstream tributary inflows, have allowed continuous supplementary access to water since the start of the water year.

Moderate to minor flood warnings are in place at various locations on the Murrumbidgee River. 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%	61%	19%

Storage levels (as at 30 September)

- Blowering Dam is 92 per cent full - rising - holding 1,508,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 90 per cent full - rising – holding 930,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

Significant rainfall in the Murrumbidgee catchment has continued in September and catchments remain wet. The BoM seasonal outlook continues to indicate that wet conditions in the catchment are highly likely throughout the next three months, particularly in October. Cooler days and nights are also likely.

Major drivers of the current outlook include a strong negative Indian Ocean Dipole, combined with a La Niña-like pattern of warm seas around northern Australia.

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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.watersnw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and status of trade.

Next announcements

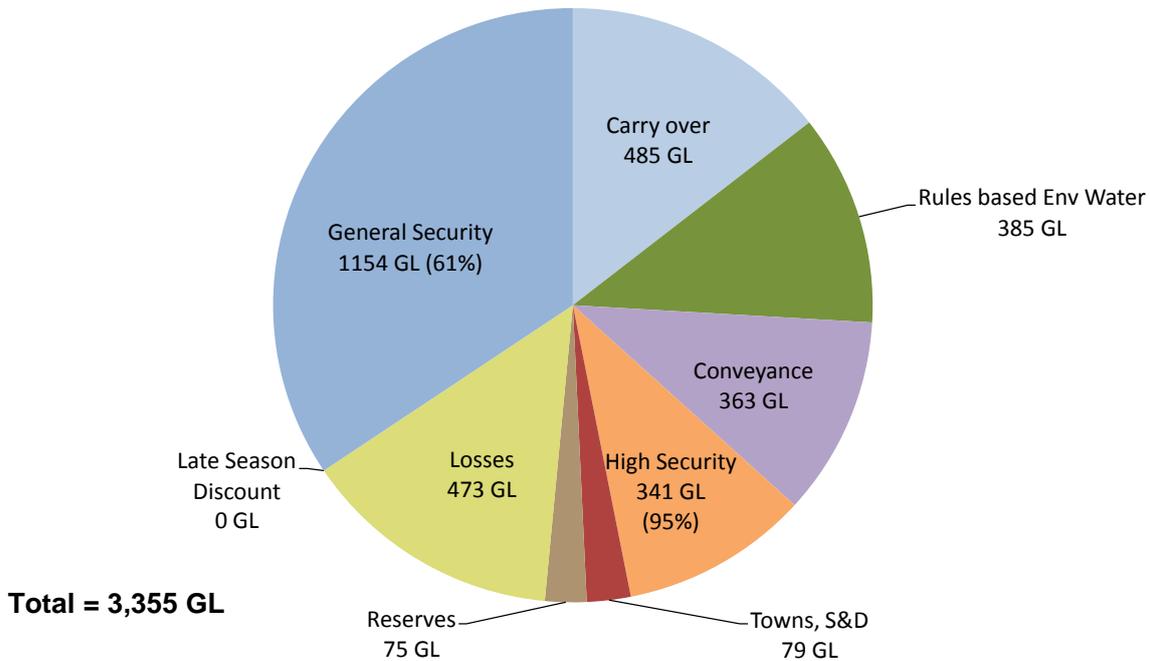
The next resource assessment and allocation update for the Murrumbidgee regulated valley will be on **Monday 17 October 2016**. The additional detailed information including an update of the attached rocket diagram will be provided.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 4 October) for 2016-17	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,355
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	485
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	385
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	363
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	1,154 (61%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	473
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0

***See notes below.**

Resource Distribution 2016-17 Murrumbidgee Valley - 4 October 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) 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 116 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. Water in the EWA1 account carried over from the previous year (50 GL) has been reduced by 50% to 25 GL due to spills from the Burrinjuck dam in accordance with the water sharing plan. Total environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3) are 269 GL.
- (3) Reserves – required under water sharing plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25 GL operational reserve per dam plus Provisional Storage Volume (PSV1 & PSV2) balances. The PSV1 has a balance of 25 GL and will slowly rise with additional general security allocations.
- (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 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).
- (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.