

15 August 2017

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Murrumbidgee general security allocation has **increased by 3 per cent of entitlement to be now 23 per cent of entitlement for the 2017/18 water year**. This small improvement is due to inflows to the upper storages produced by rainfall during last week.

This assessment is based on finalised average carryover figures, some 27 per cent of entitlement, meaning that overall general security water availability is 50 per cent of entitlement.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	23%	27%

Storage levels (as at 14 August)

- Blowering Dam is 78 per cent full – steady – holding 1,288,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 55 per cent full – steady – holding 570,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates that below average rainfall conditions over much of the Murrumbidgee Valley are likely to continue from August to October, particularly in August. It is also highly likely that above average temperatures will continue over the coming three months, with a greater than 80 per cent chance of warmer than average days and nights.

Both of Australia's major climate drivers at this time of year, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), continue to remain neutral.

Trade

Trade **into** (and within) the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, and trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley **opened** on Friday, 28 July 2017. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.watersw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and closure triggers.

Next announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be on **Friday 1 September 2017**.

An updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram, will be issued again on Friday 15 September 2017.

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507

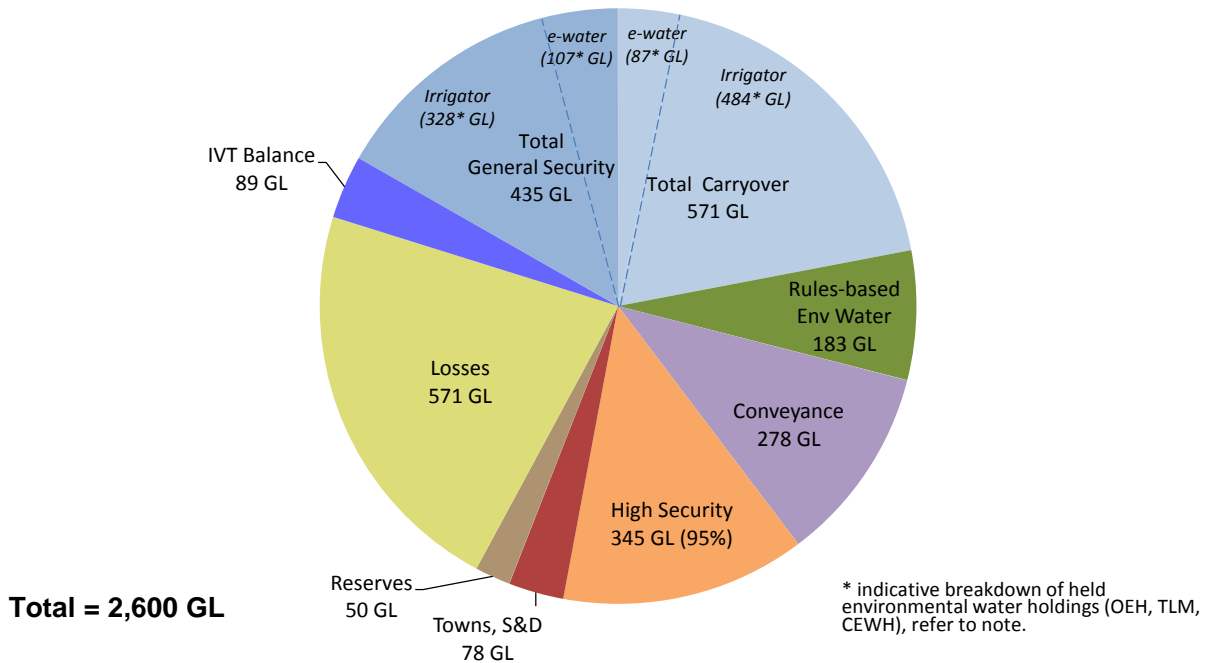
www.water.nsw.gov.au

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 15 August) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,600
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) ⁽⁷⁾	571
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	183
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	278
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	571
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	89
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0
Announced General Security ⁽⁷⁾	435 (23%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2017-18 Murrumbidgee Valley - 15 August 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 Snowy Hydro’s assured Required Annual Release (RAR) plus estimated 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 179 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). 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 107 GL of GS, 12 GL of HS, 36 GL of conveyance allocation and a provisional value of 87 GL 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.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		Mid Aug 2016 (GL)	Mid Aug 2017 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	899	566	Lower due to recent environmental releases and dry conditions
	Blowering	1,259	1,279	Similar
	Total	2,158	1,845	Lower
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational)*		580	571	Similar
1 July IVT carryover balance		100	89	Similar
Late Season Inflows		0	0	Similar
GS Available		50%	23%	27% lower allocation (but 11% higher carryover).
Average GS Carryover		19%	27%	Substantially higher this year

* Includes assumed loss from downstream of storages along the entire river length

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved inflows conditions and increased allocations are as follows:

Forecast General Security allocation (per cent)

MURRUMBIDGEE Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 October General Security Allocations^	Forecast 1 February General Security Allocations^
Current allocation (99% inflows)	23	23
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	27	27
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)^^	31	33
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	36	52
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	44	100

Using all years of inflow records.

^ Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

^^ Currently tracking wetter at 82% AEP compared to three month period from May to July 2017 (94% AEP)

NSW Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

As at 15 August 2017

