

1 March 2016

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

Murrumbidgee general security has **increased 1 per cent** to 37 per cent of entitlement.

Available resources in the Murrumbidgee Valley have improved slightly in the past fortnight, mostly from better than forecast tributary inflows and reduced river losses.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	37%	23%

#### Storage levels (as at 29 February)

- Blowering Dam is 29 per cent full – rising - holding 499,000 megalitres (ML)
- Burrinjuck Dam is 46 per cent full - falling - holding 479,000 ML

#### Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook in the region for March indicates high temperatures combined with average rainfall for much of the region, with below average rainfall more likely in the upper catchment. This is expected to transition in April to a greater chance of wetter conditions and average temperatures.

The current outlook continues to reflect a combination of a weakening El Niño, very warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm sea surface temperatures near Australia.

#### Trade

Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley recently closed when the IVT account balance upper limit was reached. It was opened between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2016 under new procedures announced by DPI Water on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February.

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) to keep informed of the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance, the status of trade, and to become familiar with the new procedures.

Trade **into** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley remains open and unaffected.

#### Next announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee valley will be on **15 March 2016**. The announcement will also include an update of the water availability outlook for 2016-17.

**Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507**

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

## Improving water availability information

DPI Water has made some changes to our website to improve the way in which information on water allocations and water availability is accessed by water users.

Part of the new look website is to bring the water allocation and availability information into one central location - the [Water Availability Hub](#).

Here you will be able to find:

- Current water allocations
- Water Allocation Statements
- Water availability outlooks for major river valleys
- Available Water Determination Orders

To make it even easier to keep informed about the latest water allocations and availability outlooks, DPI Water has developed a new on-line notification service - this will deliver alerts of new announcements direct to your email inbox.

To access this feature, simply go to the [Water Availability Hub](#), and click on the link to subscribe. You can choose to receive updates from across NSW, or if you prefer, single out a specific valley.

As usual all water allocation and water availability announcements will be uploaded to the DPI Water website - [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au) - and can be accessed via the homepage. However, the best way to ensure you don't miss out on water availability news and information to take a few minutes and subscribe to our on-line service.

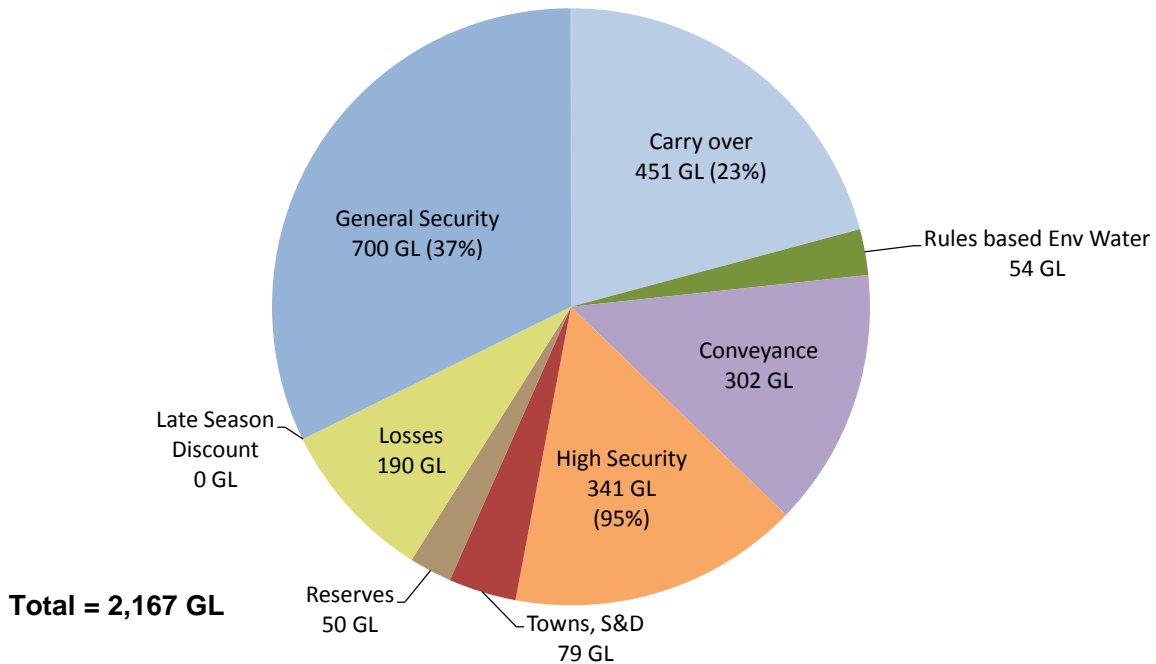
Water availability and allocations announcements for the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys will continue to be made available to users via the website at 5.30am on 1st and 15th of each month. While water availability and allocations statements for other valleys across NSW will be made available on the DPI Water website as necessary.

## Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 March) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,167
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	54
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	302
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	700 (37%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	190
Late Season Discount <sup>(6)</sup>	0

*\*See notes below.*

## Resource Distribution 2015-16 Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 March 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 and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. This volume typically decreases as water is used during the year. When general security allocation plus carryover water from the previous year is equal to 60 per cent, any additional water is credited to EWA1 up to a maximum of 50,000 ML. Resulting from this assessment the EWA1 account currently contains 7,000 ML. It should be noted that improvements in water availability will now accrue to EWA1, then 25 GL to PSV1, before further improvement accrues to general security entitlement holders.
- (3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2). When general security allocations reach 60% including carryover water from the previous year and provision has been made for the volume determined for the EWA1, the next 25,000 ML of water available is credited to provisional storage volume (PSV1) prior to any further resources being made available to general security access licences.
- (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 refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Late season inflow is the estimated volume that will arrive into storage after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This Late Season Discount cannot be safely allocated at the start of the water year. It can consist of a proportion of the Required Annual Release from Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) and/or the assumed drought inflow sequence for April, May and June. The full Late Season Discount volume has been released.