

1 September 2017

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

Murrumbidgee general security allocation has **increased by 6 per cent to 29 per cent of entitlement for the 2017/18 water year**. The rainfall in mid-August was the main contributor to this increase in water allocations. However, flows into the main storages are still well below the long term average for this time of year.

This assessment is based on finalised average carryover figures, some 27 per cent of entitlement, meaning that overall general security water availability is 56 per cent of entitlement.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	29%	27%

#### Storage levels (as at 30 August)

- Blowering Dam is 83 per cent full – falling – holding 1,354,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 58 per cent full – steady – holding 600,000 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates that generally average rainfall conditions are likely in the valley from September to November. The eastern portion of the valley is also likely to experience above average temperatures from September to November.

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. More localised influences are likely to be affecting this outlook, such as sea surface temperatures around the Australian coastline, as well as higher pressures to the south of the continent which are encouraging more easterly flow across Australia.

#### 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 15 September 2017**, and will contain an updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram.

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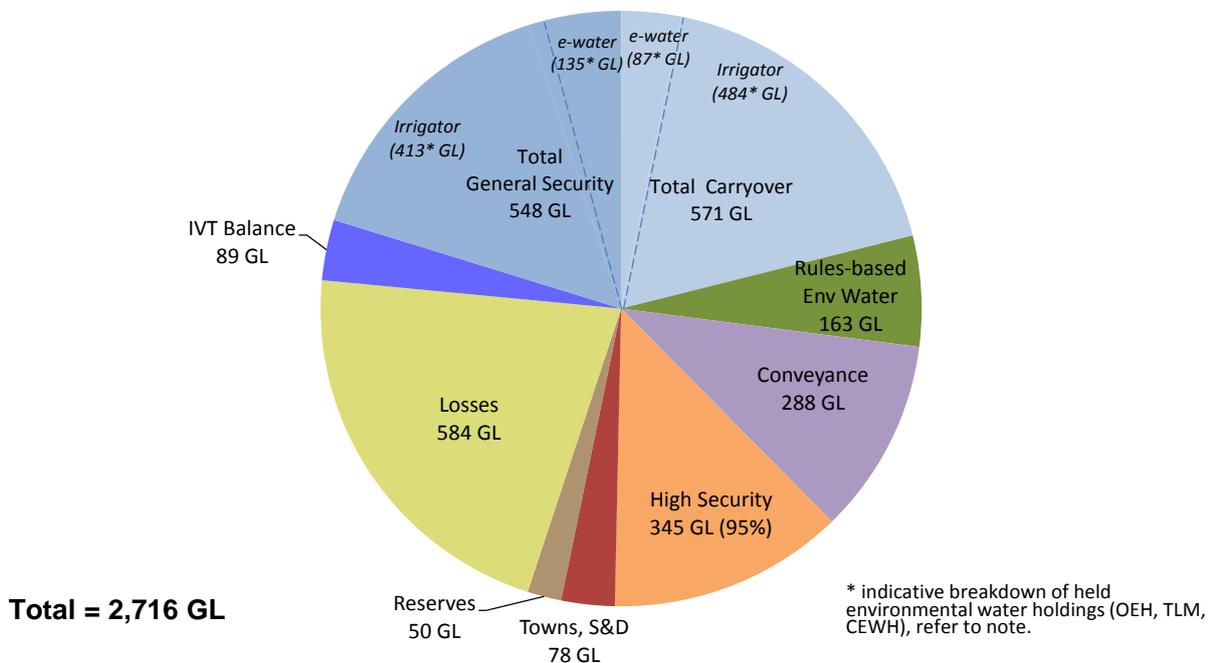
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (1 September) for 2017-18</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,716
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) <sup>(2)</sup>	571
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	163
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(4)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(5)</sup>	288
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(6)</sup>	584
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	89
Late Season Discount <sup>(7)</sup>	0
Announced General Security	548 (29%)

\*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2017-18  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 September 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) 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 or trade) and includes **135 GL of GS**, 12 GL of HS, 38 GL of conveyance allocation and **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
- (3) Rules-based environmental water or Planned environmental water (PEW) – 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 also known as held environmental water (HEW). **Currently 163 GL**, this total volume typically reduces as commitments are met and water is used during the year.
- (4) 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).
- (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 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).
- (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 water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly updated typically reduced as the end of the year draws closer.
- (7) 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.