

Tuesday, 1 December 2015

## Murrumbidgee Valley - Water availability and allocation update

### Allocations

There is **no increase** in Murrumbidgee general security allocation at this time.

There has been no rainfall of any significance across the catchments since mid-November and temperatures have been well above median. There is no new resource available to make a further allocation to users.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	31%	23%

### Dam levels (at time of assessment, 26 November)

- Blowering Dam is 42 per cent full, holding 683,000 megalitres
- Burrinjuck Dam is 68 per cent full, holding 703,000 megalitres

### Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for December to February indicates that average rainfall is likely across most of the region, with roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier summer. Average temperatures are also likely during these months.

Current climate influences include a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific, a decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

### Trade

Allocation trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley remains closed, however trade **into** and **within** the valley is unaffected.

### Next Announcements

Conditions are being constantly monitored and any significant changes in water availability or outlook will be promptly announced, otherwise:

- The next allocation-only update for the Murrumbidgee will be on 15 December, followed by 15 January 2016 (no 1 January allocation announcement).
- Additional information on probabilities, scheduled for 15 December has been brought forward at the request of water users.
- Water availability forecasts for the start of the next water year (1 July 2016) will be provided on 15 February and 16 May 2016.

**Media contact: Bunty Driver M 0407 403234**

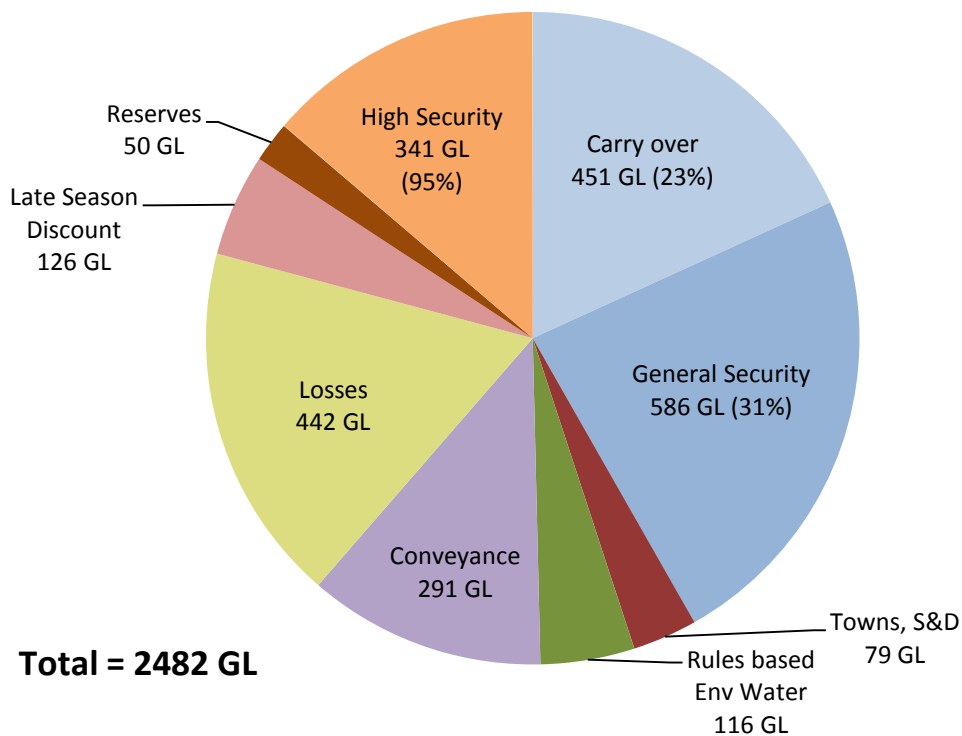
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 1 December) for 2015-16</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,482
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	116
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	291
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	586 (31%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	442
Late Season Discount <sup>(6)</sup>	126

\*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2015-16  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1st December 2015**



## Notes

- (1) Total available resource: total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck) 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. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. Usage has decreased this account volume since last assessment.
- (3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes.
- (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, 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. It is assumed there is no further rainfall and that inflow returns to dry conditions. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Late season inflow is the estimated volume available after the peak irrigation demand season (post-February). The Late Season Discount can be any late season inflow that is surplus to the regulated requirements and cannot contribute to current allocations. This consists of a proportion of assured annual inflows from Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) as well as assumed drought inflow sequence flows from other parts of the catchment.

A potential bias toward later delivery of RAR this year will support an allocation improvement of 3 to 5 per cent in March 2016, if not before. (If this water was included in current allocations, the water could be ordered and the storages emptied before the late season inflow actually arrives).

## Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2014 (GL)	1 <sup>st</sup> Dec 2015 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	747	703	less than last year
	Blowering	730	683	less SHL* power generation so far this year
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1477</b>	<b>1386</b>	less in storage this year
Transmission Losses**		337	365	warm and dry conditions
1 July IVT carryover balance		99	11	current IVT balance 100 GL
Late Season Inflows		0	126	larger than usual – allowance for SHL release late in the season which cannot support peak summer demand
GS Available		40%	31%	assured 3% late-season inflow increase 1 March 2016
Average GS Carry Over		26%	23%	

\*SHL = Snowy Hydro Limited \*\* 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:

<b>MURRUMBIDGEE Potential Inflow Conditions #</b>	<b>Forecast 1 March General Security Allocations <sup>1,2</sup></b>
Current allocation (99% inflows)	31%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	31%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	34%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	37%
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	40%

# Using all years of inflow records.

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

2 Licence holders can add at least 3 percent extra to these figures due to assured late season inflow.

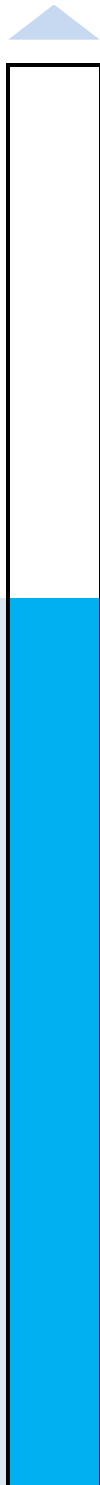
We are currently tracking in this (very dry) vicinity

# NSW Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

As at 1 December 2015

## Probability of improvement

1-Mar



25%

75%

1-Dec-15

## Indicative requirements



2482 GL

610 GL

415 GL

330 GL

40% GS Allocation

35% GS Allocation

31% General Security

HS Allocation = 95%

End of System Flows, IVT

Full town, stock, domestic

100 % Carryover Available

Irrigation Corps  
& Yanco Creek Conveyance  
Restricted Stock & Domestic  
Restricted Town Supplies  
Available

\* The figure is based on probabilities and does not guarantee allocations, volumes are indicative only.