

16 October 2017

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

There is **no increase in Murrumbidgee general security allocations at this time**. The relatively dry catchments have resulted in very limited inflows into storages and therefore no real improvement in stored water resource availability.

However, after September's hot and dry conditions, there was a break last week with rainfall across irrigation districts. Cancelled orders and tributary inflows produced a small volume of surplus water that is to be re-regulated in Lake Victoria.

With general security allocation plus carryover having reached 60 per cent, the next available water is to be allocated to the environmental water account (EWA1) and the provisional storage volume account (PSV1), some 50,000 and 25,000 megalitres respectively, in accordance with the water sharing plan rules. Subsequent available water can then be allocated to general security entitlements.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	33%	27%

#### Storage levels (as at 13 October)

- Blowering Dam is 72 per cent full – falling – holding 1,177,577 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 59 per cent full – steady – holding 609,300 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November to January indicates eastern catchment areas are likely to have a slightly wetter three months and the rest of the valley has around a 50 per cent chance of above average rainfall. Average daytime temperatures are generally likely in in the next three months.

The Pacific Ocean is likely to cool towards La Niña levels over the coming months. However, the corresponding warm sea surface temperatures that typically develop to the north and northwest of Australia during La Niña events are less likely to develop. This means that overall, NSW is likely to experience near average rainfall conditions.

#### Trade

All Murrumbidgee Valley trade is open. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information regarding the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and closure triggers.

#### Next announcement

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be on **Wednesday 1 November 2017**.

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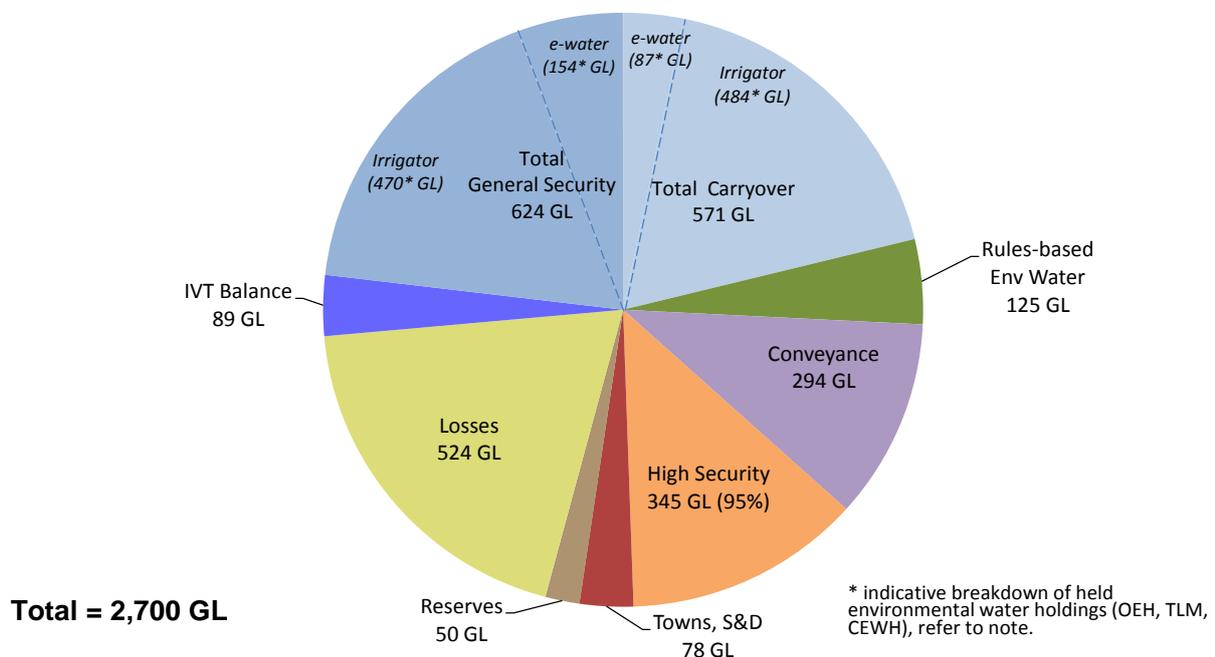
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

### Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (16 October) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,700
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) <sup>(2)</sup>	571
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	125
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(4)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(5)</sup>	294
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(6)</sup>	524
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	89
Late Season Discount <sup>(7)</sup>	0
Announced General Security	624 (33%)

\*See notes below.

### Resource Distribution 2017-18 Murrumbidgee Valley - 16 October 2017



#### Notes

- 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 estimated usage to date including Snowy Hydro's net Jounama Release of 467 GL from 1 May 2017 to 12 October 2017.

- 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 103 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.
- 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).
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 154 GL of GS, 12 GL of HS, 39 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.

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

Item		Mid Oct 2016 (GL)	Mid Oct 2017 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	957	606	Lower due to dry conditions
	Blowering	1,628	1,189	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,585</b>	<b>1,795</b>	
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational)*		431	524	Higher due to hot & dry weather
1 July IVT carryover balance		100	89	Similar
Late Season Inflows		0	0	Similar
GS Available		71%	33%	higher allocation in 2016, due to less carryover and the onset of large 2016 tributary inflows.
Average GS Carryover		19%	27%	

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

## Chances of improvement

The chances of inflows being above historical minimums, and therefore the likelihood of improved allocations, are provided in the following table.

These are lower than the forecast predictions provided in mid-September 2017 as conditions have remained unseasonably dry in the last month, and we are now transitioning out of the winter/spring period when the largest volumes of inflows typically occur.

However, it should be remembered that these are probabilities based on long-term historical records and that significant inflow events can in fact occur at any time.

<b>MURRUMBIDGEE Potential Inflow Conditions #</b>	<b>Forecast 1 Dec 2017 General Security Allocations^</b>	<b>Forecast 1 Feb 2018 General Security Allocations^</b>
Current allocation (99% inflows)	33%	33%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)^^	33%	33%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	33%	33%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	33%	41%
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	39%	53%

# Using all years of inflow records.

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

^^ [Currently tracking around here](#)

(The two month (Sept-Oct) inflows forecast likely to be exceeded 92 in 100 years (92% Annual Exceedance Probability).

# NSW Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

As at 16 October 2017

