



15 September 2015

NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys: Water availability and allocation update

NSW Murray Valley

Allocations

NSW Murray general security allocations have commenced today, **receiving 4 per cent of entitlement.**

Resource availability increased in the Murray over the past two weeks mainly due to tributary inflows.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	4%	30%

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) seasonal rainfall outlook for September to November shows an equal chance of a wetter or drier period. The 2015 El Nino is now the strongest since 1997-98. It is usually associated with below-average winter–spring rainfall over southern and eastern NSW, but the effect on rainfall over summer is typically less meaning that near average rainfall conditions could be experienced.

Trading

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke is restricted to ‘no net trade downstream’; however, there is currently capacity for about 30,000 megalitres of downstream trade.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 15 September) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	1040
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	500
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	56
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54 (100%)
Reserves ⁽²⁾	10
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	170
Announced High Security	183 (97%)
Announced General Security	67 (4%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, ops) ⁽⁴⁾	
Late Season Discount ⁽⁵⁾	

*See notes below

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Resource availability comparison with this time last year

NSW Murray Resource Assessment

	Mid Sep 2014 (GL)	Mid Sep 2015 (GL)	Comments
NSW share of total resources	1,690	1,040	Much drier conditions in 2015
less			
Carryover	500	500	same carryover
Environmental	245	56	only 23% of last year's
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54	54	same
Conveyance	201	170	85% of last year's
High Security	183	183	same
Critical Human Need reserve	40	10	
General Security	467	67	24% less GS alloc'n in 2015

Chances of improvement

The chances of inflows being above historical minimums, and therefore the likelihood of improved allocations, are as follows:

NSW MURRAY	Forecast 1 November General Security Allocations**	Forecast 1 February General Security Allocations**
Potential Inflow Conditions #		
99 chances in 100 (assumed inflow)	12%	12%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	22%	30%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	30%	40%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	38%	60%
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	56%	100%

Using all years of inflow records. ** Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

Murrumbidgee Valley

Allocations

There is **no increase** in Murrumbidgee general security allocations.

There has been no significant rainfall in the upper Murrumbidgee in the past two weeks. Flows and recent improvements were predicted and included in the last resource assessment, meaning that there is no new water for allocation in this announcement.

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

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) seasonal rainfall outlook for September to November shows an equal chance of a wetter or drier period. The 2015 El Nino is now the strongest since 1997-98. It is usually associated with below-average winter–spring rainfall over southern and eastern NSW, but the effect on rainfall over summer is typically less meaning that near average rainfall conditions could be experienced.

Trading

Trade of account water **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley is closed, but trade into the valley is unaffected.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 15 September) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	2,619
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	227
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽²⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	285
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	511 (27%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, ops) ⁽⁴⁾	549
Late Season Discount ⁽⁵⁾	126

*See notes below

Notes:

- (1) Primarily 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 allowance. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (2) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes.
- (3) 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 current high and general security allocations. (This category of licence can carry over up to 30% of entitlement in the Murrumbidgee, but none in the NSW Murray).
- (4) 'Losses' is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river to meet demands for the remainder of the year. They do not appear in the Murray distribution because they are debited by Murray Darling Basin Authority before NSW is provided its share of Murray resource. They include storage evaporation, transmission losses, operational loss and assumes a return to dry conditions. This estimate is constantly refined as the year unfolds.
- (5) The last few months of the assumed drought inflow sequence and the assured RAR inflows from Snowy Hydro arrive too late to support peak demand so cannot be used for current allocations. This value was increased in the mid-August assessment based on discussions

with Snowy Hydro and a potential later delivery of RAR this year. This water will support allocation improvement of 3 to 5 percent in March 2016, if not before. (If this water was included in current allocations, the water could be used and the storages emptied before the late season inflow arrives).

Resource availability comparison with this time last year

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment

Item	Mid Sep 2014	Mid Sep 2015	Comments	
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	870	750	
	Blowering	1185	800	Less SHL power generation releases
	Total	2055	1550	
Transmission Losses (GL)	562	549		
IVT Balance (GL)	99	11		
Late Season Inflows (GL)	54	126	Larger than usual expected SHL release late in the season which cannot support peak summer demand	
GS Available	34%	27%		
Average GS Carry Over	26%	23%		

Chances of improvement

The chances of inflows being above historical minimums, and therefore the likelihood of improved allocations, are as follows:

MURRUMBIDGEE	Forecast 1 November General Security Allocations**	Forecast 1 February General Security Allocations**
Potential Inflow Conditions #		
99 chances in 100 (assumed inflow)	27%	27%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	28%	29%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	31%	32%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	42%	43%
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	47%	90%

Using all years of inflow records. ** Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.