



15 August 2017

## NSW Murray and Lower Darling

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

There is **no increase** in NSW Murray regulated river general security allocation at this time with water availability remaining unchanged.

Rainfall was low across upper Murray catchments during July, with Murray inflows likely to be exceeded 95 in 100 years (95% Annual Exceedance Probability).

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	13%	41%
Lower Darling	100%	100%	

#### Upper Murray storage levels (as at 14 August 2017)

- Dartmouth Dam is 79 per cent full – steady – holding 3,060,000 megalitres (ML).
- Hume Dam is 80 per cent full – rising – holding 2,403,000 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates that below average rainfall conditions over much of the Murray Valley are likely to continue from August to October, particularly in August. It is also highly likely that above average temperatures will continue over the coming three months, with a greater than 80 per cent chance of warmer than average days and nights.

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.

#### Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to **'no net trade downstream'**. Downstream trade opens automatically to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade.

The trade restriction protects existing downstream entitlement holders from an increased risk of delivery shortfall caused by the limited physical capacity of the Barmah choke.

Water users are encouraged to monitor the MDBA website at - <http://www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/water-markets-trade/interstate-water-trade/barmah-choke-trade-balance> - for information about the trade balance and status of trade.

Lower Darling water source trade is open, including inter-valley trade.

All Murrumbidgee Valley trade is open (as of 14 August 2017). Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and closure triggers.

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

### Next announcements

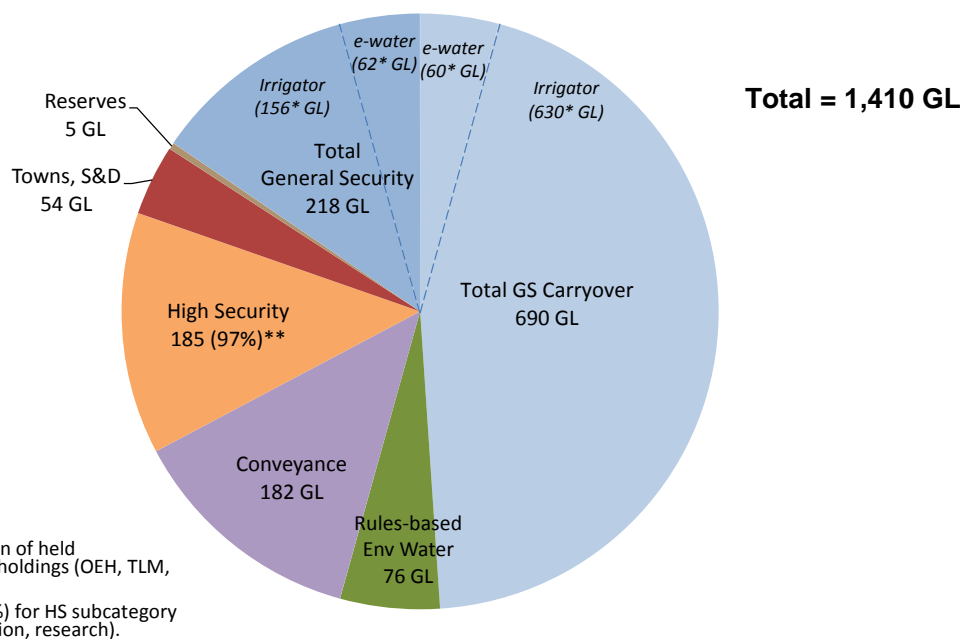
The next allocation update for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling valleys will be on **Friday 1 September 2017**.

### NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 15 August) for 2017-18	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	1,410
<b>less</b>	
Carryover <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	690
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	76
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	54 (100%)
Announced High Security subcategory (education, research) <sup>(4)</sup>	1 (100%)
Announced High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	184 (97%)
Conveyance <sup>(5)</sup>	182
Reserves <sup>(6)</sup>	5
Announced General Security <sup>(7)</sup>	218 (13%)

\*See notes below.

### Resource Distribution 2017-18 NSW Murray - 15 Aug 2017



### Notes:

- (1) Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as assessed and accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement at the time of the assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus assumed drought inflows for the rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR) as well as estimated usage to date.
- (2) Carryover – NSW Murray general security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50 per cent of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 110 per cent of entitlement, which can consist of both allocation and carryover. This carryover value remains an estimate until finalised by WaterNSW in late July.

- (3) Primarily rules-based planned environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. In the NSW Murray this includes Additional Environmental Allowance (AEA) (about 6 GL), Wakool system requirements (up to 70 GL), and the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (which is currently 100 per cent borrowed). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW).
- (4) The *Water Sharing Plan for the New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016* has subcategories of high security licenses in the Murray Water Source. High security subcategory licences under *Part 7 Division 2 Clause 46(2)* that are present in the Murray include community and education, research, and town water supply. At the commencement of each water year, these licences are to receive 100% allocation, while remaining high security licences are to receive 97% allocation. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the high security town water supply allocation volume has been grouped as "Towns, S&D".
- (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 plan and is a function of current high and general security allocation.
- (6) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans; set aside for emergency purposes and critical needs.
- (7) 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 limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage), and estimated to be 62 GL of GS, 24 GL of HS, 23 GL of conveyance allocation and a provisional value of 60 GL of GS. 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 holdings.

### NSW Murray Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item	Mid Aug 2016 (GL)	Mid Aug 2017 (GL)	Comments
NSW share of total resources	1,425	1,410	similar to last year
less			
Carryover	454	690	significantly higher carryover
Environmental	76	76	same
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54	54	same
Conveyance	197	182	similar to last year
High Security	185	185	same
Critical Human Need (CHN) reserve*	40	5	less than last year
General Security	419	218	higher allocation in 2016, due to less carryover and the onset of large 2016 tributary inflows.

\* CHN reserve target 61 GL.

## Chances of improvement

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

<b>NSW MURRAY Potential Inflow Conditions<sup>#</sup></b>	<b>Forecast 1 Oct 2017 General Security Allocations<sup>^</sup></b>	<b>Forecast 1 Feb 2018 General Security Allocations<sup>^</sup></b>
Current allocation (99% inflows)	13%	17%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%) <sup>^^</sup>	24%	30%*
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	32%**	37%**
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	40%**	61%**
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	47%**	73%**

<sup>^</sup> Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

<sup>#</sup> Multi-history modelling using historical record (1892 – 2011).

\* Commence pay-back of borrow from B-M Allowance.    \*\*Borrow from B-M account is fully repaid.

<sup>^^</sup> Currently tracking slightly drier than here

(The three month period from May to July 2017 (96% AEP), two month June to July 2017 (98%AEP), July 2017 (95% AEP)).

# NSW Murray Valley Outlook

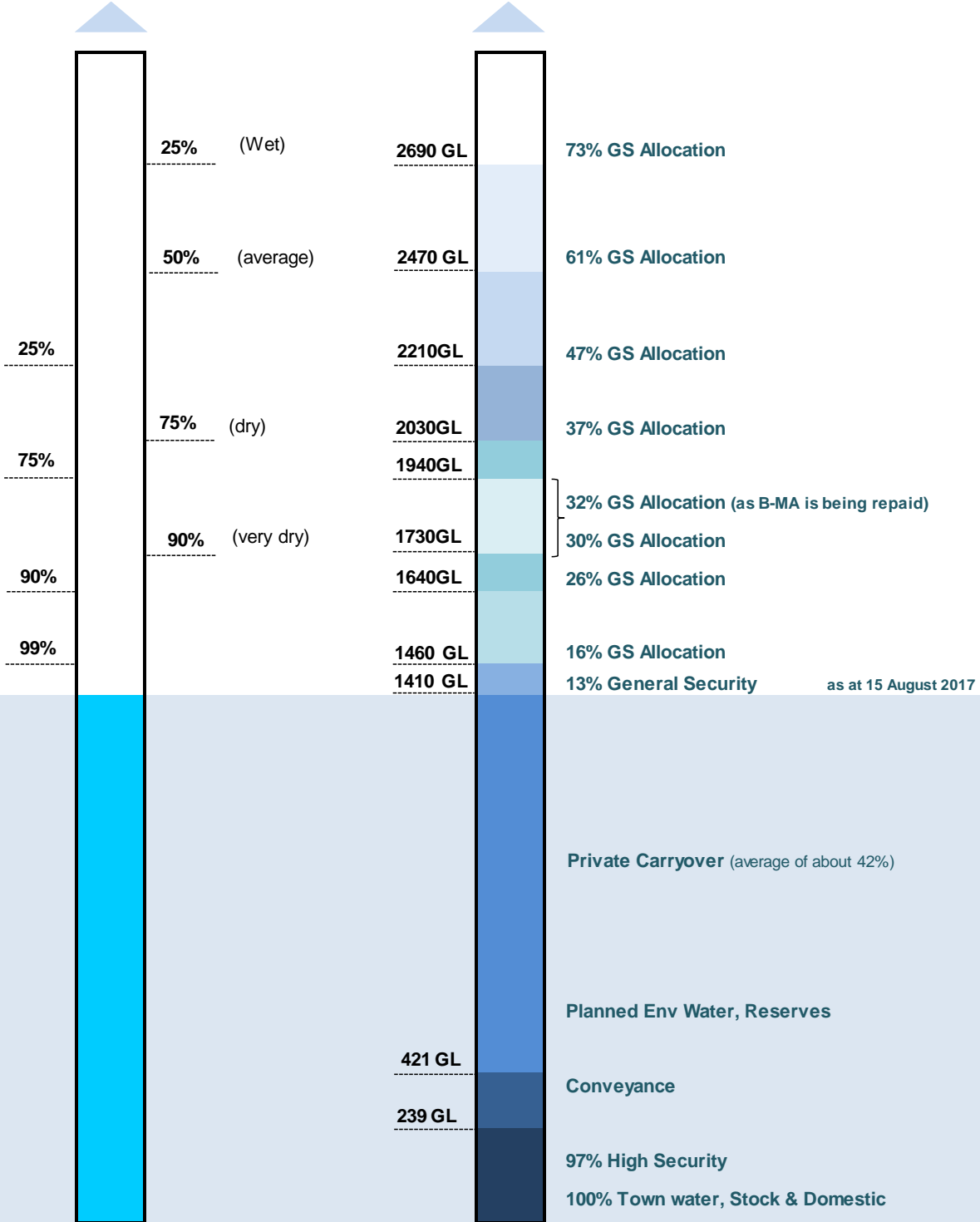
## as at 15 August 2017

### Probability of improvement

### Indicative requirements

1-Oct

1-Feb



\* The figure is based on probabilities and does not guarantee allocations, volumes are indicative only. Large volume items are listed in this figure to provide context, refer to Data Sheet table for complete listing of items contained within the Total Available Resource value.