



1 February 2016

Murrumbidgee Valley:

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

There is **3 per cent increase** in the Murrumbidgee regulated river general security allocation, increasing allocation from 32 to 35 per cent of entitlement.

This improvement is due to inflows to Blowering Dam from Snowy Hydro's power generation commencing earlier than expected and allows the forecast deferred allocation for 'late season' inflow to be brought forward. The Required Annual release (RAR) from Snowy Hydro has now been fully included in the resource assessment and allocations.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	35%	23%

Dam levels (as at 28 January)

- Blowering Dam is 28 per cent full, falling, holding 466,000 megalitres (ML)
- Burrinjuck Dam is 51 per cent full, falling, holding 527,000 ML

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for February to April indicates above average rainfall conditions are likely across most of the region, with chances increasing from east to west across the catchment. Cooler than average temperatures are also expected.

The current outlook reflects a combination of influences - a strong El Niño now in decline, record-warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm localised sea surface temperatures, particularly around Tasmania.

Trade

Allocation trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley remains closed with the Inter-Valley Trade (IVT) account balance above its upper limit, 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 update for the Murrumbidgee will be on 15 February 2016. This will include water availability forecasts for the start of the next water year (1 July 2016).

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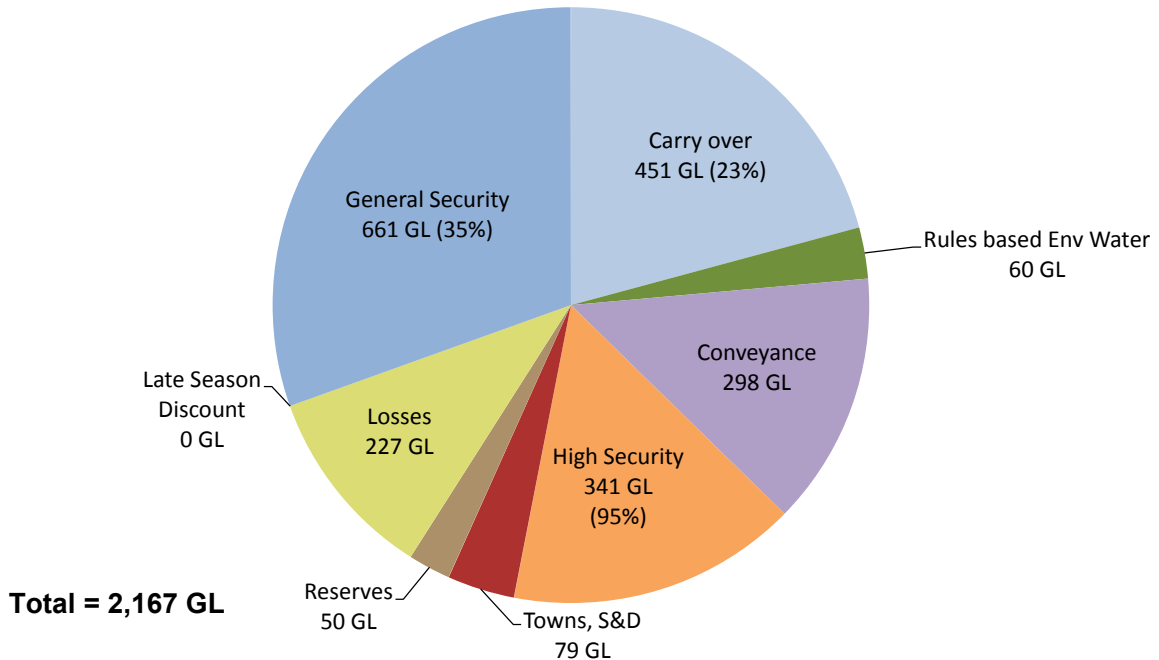
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Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 February) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,167
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	60
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	298
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	661 (35%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	227
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0

*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2015-16
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 February 2016**



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 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. This volume typically decreases as water is used during the year.
- (3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV).
- (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 in the Murrumbidgee valley, 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. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Late season inflow is the estimated volume that will arrive into storage after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This Late Season Discount cannot be safely allocated at the start of the water year. It can consist of a proportion of the Required Annual Release from Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) and/or the assumed drought inflow sequence for April, May and June. The full Late Season Discount volume has now been released as part of this allocation announcement.