

1 August 2016

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

NSW Murrumbidgee general security allocation has **increased 11 per cent to 44 per cent of entitlement**, along with commensurate increase in conveyance allocations.

Continued wet conditions further boosted Murrumbidgee upper storage levels. With general security allocation plus carryover reaching 60 per cent, there was also a requirement under the water sharing plan to allocate 50,000 megalitres to the environmental water account (EWA1) and 25,000 megalitres to the provisional storage volume account (PSV1).

Supplementary access is currently available along the full length of the regulated river, as well as Lowbidgee. General security licence holders can also use their uncontrolled flow provisions.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	44%	19%

Storage levels (as at 29 July)

- Blowering Dam is 73 per cent full - rising - holding 1,200,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 81 per cent full - rising - holding 833,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook continues to indicate a high likelihood (about 65 to 75 per cent chance) of above average rainfall conditions continuing across the Murrumbidgee catchment over the three months to October. Cooler days are also likely.

Although La Niña conditions remain possible, the BoM indicates that the majority of model outlooks are maintaining neutral values throughout the remainder of winter and spring.

Sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean show a strong negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and climate models indicate it will persist through to the end of spring. A negative IOD often results in greater than average winter-spring rainfall and cooler than average day time temperatures over south-eastern Australia.

Trade

Water users can trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley, but trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Trade **within** the valley is open. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and status of trade.

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507

www.water.nsw.gov.au

Next announcements

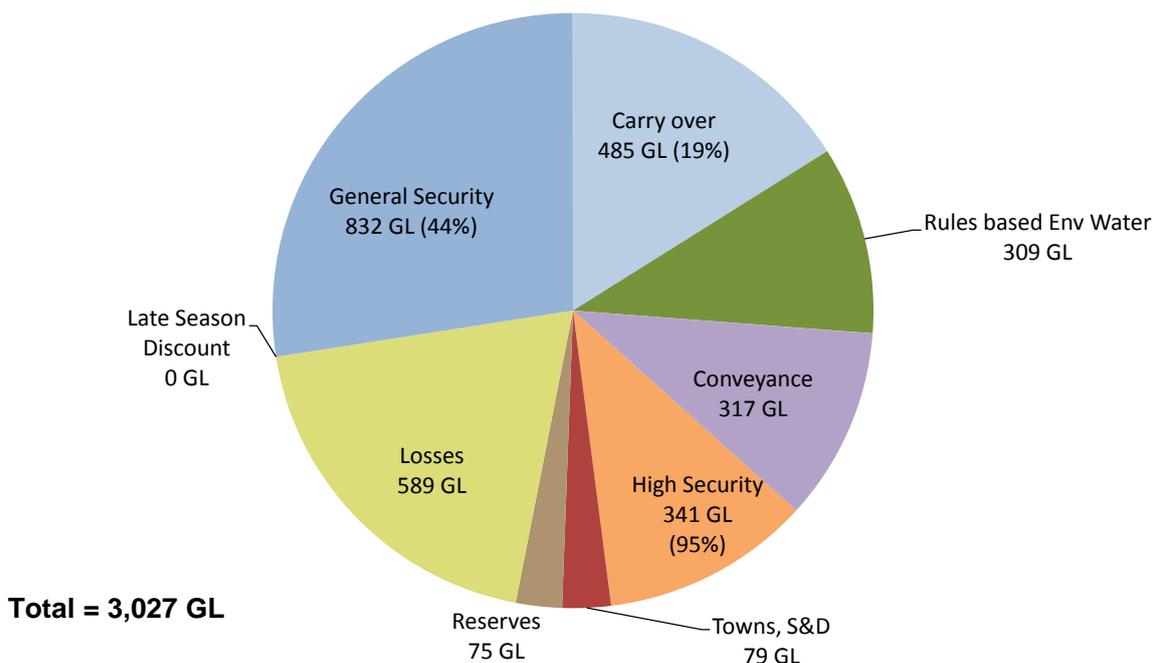
The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be on **Monday 15 August 2016**. It will include additional detailed information including comparison of values with last year, probability table (outlooks of likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios) and the rocket diagram.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 August) for 2016-17	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,027
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	485
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	309
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	317
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	832 (44%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	589
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0

**See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution 2016-17
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 August 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 (currently 194 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. This total volume typically reduces as commitments are met and water is used during the year. As general security allocation plus carryover water from the previous year has reached 60 per cent, this assessment credits EWA1 with 50 gigalitres (GL).
- (3) 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). As general security allocations plus carryover water from the previous year have reached 60% and a provision has been made for the EWA1 (50 GL), therefore 25 GL has been credited to provisional storage volume (PSV1).
- (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 plan 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 updated as the year unfolds.
- (6) Late Season Discount – is the estimated inflow volume that will arrive into storage after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This Late Season Discount cannot be sustainably 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 has arrived in storage.