

3 September 2018

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

There is **no increase in general security allocation in the Murrumbidgee regulated river system.**

There was little response in upper Murrumbidgee catchments to intermittent showers (less than 20 mm) in the last fortnight. Since January the Murrumbidgee system has experienced an extremely low inflow period - in the lowest five per cent of historical record. The climate outlooks for spring continue to indicate dry conditions.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	6%	22%

Storage levels (as at 31 August 2018)

- Blowering Dam is 78 per cent full – slight rise – holding 1,278,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 41 per cent full – steady – holding 423,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook for spring (September to November) indicates conditions for the region are likely to be dry with above average temperatures.

The Bureau's climate models show that while the El Niño-Southern Oscillation and Indian Ocean Dipole indicators are currently neutral, there is a 50 per cent chance of El Niño forming in coming months, which is double the normal chance. El Niño in spring typically brings below average rainfall in northern and eastern Australia, and warmer days for the southern two-thirds of the country.

Trade

Water allocation can currently be traded **within** and **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley, but trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website (www.watarnsw.com.au) for information about the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcement

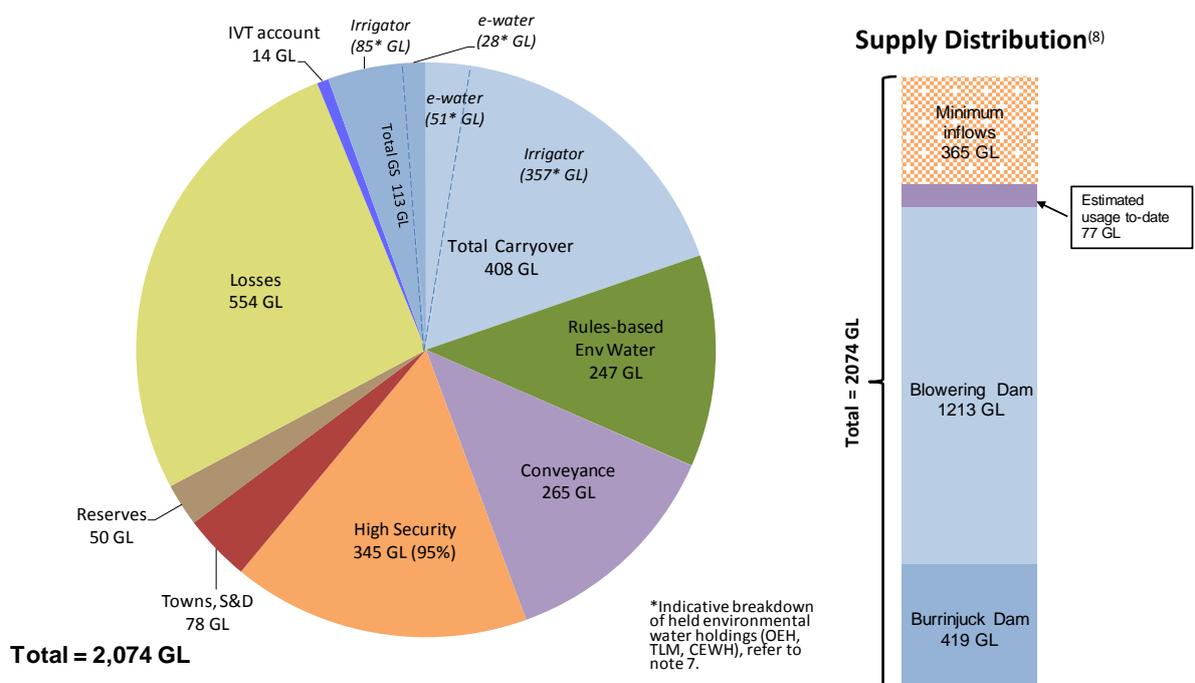
The next water allocation statement for the regulated Murrumbidgee Valley will be issued on **Monday 17 September 2018**. This statement will include forecast improvements under various inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution 2018-19 (at 3 September 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,074
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance)	408
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	247
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	265
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	554
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover as of 1 July) ⁽⁹⁾	14
Late Season Inflows ⁽⁶⁾	0
Announced General Security	113 (6%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2018-19 – 3 September 2018



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) (including any flex (pre-release) from the prior year), as well as estimated usage to date. Snowy Hydro's net Jounama Release for this year (2018-19) to date is 541 GL, and 200GL of flex release was pre-released in 2017-18.
- 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 159GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 50GL, EWA2 = 38GL, EWA3 = nil). 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.
- 3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25GL per dam as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = nil, PSV2 = nil).
- 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 water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly updated as the year unfolds.
- 6) Late Season Inflows – 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 and can be delivered before it is captured in storage.
- 7) Held environmental water (HEW) – water administered by environmental water holders is reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation and carryover also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 28GL of GS, 12GL of HS, 37GL of conveyance allocation and 51GL 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). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
- 8) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply includes volumes at the time of the assessment for the following categories: active volumes in the dams (excludes early release volumes of next year's Snowy Hydro commitments), indicative usage to-date (may be estimates prior to reconciliation with hydrographic updates) and assumed minimum future inflows (includes Snowy Hydro's guaranteed inflows for the water year, and late season inflows). Towards the latter half of the water year, it will also include any estimated shortfall in meeting the following next year's high priority needs.
- 9) IVT account – this represents the carryover value into 2018/19. As the account status was negative, meaning Murray water is 'owed' to the Murrumbidgee that cannot be delivered, this volume of 14GL must be set aside from allocation in the Murrumbidgee.