Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

3 August 2020

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations to **general security entitlements have increased by 2 per cent** in the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source and now stand at 16 per cent of entitlement for 2020-21.

Wetter conditions have resulted in higher than the minimum assumed inflows and therefore increased available resource. The Murrumbidgee resource has improved by about 35,000 megalitres (ML) since the 15 July 2020 assessment. The improvement has been allocated to general security entitlements, with a commensurate increase in Conveyance entitlements, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

As the year progresses, inflows will be allocated to general security entitlements without putting at risk high priority commitments for 2021-22.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover	Drought Stage
Murrumbidgee	95%	16%	18%	Stage 1

Drought stage

The Murrumbidgee regulated river water source is in Stage 1 drought criticality, meaning all allocated water can be delivered under normal regulated river operations. Despite promising signs and improving water availability, caution about future water availability is warranted. The resource situation continues to be monitored closely to ensure that high priority needs remain secure.

Further information on critical valleys in drought can be found at - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought

Storage levels (as at 30 July 2020)

- Blowering Dam is 63 per cent full – rising – holding 1,042,000 ML.
- Burrinjuck Dam is 45 per cent full – rising – holding 470,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be wetter than average across the catchment, while temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau indicates that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are neutral. The Bureau has issued a La Niña WATCH alert, with some models indicating that La Niña conditions may develop over spring. There is also a possibility of negative IOD

conditions developing over spring. La Niña and negative IOD conditions typically increase the probability of above average rainfall during spring.

For further details - www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Trade

Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley is **closed** (as of 29 July 2020) with an IVT balance of 99.9 GL. Trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open**. Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (www.waternsw.com.au) for daily information about the IVT account balance and the status of trade.

Next announcement

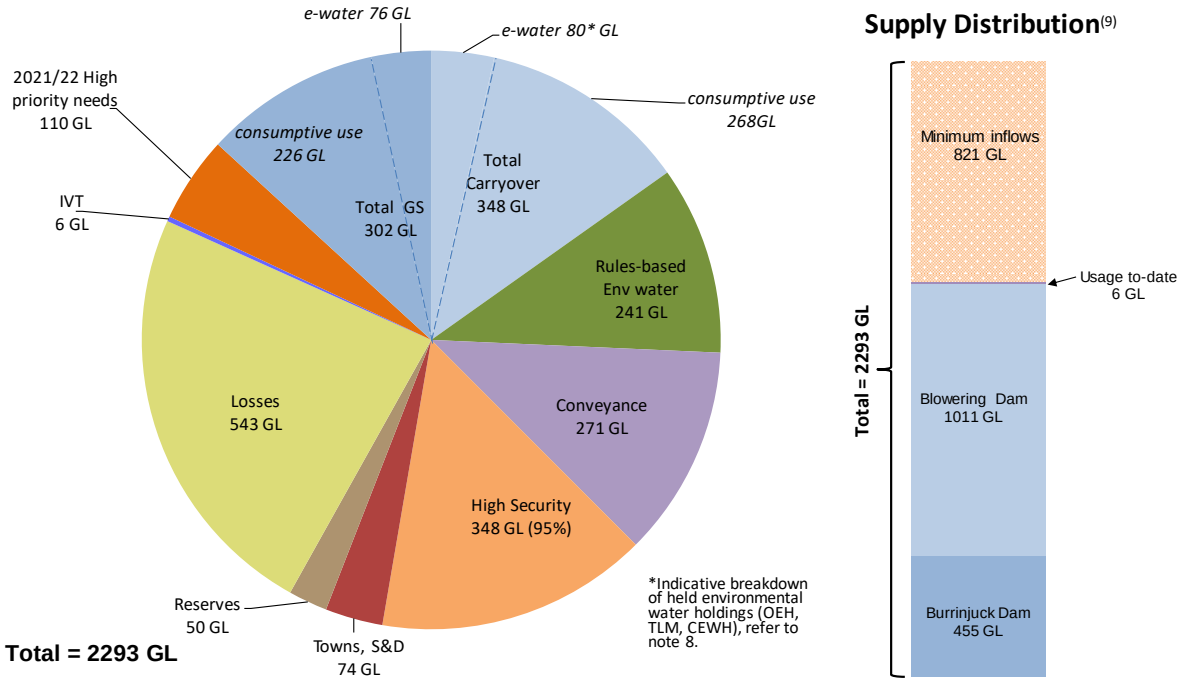
The next water allocation statement will be published on **Monday 17 August 2020**. This statement will include the updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios.

Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

	Resource Distribution* (3 August) for 2020-21	**Volume (GL)**	**Volume (GL)**
Total Available Resource[1]			2,293
less			
	Carryover (GS and Conveyance) [8]	348	
	Rules based Environmental Water[2]	241	
	Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74	
	Reserves[3]	50	
	Conveyance[4]	271	
	Announced High Security (95%)	348	
	Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational)[5]	543	
	Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) [6]	6	
	Announced General Security (16%) [8]	302	
	Year 2 (2021-22) high priority needs[7]	110	

See notes below.

Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2020-21 – 3 August 2020



Data sheet notes

1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the day of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus minimum 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 (2020-21) is estimated to be about 618 GL (includes montane release).
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 191 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 0 GL, EWA2 = 50 GL, EWA3 = 0 GL). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as 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. Conveyance licences in the Murrumbidgee valley can also carryover 30% of their entitlement.
5) Losses – 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 updated monthly.
6) IVT account carryover value into 2020-21. Does not reflect the current IVT balance.
7) 2021-2022 high priority needs on 1 July 2021 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2021, for 'Year 2', including potential carryover.
8) Held environmental water (HEW) – licenced 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 77 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 50 GL of conveyance allocation and 80 GL 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 e-water holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
9) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply includes volumes at the time of the assessment for the following categories: active volumes in the dams, 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).

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