

Monday, 16 November 2015

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water availability and allocation update

#### Allocations

Murrumbidgee **general security** allocation has **increased by 2 per cent to 31 per cent** of entitlement.

Rainfall earlier this month has met some system demand and reduced losses thereby providing a small improvement to available resources.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	31%	23%

#### Dam levels (at time of assessment)

- Blowering Dam is 42 per cent full, holding 700,000 megalitres
- Burrinjuck Dam is 69 per cent full, holding 716,000 megalitres

#### Outlook

Despite some storms in early November the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) latest outlook indicates below average rainfall across south-eastern Australia is likely for November to January. Also warmer temperatures are likely along much of the Murray-Darling basin.

A strong El Niño event continues in the tropical Pacific Ocean and is likely to persist into early 2016. The current climatic outlook reflects a combination of the strong El Niño in the Pacific, a decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

#### Trade

Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley remains closed, however trade **into** and within the valley is unaffected.

#### Next Announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee will be on 1 December 2015.

A Seasonal Outlook, including a probability table and rocket diagram, will be provided on 15 December 2015.

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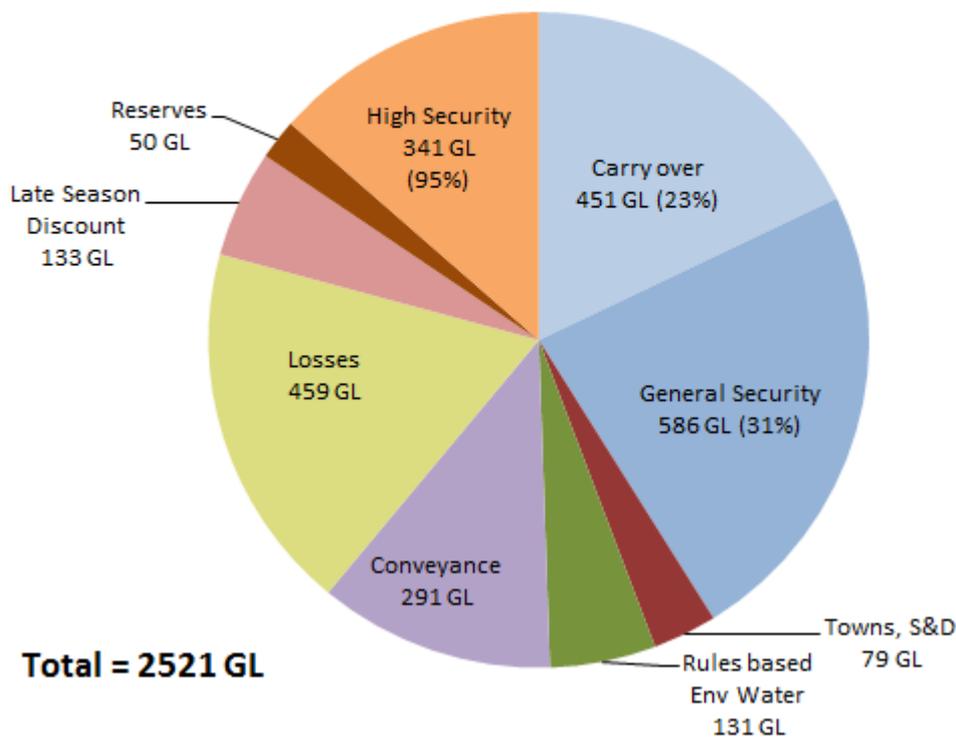
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 16 November) for 2015-16</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,521
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	131
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	291
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	586 (31%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	459
Late Season Discount <sup>(6)</sup>	133

\*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2015-16  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 16 November 2015**



**Notes:**

- (1) Total available resource: total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck) 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. Usage has decreased this value since last assessment.
- (3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes.
- (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, 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. It is assumed there is no further rainfall and that inflow returns to dry conditions. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Late season inflow is the estimated volume available after the peak irrigation demand season (post-February). The Late Season Discount is any late season inflow that is surplus to the regulated requirements and cannot contribute to current allocations. This consists of a proportion of assured annual inflows from Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) as well as assumed drought inflow sequence flows from other parts of the catchment.

A potential bias toward later delivery of RAR this year will support an allocation improvement of 3 to 5 per cent in March 2016, if not before. (If this water was included in current allocations, the water could be ordered and the storages emptied before the late season inflow actually arrives).

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year**

Item		Mid Nov 2014 (GL)	Mid Nov 2015 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	768	716	
	Blowering	813	700	less SHL* power generation so far this year
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>1416</b>	less in storage this year
Transmission Losses		377	376	
1 July IVT carryover balance		99	11	
Late Season Inflows		0	133	larger than usual – allowance for SHL release late in the season which cannot support peak summer demand
GS Available		40%	31%	
Average GS Carry Over		26%	23%	

\*SHL = Snowy Hydro Limited.