

1 April 2016

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

There is **no increase** in Murrumbidgee general security allocations at this time.

Persistent hot and dry weather over the past fortnight has led to continued high demand for water and relatively high system losses across the valley. There has been no improvement in resources with inflows into the storages being limited, due to the current dry catchments and recent dry weather.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	37%	23%

#### Storage levels (as at 31 March)

- Blowering Dam is 38 per cent full – rising - holding 640,000 megalitres (ML)
- Burrinjuck Dam is 37 per cent full - falling - holding 381,000 ML

#### Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for April to June 2016 indicates average rainfall is likely across most of the region in April, with some below average rainfall more likely in portions of the lower catchment. This is expected to transition to greater chance of wetter conditions in May to June. Above average temperatures are also expected during the coming three months.

The current outlook reflects a combination of a weakening El Niño, very warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm sea surface temperatures around much of the Australian coast.

Climate models indicate Neutral and La Niña conditions are equally likely for the latter part of 2016.

#### Trade

Murrumbidgee water users can trade **into** and within the Murrumbidgee Valley. As at 31 March, trade **out** of the valley is also open, though nearing the account balance closure trigger Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at [www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee](http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee) to keep informed of the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and status of trade. Updated trade procedures have been in place since 9 February 2016, and are explained on the WaterNSW website.

#### Next announcements

Due to the very dry conditions, DPI Water will continue this water year to provide mid-monthly allocation statements with updated outlooks for 2016/17 to assist businesses with their forward planning. However, statements at the start of the month will cease unless there is a major weather system that improves resource availability significantly.

**Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507**

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

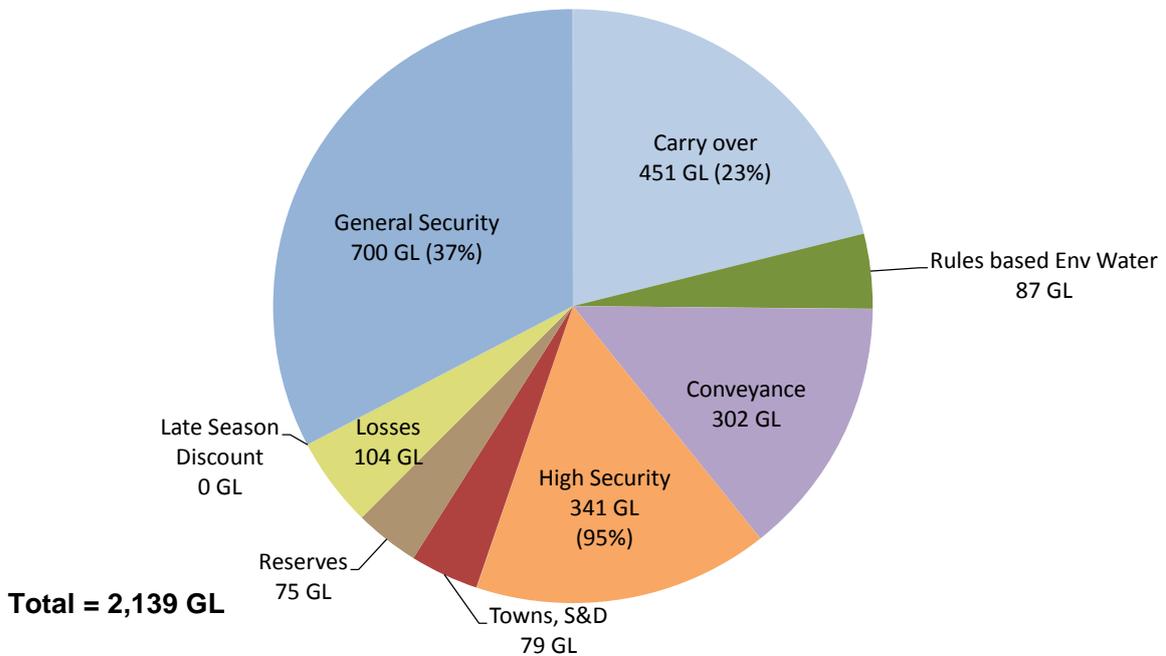
Therefore, the next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be on **15 April 2016**, with the subsequent one provided on **16 May 2016**; each will include an update of the water availability outlook for 2016-17.

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 1 April) for 2015-16</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,139
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	87
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	75
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	302
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	700 (37%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	104
Late Season Discount <sup>(6)</sup>	0

\*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2015-16  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 April 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 (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. This volume typically reduces as water is used during the year. The general security allocation plus carryover water from the previous year reached 60 per cent on 1 March 2016; in accordance with the water sharing plan, this led to the EWA1 being recently credited with 50 gigalitres (GL).
- (3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25 GL for each storage as well as Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2). The provisional storage volume (PSV1) has recently been credited with 25 GL in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- (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 updated 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 for 2015-16 has been released.