

1 December 2020

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

**Murrumbidgee regulated river water source allocation to general security licences has increased by 2%.** This brings the total allocation this water year to 76% of entitlement.

Inflows and reduced losses from sporadic rainfall events have helped increase resources in the regulated valley. The improvement has been allocated to general security entitlements, with a commensurate increase to Conveyance entitlements, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Water users should note that the general security account limit is 100% of entitlement. Therefore, water users who have carried over 24% or more on their general security entitlement have reached their account limit by virtue of the total allocation increasing to 76% this water year and will not benefit from further allocation increases.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover	Drought Stage
Murrumbidgee	95%	76%	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. The resource situation continues to be monitored closely to ensure that future 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](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought)

### Storage levels (as at 30 November 2020)

- Blowering Dam is 90% full – rising – holding 1,475,000 ML.
- Burrinjuck Dam is 88% full – falling – holding 900,000 ML.

### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for December 2020 to February 2021 indicates likely wetter than average conditions across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be near or above the long-term average, while overnight they are very likely to be above long-term average.

The Bureau has declared La Niña conditions, with models indicating that La Niña conditions will likely persist through at least summer. Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral, with most models indicating that the IOD will remain neutral over the coming months. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is neutral but is forecast to return to more positive values over the next week. La Niña conditions and positive SAM are supporting the likelihood of above average rainfall.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

## Trade

The normal operating range for the Murrumbidgee IVT account is between 0 GL and 100 GL. Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley is **closed** (as at 30 November 2020) with the IVT balance at its upper limit. Trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open**. Water users should check the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://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 **Tuesday 15 December 2020**. It will be a comprehensive statement, including indicative improvements in general security allocations under various possible inflow scenarios.

With peak irrigation season setting in and watering commitments firming, the next statement will be the last for this water year that includes information on improvements to general security allocation.

From March 2021, the mid-monthly statements will start to focus on the potential water availability on 1 July 2021 to start the 2021/22 water year. It will be updated monthly. This should help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

No statement will be published on 1 January 2021, with fortnightly statements resuming on 15 January 2021. Nevertheless, conditions will be monitored closely over the holiday season and if heavy rainfall occurs, and water availability improves significantly, an interim allocation announcement will be provided.

## Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (1 December) for 2020-21	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	3,394
<b>less</b>	
Carryover <sup>(8)</sup>	348
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	79
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	198
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	372
Announced High Security (95%)	348
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	389
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup>	6
Announced General Security (76%) <sup>(8)</sup>	1,440
Year 2 (2021-22) high priority needs <sup>(7)</sup>	140

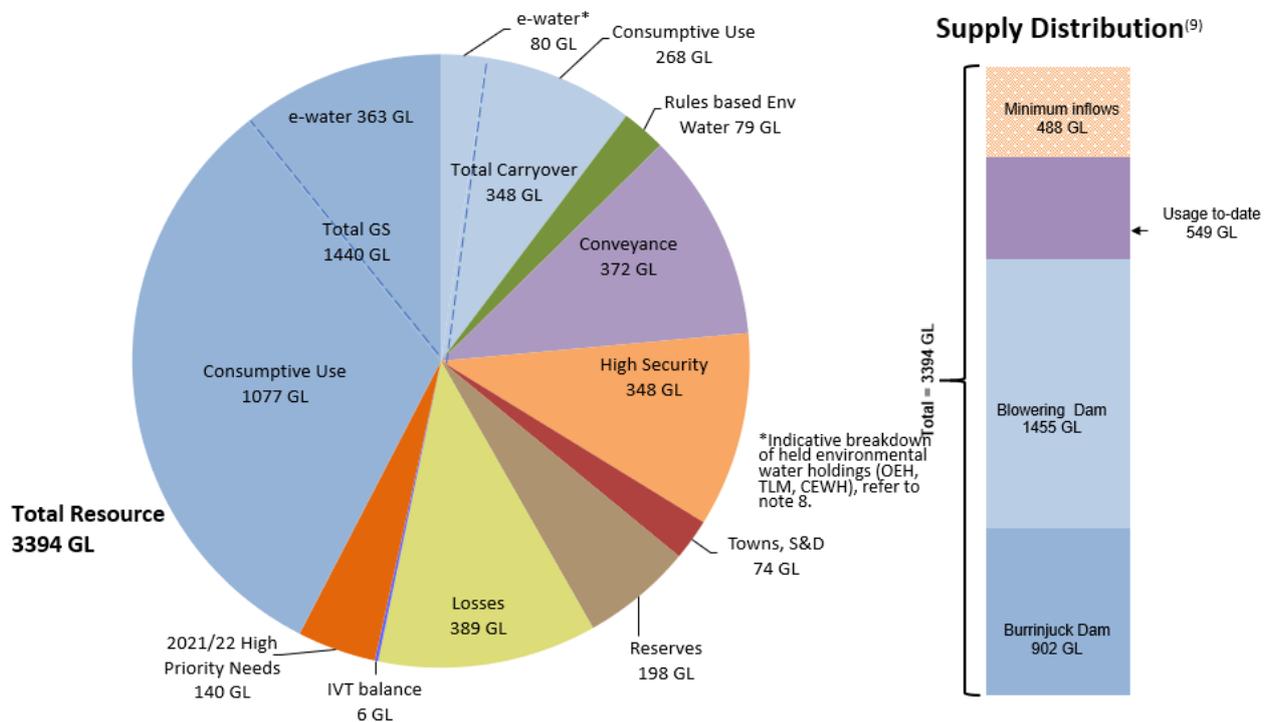
# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



\*See notes below

## Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2020-21 – 1 December 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 releases to date for this water year (2020-21) is estimated to be about 450 GL (includes montane releases).
- 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 65 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 14 GL, EWA2 = 0 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 25 GL per dam as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = 148 GL, PSV2 = 1GL).
- 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. Current carryover on conveyance entitlements in the valley is about 5 GL.
- 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. Any late season inflows are also included in this volume.
- 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 363 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 74 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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