



Monday, 17 August 2015

High security increase for Murray while general security remains unchanged

DPI Water today announced water allocations, probabilities and the availability outlook for NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee water users through to the December 2015.

The NSW Murray high security allocation will increase by 15 per cent to 95 per cent of entitlement with a commensurate increase in conveyance water.

The general security allocation will remain unchanged in the Murray at zero per cent and in the Murrumbidgee at 17 per cent of entitlement.

General security licence holders in the NSW Murray will start to receive allocation after high security reaches 97 percent. Meeting requirements for this entitlement class is the first priority for water allocations.

There is currently 500,000 megalitres of carry-over held in general security accounts.

DPI Water is aware of concerns from entitlement holders regarding the interaction of the Barmah-Millewa Environmental Water Allocation (B-M EWA) with seasonal allocations.

At this stage, no "payback" has been made to the B-M EWA, with water resources contributing solely to increasing seasonal allocations. DPI Water are currently investigating this matter.

Current forecasts indicate that late season inflow to storage this year could be significantly more than usual. This means that there is potential for more water to be available after the peak summer period, but this will be monitored closely and advice will be provided in future announcements.

Trade of account water out of the Murrumbidgee valley is closed, but trade into the valley is unaffected.

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke is restricted to 'no net trade downstream', however there is currently capacity for about 40,000 megalitres of downstream trade.

Storages are much lower than this time last year, and with the potential for dry conditions, general security allocations may not exceed 50 per cent of entitlement this year.

All carryover is available in both valleys and is at an average of 30 per cent in the NSW Murray and 23 percent in the Murrumbidgee.

The next water allocation announcement will be made by the DPI Water on Tuesday 1 September 2015.

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Chances of Improvement

The chances of inflows being above historical minimums, and therefore the likelihood of improved allocations, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 October General Security Allocations**		Forecast 1 December General Security Allocations**	
	NSW Murray	Murrumbidgee	NSW Murray	Murrumbidgee
99 chances in 100 (assumed inflow)	0%	17%	0%	17%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	7%	20%	18%	22%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	24%	24%	32%	30%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	30%	34%	52%	43%
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	42%	40%	100%	100%

Using all years of inflow records. ** Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

** Inflow conditions in recent weeks have been between "dry" and "very dry"

NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 17 August 2015) for 2015-16

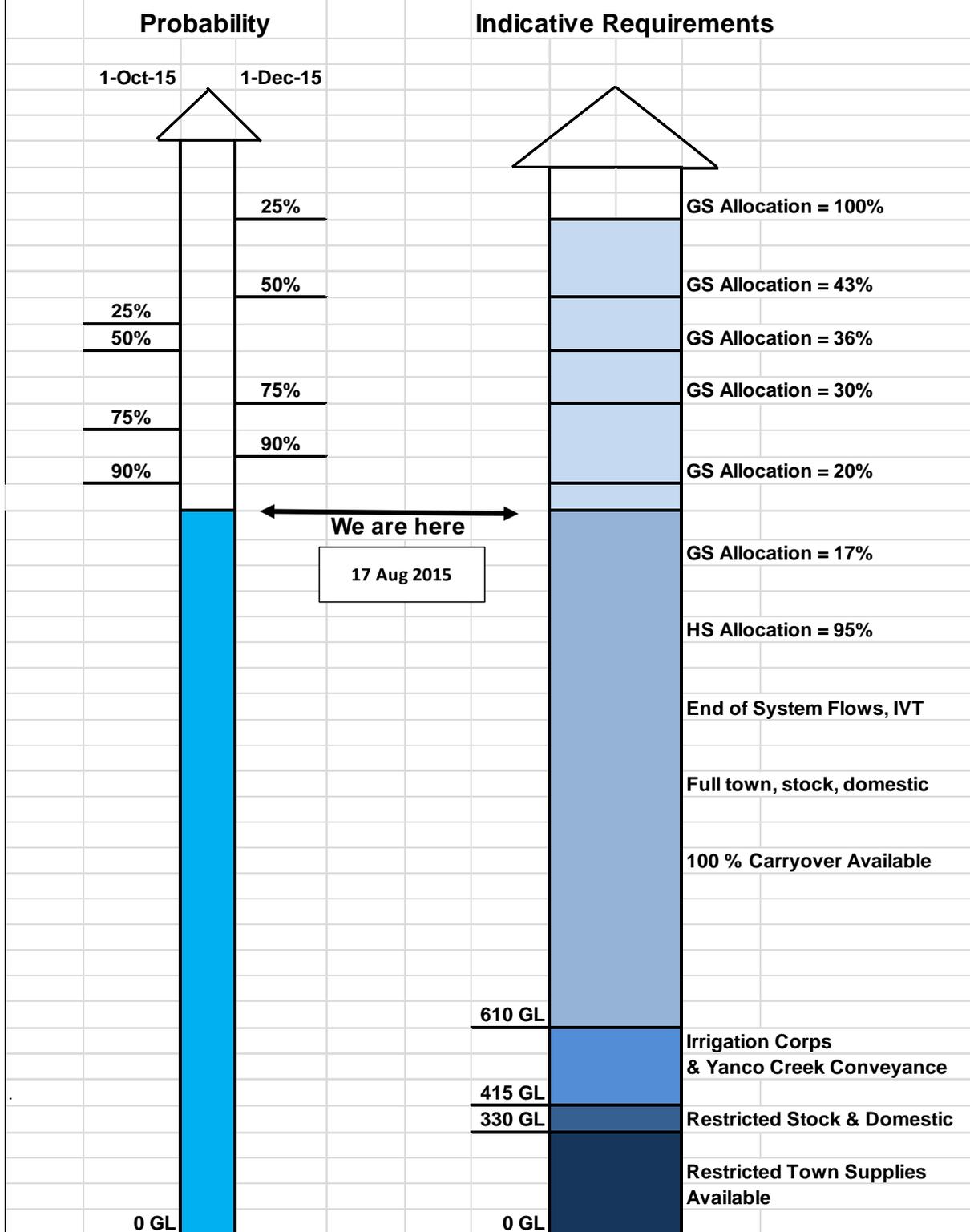
	NSW Murray Volume (GL)	Murrumbidgee Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	920	2,449
less		
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	500	451
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	50	260
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54	79
Reserves ⁽²⁾	2	50
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	135	271
Announced High Security	179 (95%)	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	0 (0%)	322 (17%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, ops) ⁽⁴⁾		514
Late Season Discount ⁽⁵⁾		161

Notes

1. Primarily 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 allowances. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
2. Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV).
3. Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued by 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 current high and general security allocations. (This category of licence can carry over up to 30% of entitlement in the Murrumbidgee but none in the NSW Murray).
4. 'Losses' is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river to meet demands for the remainder of the year. They do not appear in the Murray distribution because they are debited by Murray Darling Basin Authority before NSW is provided its share of Murray resource. They include storage evaporation, transmission losses, operational loss and assumes a return to dry conditions. This estimate is constantly refined as the year unfolds.
5. The last few months of the assumed drought inflow sequence and the assured RAR inflows from Snowy Hydro arrive too late to support peak demand so cannot be used for current allocations. This value has been increased in this assessment based on forecast later delivery of RAR this year. This water will support allocation improvement of 3 to 5 percent in March 2016, if not before. (If this water was included in current allocations, the water could be used and the storages emptied before the late season inflow arrives).

Murrumbidgee Valley Indicative Outlook

as at 17 August 2015



NSW Murray Valley Outlook

As at 17 August 2015

