

16 May 2016

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation outlook for 2016-17

#### Allocations

This statement describes the outlook for the start of the 2016-17 water year and builds on earlier monthly forecasts. The outlook has changed very little as inflows to the end of April have remained extremely dry. The next announcement will be the opening allocations for 2016-17 on 1 July.

Water Year 2015-16	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	37%	23%

#### Storage levels (as at 13 May)

- Blowering Dam is 50 per cent full - rising - holding 808,000 megalitres (ML)
- Burrinjuck Dam is 33 per cent full - rising - holding 336,000 ML

#### Climate Outlook

There has been some good May rainfall in the upper catchments but limited response from rivers; however the decreased irrigation demand means that storages have begun to rise.

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for May to July indicates roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier May, then a greater chance of wetter conditions in June and July.

Well above average daytime temperatures are expected in May, with the eastern portion of the catchment remaining above average in June and July. Nights are also strongly favoured to be warmer than average during these coming months.

The current outlook reflects a rapidly weakening El Niño. Historically, after El Niño events, warmer days tend to persist over northern and eastern Australia, with warmer nights.

Most climate models indicate neutral conditions and La Niña are equally likely in the second half of 2016. La Niña is often, but not always, associated with above-average winter-spring rainfall.

#### Trade

Water can currently be traded **into** the Murrumbidgee valley but trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley is closed. Trade within the valley remains open.

Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at [www.watarnsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/Murrumbidgee](http://www.watarnsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/Murrumbidgee) to keep informed of the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and status of trade.

Water users are reminded that season closing dates for inter-state and inter/intra-valley trade apply. Inter-state trades closed 30 April 2016. NSW inter/intra-valley trade closes 31 May 2016.

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

Additional information on season closing dates can be viewed at <http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading>.

## Next announcements

This is the final update for this 2015-16 water year. The next allocation announcement for the Murrumbidgee water source will be on Friday **1 July 2016**. Allocation announcement updates will subsequently be provided fortnightly. From mid-August, resource availability outlooks will also be compiled and provided at least every two months.

## Murrumbidgee resource availability outlook for 2016-17 16 May update

### Indicative allocations on 1 July 2016

- Full allocation can be expected for all **towns**, and **domestic** and **stock** access licences.
- **High Security** access licences will receive an allocation of 95 per cent of entitlement.
- **Carryover** water will be fully deliverable. While carryover water is highly dependent on weather conditions over the next few months and individual decisions by water users, initial estimates indicate an average carryover of 15-20 per cent is likely. An average carryover of 17 per cent is assumed in the table below.
- **General security** commencing allocation under extreme dry inflow conditions has improved since last forecast to six (6) per cent and under very dry conditions to eight (8) per cent.
- Sufficient water will be available for **conveyance** entitlements, commensurate with the expected opening allocations above.
- Full allocations will be made for **supplementary** access licence holders. Use of this entitlement is only available subject to announced periods of supplementary flows.
- The Murrumbidgee **IVT** account balance will carry forward from 30 June to 1 July and will be available for delivery in 2016-17.
- Water in **Environmental Water Allowances** (EWA) and **Provisional Storage Volume** (PSV) accounts will be available in accordance with the water sharing plan rules.

## Chances of improvement

The chances of general security allocation improvements based on different inflow conditions for the remainder of this year and continuing for 2016-17 are as follows:

### Forecast General Security allocation (per cent)<sup>#</sup>

Potential Inflow Conditions	1 July 2016	1 Sept 2016	1 Nov 2016
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	6	6	6
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	8	16	28
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%) <sup>^</sup>	11	26	43
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	15	40	65
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	26	60	100

<sup>^</sup> Tracking slightly drier than this level of inflow so far in 2015-16.

<sup>#</sup> Assumes an average carryover into 2016-17 of 17%.