

17 July 2017

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update for 2017-18

Allocations

Murrumbidgee **general security allocation** has increased by **3 per cent to 20 per cent** of entitlement. Settling end of year data, plus some showers earlier this month which met some demands and reduced losses, helped to provide a small improvement in available resources.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	20%	30%^

^ Estimated, as account processing has not been finalised.

Storage levels (as at 14 July)

- Blowering Dam is 80 per cent full – steady - holding 1305,000 megalitres (ML)
- Burrinjuck Dam is 63 per cent full - steady- holding 645,000 ML

Climatic Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates that below average rainfall conditions over much of the Murrumbidgee valley are likely from July to September, with above average temperatures.

Atmospheric and oceanic indicators used to measure the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remain within neutral bounds, and similarly, the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remains neutral. Therefore the Bureau’s ENSO Outlook is currently INACTIVE, with neither El Niño nor La Niña expected to influence Australia’s climate this year.

Trade

Water users can trade **into** the Murrumbidgee valley, but trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley is closed. Trade **within** the valley is open. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and status of trade.

Next announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee valley will be on Tuesday **1 August 2017**.

An updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram, will be issued again on Tuesday 15 August 2017.

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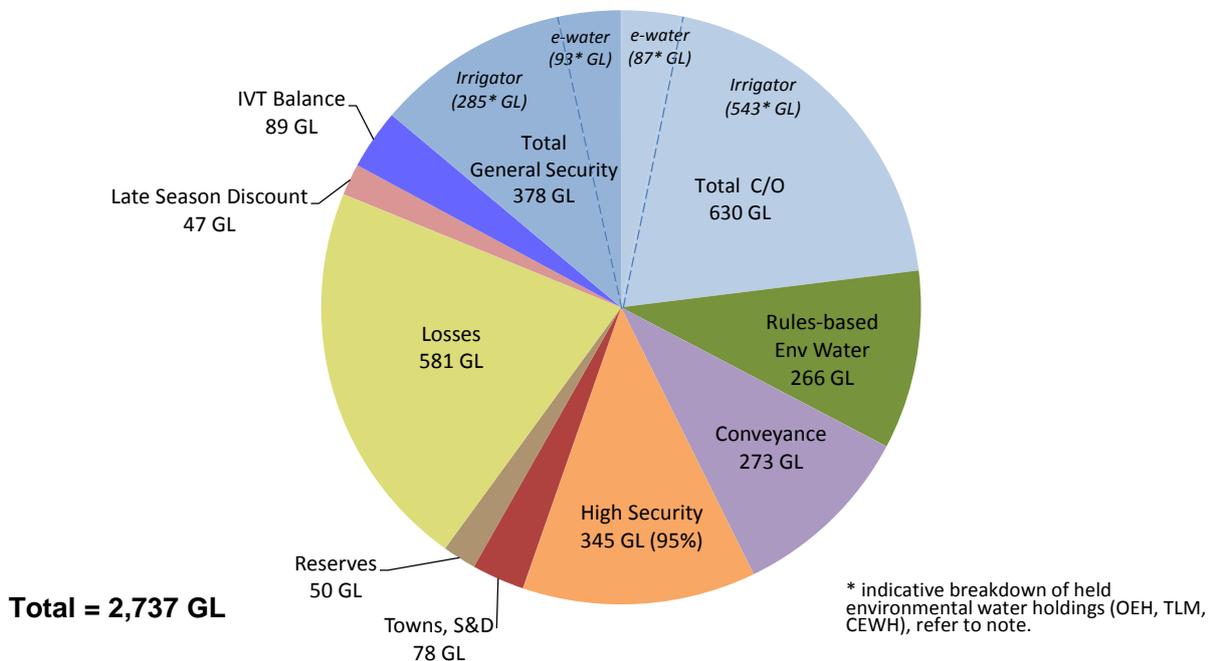
www.water.nsw.gov.au

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 17 July) for 2016-17	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,737
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) ⁽⁷⁾	630
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	266
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	273
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	581
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	89
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	47
Announced General Security ⁽⁷⁾	378 (20%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2017-18 Murrumbidgee Valley - 17 July 2017



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 estimated 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 (currently 208 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as commitments are met and 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 plus any Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2).
- (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 water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly updated as the year unfolds.
- (6) Late Season Discount – is the estimated inflow volume that will arrive into storage late in the year, after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This water cannot be allocated to water users at the start of the water year otherwise there could be an expectation that the water is available for use before it is captured in storage.
- (7) Held environmental water (HEW) – As a trial, general security allocation and carryover water administered by the environmental water holder has been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of HEW is limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage), and estimated to be 93 GL of GS, 12 GL of HS, 35 GL of conveyance allocation and a provisional value of 87 GL of GS carryover. These 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). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		Mid Jul 2016 (GL)	Mid Jul 2017 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	655	644	Similar
	Blowering	1,151	1,305	Higher storage levels due to early delivery of Snowy water
	Total	1,806	1,949	Overall higher
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational)*		577	581	Similar
1 July IVT carryover balance		100	89	Similar
Late Season Inflows		32	47	Similar
GS Available		33%	20%	13% lower allocation but 11% higher carryover. Similar overall GS water availability.
Average GS Carryover		19%	30%	Substantially higher this year

* Includes assumed loss from downstream of storages along the entire river length

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved inflows conditions and increased allocations are as follows:

Forecast General Security allocation (per cent)

MURRUMBIDGEE Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 September General Security Allocations^	Forecast 1 November General Security Allocations^
Current allocation (99% inflows)	20	20
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	21	27
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	23	34
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	28	50*
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	30	60*

Using all years of inflow records.

^ Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

* Under wetter conditions when allocation plus carryover reaches 80%, peak demand deliverability can become problematic. Water becomes 'trapped' in Blowering Dam due to Tumut channel capacity limitations. so the water cannot yet be allocated. Monitoring for such conditions eventuating will be maintained to ensure that early advice can be provided.

NSW Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

As at 17 July 2017

