



3 October 2017

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water allocation update

Allocations

NSW Murray general security allocation **has increased by 1 per cent to 29 per cent of entitlement**, with a commensurate increase in allocation to conveyance entitlements. Although it has been mostly dry, showers in September, coupled with better than expected tributary inflow recessions, have contributed to this improvement.

Carryover in accounts has been revised upward by 40 GL to 730 GL, an average of 44 per cent of general security entitlement. Incorrect system debiting of supplementary usage from some general security accounts was found, which meant that these account balances were too low and carryover was underestimated. With the correction it means that overall general security water availability is 73 per cent of entitlement in the valley.

Water users are reminded that repayment of the borrowed Barmah-Millewa environmental water allowance, some 177,000 megalitres (ML), will commence when general security allocations reach 30 per cent of entitlement.

| | High Security | General Security | Average Carryover |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Murray | 97% | 29% | 44% |
| Lower Darling | 100% | 100% | |

Upper Murray storage levels (as at 28 September 2017)

- Dartmouth Dam is 84 per cent full – rising – holding 3,244,000 megalitres (ML).
- Hume Dam is 91 per cent full – steady – holding 2,736,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's three month seasonal outlook for October to December indicates generally average rainfall conditions are likely in the valley, with October likely to be wetter than average. Average temperatures are generally likely in October and November, with the western portion of the valley more likely to experience below average temperatures in October.

Climate influences include a drier signal from the Indian Ocean, counteracted by a wetter influence from the Pacific. This means an equal chance of wetter or drier than average conditions across Australia for the three months.

Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to '**no net trade downstream**'. Downstream trade opens automatically to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade.

The trade restriction helps to protect existing downstream entitlement holders from an increased risk of delivery shortfall caused by the limited physical capacity of the Barmah choke.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Water users are encouraged to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website at - <http://www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/water-markets-trade/interstate-water-trade/barmah-choke-trade-balance> - for information about the trade balance and status of trade.

Lower Darling water source trade is open, including inter-valley trade.

All Murrumbidgee Valley trade is also open. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information about the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and closure triggers.

Next announcement

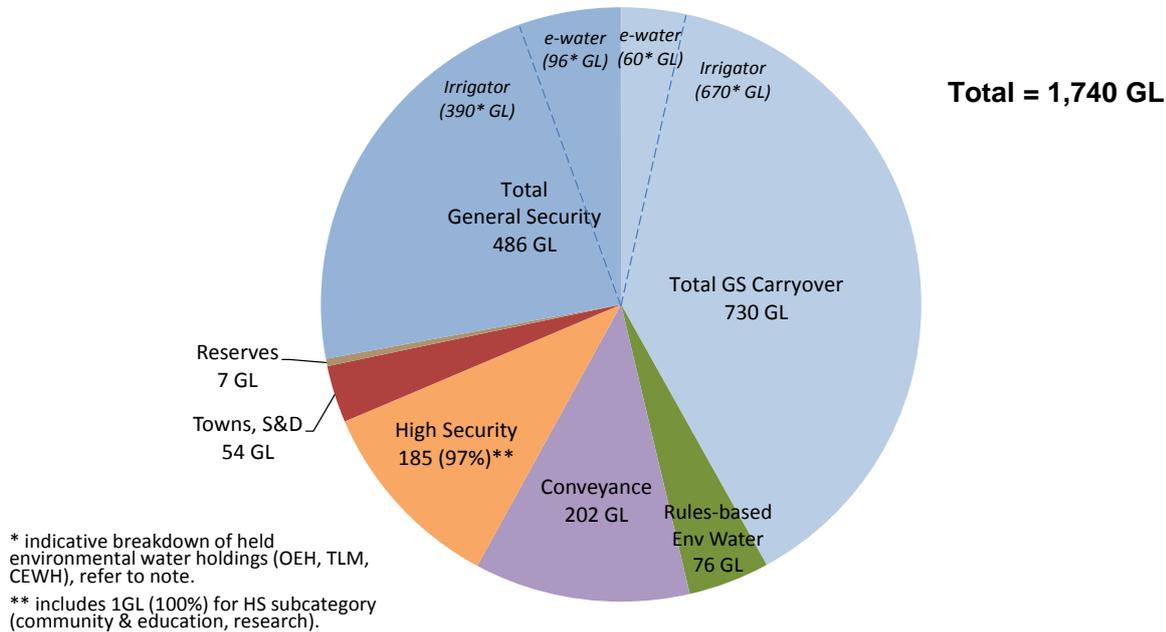
The next allocation update for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling valleys will be on **Monday 16 October 2017**, and will contain an updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| Resource Distribution (3 October) for 2017-18 | Volume (GL) |
|--|-------------|
| Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾ | 1,740 |
| less | |
| Carryover ^{(2), (7)} | 730 |
| Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾ | 76 |
| Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾ | 54 (100%) |
| Announced High Security subcategory (education, research) ⁽⁴⁾ | 1 (100%) |
| Announced High Security ⁽⁴⁾ | 184 (97%) |
| Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾ | 202 |
| Reserves ⁽⁶⁾ | 7 |
| Announced General Security ⁽⁷⁾ | 486 (29%) |

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2017-18 NSW Murray - 3 Oct 2017



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as assessed and accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement at the time of the assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus assumed drought inflows for the rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR), as well as estimated usage to date. To-date this also includes a small internal spill in August from Victoria's share of the resource. NSW is in Special Accounting with South Australia (SA) but this currently has no material impact on NSW allocations. Special accounting is triggered when NSW is forecast unable to meet the required reserve of 1,250 GL by the end of the water year to supply SA with its entitlement in the following water year. Details can be found in the MDB Agreement Clauses 123-129.
- (2) Carryover – NSW Murray general security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50 per cent of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 110 per cent of entitlement, which can consist of both allocation and carryover.
- (3) Primarily rules-based planned environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. In the NSW Murray this includes Additional Environmental Allowance (AEA) (about 6 GL), Wakool system requirements (up to 70 GL), and the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (which is currently 100 per cent borrowed). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW).
- (4) The *Water Sharing Plan for the New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016* has subcategories of high security licenses in the Murray Water Source. High security subcategory licences under *Part 7 Division 2 Clause 46(2)* that are present in the Murray include community and education, research, and town water supply. At the commencement of each water year, these licences are to receive 100% allocation, while remaining high security licences are to receive 97% allocation. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the high security town water supply allocation volume has been grouped as "Towns, S&D".
- (5) 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 plan and is a function of current high and general security allocation.
- (6) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans; set aside for emergency purposes and critical needs.
- (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 held environmental water is limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage or trade), and estimated to be 140 GL of GS, 24 GL of HS, 26 GL of conveyance allocation and 60 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). For more details on environmental holdings please refer to individual Agency websites.