

1 November 2017

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Murrumbidgee **general security allocations remain unchanged at 33 per cent**. Flows into the storages and tributary contribution below the dams are still well below average for this time of the year. The low storage inflows mean no material improvement of water resource availability in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

With general security allocation, plus carryover having reached 60 per cent, the next available water must be allocated to the environmental water account (EWA1) and the provisional storage volume account (PSV1), some 50,000 and 25,000 megalitres respectively, in accordance with the water sharing plan rules. Once these commitments are met, further improvement in water availability can then be allocated to general security entitlements.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	33%	27%

Storage levels (as at 30 October)

- Blowering Dam is 65 per cent full – steady – holding 1,070,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 59 per cent full – steady – holding 612,500 ML.

Storage imbalance is not expected to affect deliverability of irrigation water this summer for likely demand scenarios.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November to January indicates average rainfall conditions are generally likely. Overnight temperatures are generally likely to be above average over the three month period. Daytime temperatures will likely be above average in November, with expected cooling to average temperatures in December.

While the Pacific Ocean is likely to continue cooling towards La Niña levels over the coming months, the ocean warmth that typically appears to the north of Australia and in the eastern Indian Ocean during La Niña is unlikely to develop. This means that Australia is unlikely to receive widespread heavy rainfall that is often seen with La Niña events.

Trade

Trade **out** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, but trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information regarding the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Next announcement

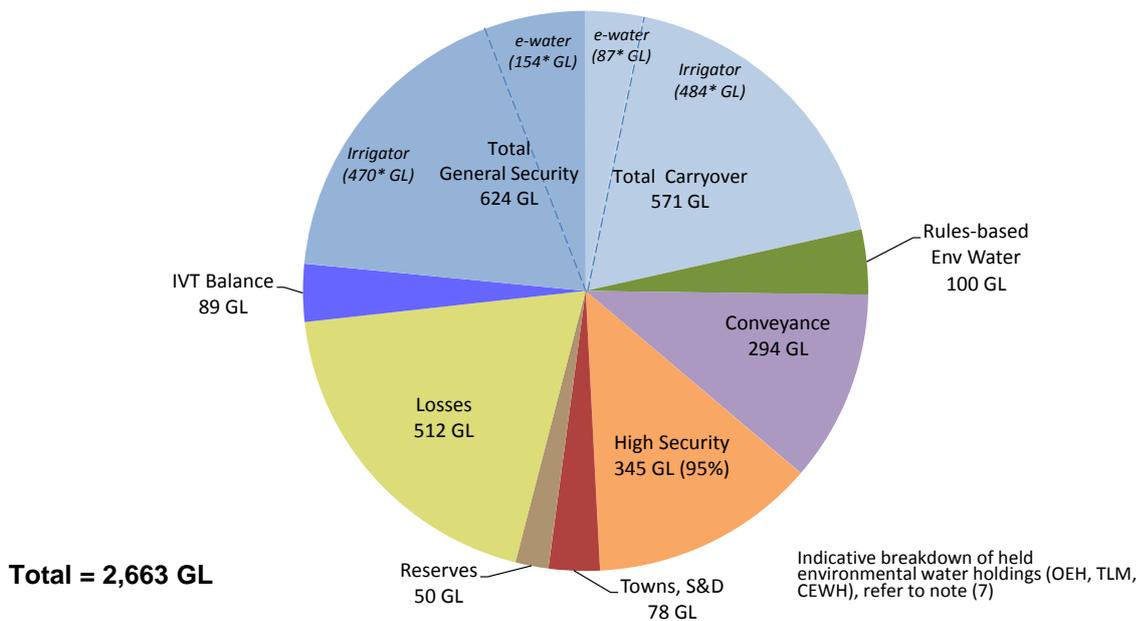
The next allocation update for the valley will be on **Wednesday 15 November 2017**, and will contain a final probability outlook for the year including the rocket diagram. In mid-March 2018, monthly outlooks for likely commencing water availability conditions on 1 July will begin, to help water users plan their end-of-year usage and carryover.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 November) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,663
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance)	571
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	100
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	294
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	512
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	89
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0
Announced General Security	624 (33%)

**See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution 2017-18
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 November 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 estimated usage to date including Snowy Hydro's net Jounama Release of 468 GL from 1 May 2017 to 25 October 2017.
- 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 86 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3) – balance currently 14GL. 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 held environmental water is total allocated in accounts (not usage) and includes 154GL of GS, 12GL of HS, 39GL of conveyance allocation and 87GL 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). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.