



1 December 2017

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water allocation update

Allocations

Rainfall across November has been modest, though reasonably regular. This has helped to extend river recessions and provided small inflow improvements.

NSW Murray general security allocation has **increased by 4 per cent to 39 per cent of entitlement, with a commensurate increase in allocation to conveyance entitlements.**

At the time of this statement, a significant rain band is approaching the catchments. This resource assessment does not include any potential improvements from the impending rainfall.

To assist water users, an interim resource assessment will be undertaken next week and an indication of improvement provided on Friday 8 December. However, any improvement will need to be confirmed through the usual resource assessment process and will be made available to water users in line with the usual mid-month water allocation statement on Friday 15 December.

Average carryover in NSW Murray general security water accounts is 44 per cent of entitlement, meaning that the total volume set aside for general security water users is approximately 1,383 GL or 83 per cent of entitlement on average. However, it is acknowledged that water availability for those who chose not to carry water over, is 39 per cent of entitlement.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	39%	44%
Lower Darling	100%	100%	

Upper Murray storage levels (as at 30 November 2017)

- Dartmouth Dam is 87 per cent full – rising – holding 3,367,000 megalitres (ML).
- Hume Dam is 75 per cent full – falling – holding 2,254,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The updated Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for summer (December to February) indicates that above average rainfall conditions are expected over the eastern part of the NSW Murray catchment. The rest of the catchment is still expected to experience average rainfall conditions. Summer night time temperatures are likely to be warmer than average. Daytime temperatures are forecast to be variable across the valley, with average temperatures in the eastern portion and above average temperatures in the western portion.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook has been raised to La Niña ALERT due to continued cooling in the tropical Pacific. Although the chance of a La Niña forming in late 2017 is around 70 per cent, or triple the normal likelihood, climate models suggest that any event is likely to be weak and short-lived.

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La Niña typically brings above average rainfall to eastern Australia during late spring and summer. However, sea surface temperature patterns are not currently typical of La Niña, reducing the likelihood of widespread summer rainfall. La Niña can also increase the chance of prolonged warm spells for southeast Australia.

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.

Water users are encouraged to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website at - 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. However, once the Menindee system falls below 480 GL (currently at 502 GL) and the Lower Darling becomes administratively separated from the Murray, trade with the Murray typically ceases until the system recovers to above 640GL.

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 - www.watarnsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee - for information about the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcements

To assist water users, an interim resource assessment will be undertaken next week and an indication of improvement provided on Friday 8 December. However, any improvement will need to be confirmed through the usual resource assessment process and will be made available to water users in line with the usual mid-month water allocation statement on 15 December.

There will be no statement on 1 January 2018.

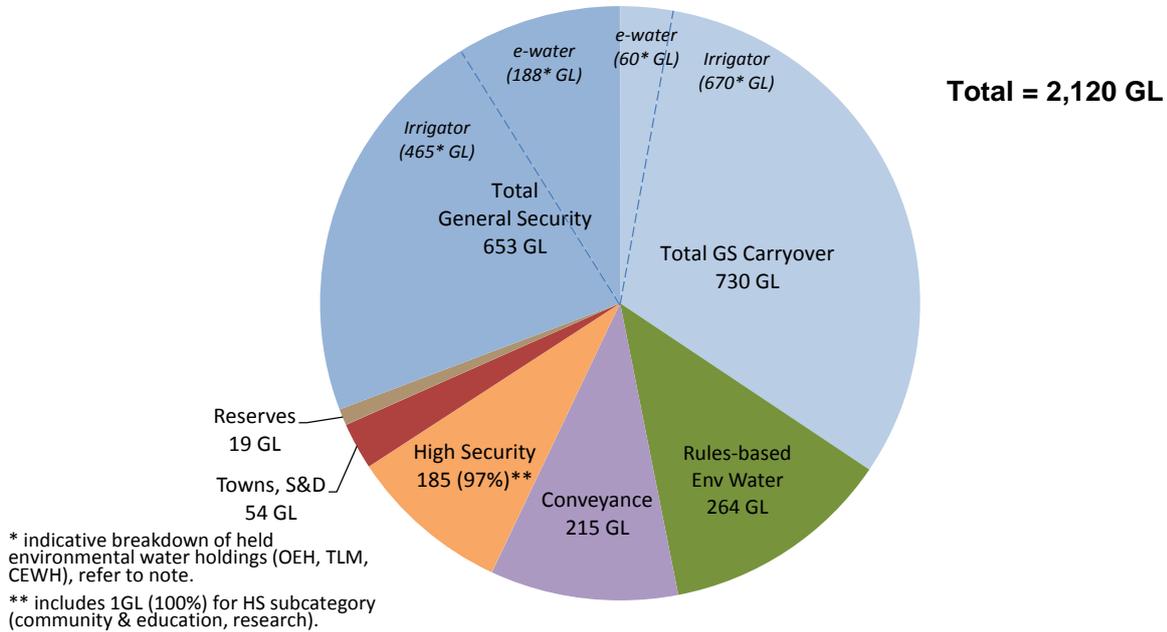
Fortnightly assessments and statements for the NSW Murray regulated river will resume in the new year on Monday 15 January 2018.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 December) for 2017-18	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,120
less	
Carryover ^{(2), (7)}	730
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	264
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	54 (100%)
Announced High Security subcategory (education, research) ⁽⁴⁾	1 (100%)
Announced High Security ⁽⁴⁾	184 (97%)
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	215
Reserves ⁽⁶⁾	19
Announced General Security ⁽⁷⁾	653 (39%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2017-18 NSW Murray - 1 Dec 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. 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 the Murray Additional Allowance (MAA) (about 6 GL), Wakool system requirements (up to 70 GL), and the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA). 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 188 GL of GS, 24 GL of HS, 28 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.