

Monday, 16 November 2015

## NSW Murray and Lower Darling

### Water availability and allocation update

#### Allocations

NSW Murray general security allocation has **increased by 1 per cent to 14 per cent** of entitlement.

Flow responses along the upper Murray tributaries from the early November rainfall were modest, reflecting the dry state of catchments and limited rainfall in those areas.

System demands are likely to see significant draw-down in the upper storages as the peak summer period approaches, particularly if conditions remain dry with limited tributary inflow.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	14%	30%
Lower Darling	50%	0%	Restricted access

#### Upper Murray Storage Levels (at Friday 13 November)

- Dartmouth Dam is 58 per cent full, holding 2,295,000 megalitres
- Hume Dam is 46 per cent full, holding 1,390,000 megalitres

#### Outlook

Despite some storms in early November the Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) latest outlook forecasts below average rainfall for November to January across the mid and upper Murray region with an even chance of average rainfall in the western Murray region in that period. Warmer temperatures are also likely particularly in this eastern part of the catchment.

A strong El Niño event continues in the tropical Pacific Ocean, and is very likely to persist into early 2016. The current outlook reflects a combination of the strong El Niño in the Pacific, a decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

#### Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke is restricted to 'no net trade downstream'; however there is currently capacity for downstream trade (by virtue of upstream trades).

Trade is permitted within the Lower Darling water source but inter-valley trade is closed due to the severe water shortage. NSW Murray water users can trade **into** the Murrumbidgee valley.

#### Next Announcements

The next allocation update for the Murray lower Darling will be on 1 December. More detailed information, including probability table and rocket diagram will be provided on 15 December.

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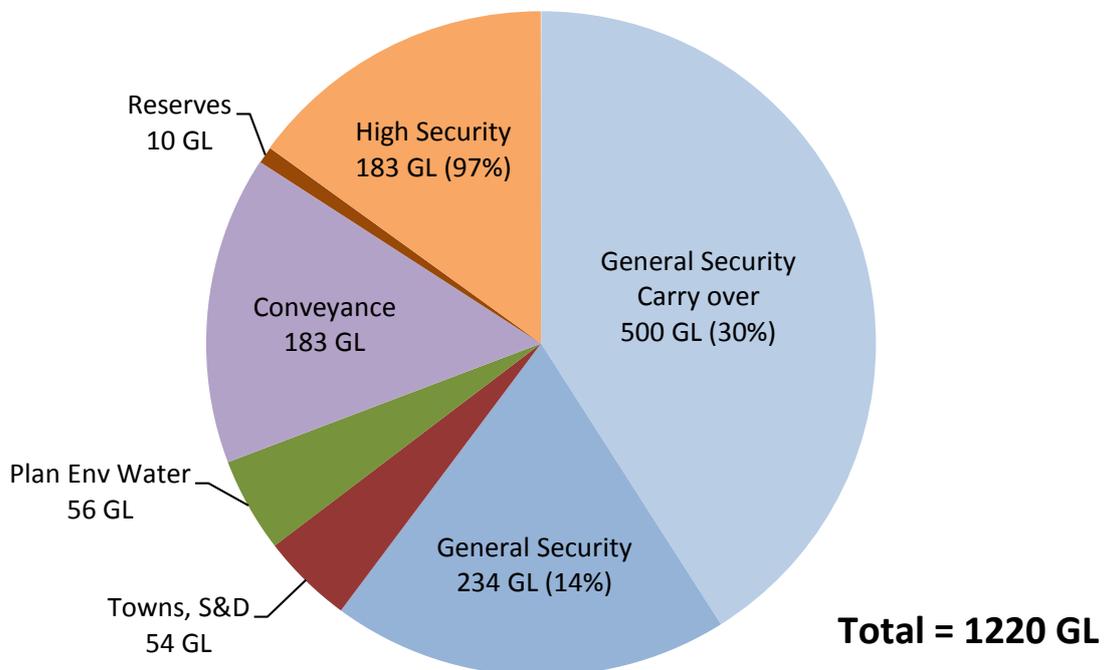
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 16 November) for 2015-16</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	1220
<b>less</b>	
Carryover	500
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(1)</sup>	56
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(2)</sup>	10
Conveyance <sup>(3)</sup>	183
Announced High Security	183 (97%)
Announced General Security	234 (14%)

*\*See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution 2015-16  
NSW Murray - 16 November 2015**



**Notes:**

- (1) Primarily rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. In the Murray this includes Adaptive Environmental Allowance (AEA), the Barmah Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (which is currently 100 per cent borrowed) and Wakool system requirements. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (2) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans; used for emergency purposes and critical needs.
- (3) 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 current high and general security allocations.

**NSW Murray Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year**

Item	Mid Nov 2014 (GL)	Mid Nov 2015 (GL)	Comments
NSW share of total resources	1,980	1,220	<b>Inflows in October were extremely dry (95%AEP)</b>
less			
Carryover	498	500	similar carryover
Environmental	238	56	(borrowed B-M water)
Towns, Stock, Domestic	59	54	similar to last year
Conveyance	223	183	82% of last year's
High Security	183	183	same
Critical Human Need (CHN) reserve*	29	10	will need to increase soon
General Security	750 (45%)	234 (14%)	less GS allocation this year

\* CHN reserve target is 61 GL.