

3 October 2017

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

There is **no increase** in Murrumbidgee general security allocations at this time. They remain unchanged at 33 per cent of entitlement.

Rainfall has been patchy and dry weather conditions have prevailed across the upper catchments over the past two weeks. As a result, there is no improvement in water availability.

With general security allocation plus carryover having reached 60 per cent, the next available water is to 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. Subsequent available water can then be allocated to general security entitlements.

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

#### Storage levels (as at 28 September)

- Blowering Dam is 78 per cent full – falling – holding 1,285,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 62 per cent full – steady – holding 635,000 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

All Murrumbidgee Valley trade is open. 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 closure triggers.

#### Next announcement

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley 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.

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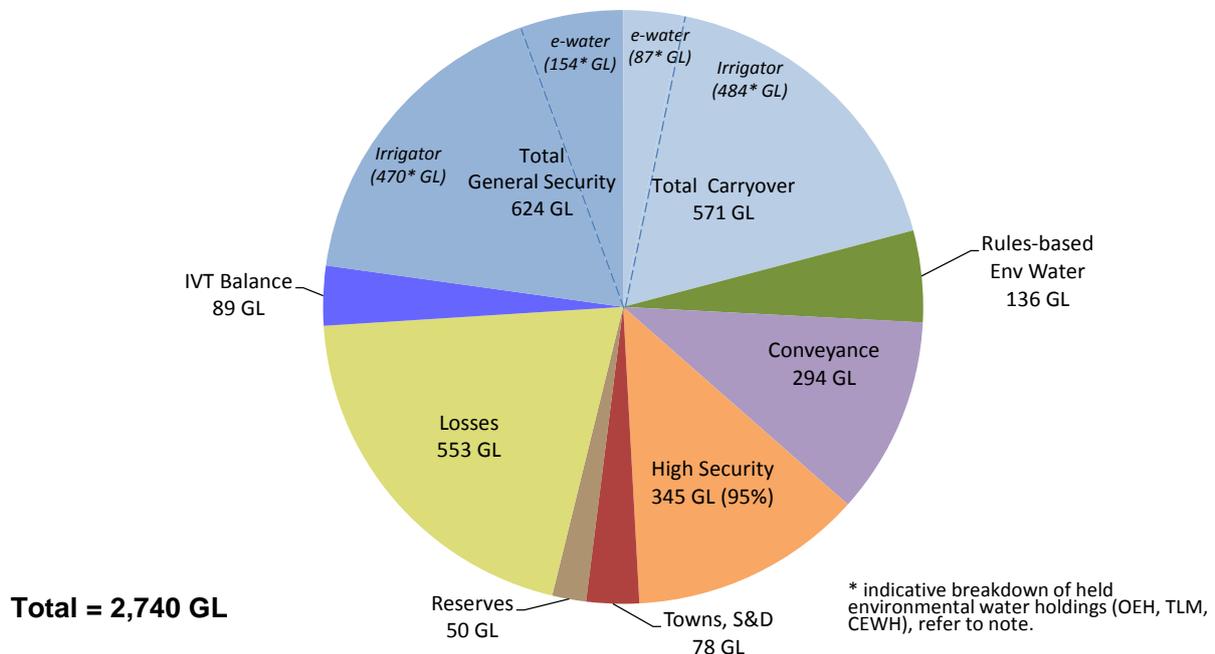
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

### Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (3 October) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,740
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) <sup>(2)</sup>	571
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	136
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(4)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(5)</sup>	294
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(6)</sup>	553
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	89
Late Season Discount <sup>(7)</sup>	0
Announced General Security	624 (33%)

\*See notes below.

### Resource Distribution 2017-18 Murrumbidgee Valley - 3 October 2017



#### Notes

- 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 475 GL from 1 May 2017 to 26 September 2017.

- 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 120 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.
- 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).
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 154 GL of GS, 12 GL of HS, 39 GL of conveyance allocation and 87 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). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.