

1 November 2021

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Murrumbidgee regulated river water source allocation to general security licences has increased by 37% to the maximum 100% of entitlement. In addition, high security and conveyance entitlements have also received their full (100%) allocation.

Full allocations have been achieved on the back of continuing wet conditions through 2021-22. Additional resource freed by individual accounts reaching their account limits due to carryover and without-debit take converting to debit take, as well as the spill of Murrumbidgee IVT water, also assist in reaching full allocations.

With NSW Murray reaching full allocations in October, and Murrumbidgee storages having been full and spilling, the Murrumbidgee IVT water, which is effectively Murray water held in Murrumbidgee storages, has been deemed spilled in this assessment to provide more resource for Murrumbidgee allocations and to under-pin the increase to full Murrumbidgee allocations.

Therefore, on **Monday 15 November 2021**, the NSW Murrumbidgee IVT account balance will be emptied and trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley will be opened. Customers should monitor the WaterNSW website for further information as the date approaches:

www.watarnsw.com.au/customer-service/ordering-trading-and-pricing/trading/murrumbidgee

Wet conditions have kept storages full, prompting ongoing airspace releases and supplementary access across the regulated valley. Water users can monitor supplementary access information at WaterInsights: waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/

As inflows recede and system demands increase, it is expected supplementary access will cease and regulated flow conditions will resume.

As general security licence holders have received their full allocation, they can no longer use the without-debit (uncontrolled flow) provisions of their entitlements. In addition, with full allocations, all general security without-debit take has been converted to debit take and deducted from accounts.

Further resource improvements over the remainder of this water year will be used to assure high priority needs for 2022-23 and assist with an opening allocation to general security entitlements.

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	100%	100%*	22%*

*Availability of allocation on individual licences is subject to account limits given in the water sharing plan. General security account limit is 100% (excluding trade). Carryover plus allocations received in 2021/22 cannot exceed this limit.

Storage levels (as at 29 October 2021)

- Blowering Dam is 97% full – falling – holding about 1,590,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 98% full – rising – holding about 1,010,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2021 to January 2022 indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be near average, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau has raised the status for La Niña to ALERT. The now weak negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is on the threshold of returning to neutral by late spring. A negative IOD increases the chances of above-average spring rainfall for much of southern and eastern Australia.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Trade

The normal operating range for the Murrumbidgee IVT account is between 0 GL and 100 GL. Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee is currently **closed**, while trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open** (as of 29 October 2021). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (www.watarnsw.com.au) for daily information about the IVT account balance, the status of trade and other information. The IVT account balance at the end of the previous water year has carried forward into this water year.

This trade status will change on 15 November 2021 with the spill of the NSW IVT balance. Water users are advised to monitor the website for information as the date approaches.

Next announcement

With all entitlements in the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source now having reached their full allocation, publication of regular statements will cease.

From **Tuesday 15 March 2022**, monthly statements will commence to communicate the potential water availability on 1 July 2022 for the 2022-23 water year. This should help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (1 November) for 2021-22	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,437
<i>less</i>	
Carryover ⁽⁸⁾	415
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	181
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves ⁽³⁾	250
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	373
Announced High Security (100%)	367
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	297
Murrumbidgee IVT account ⁽⁶⁾	0

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

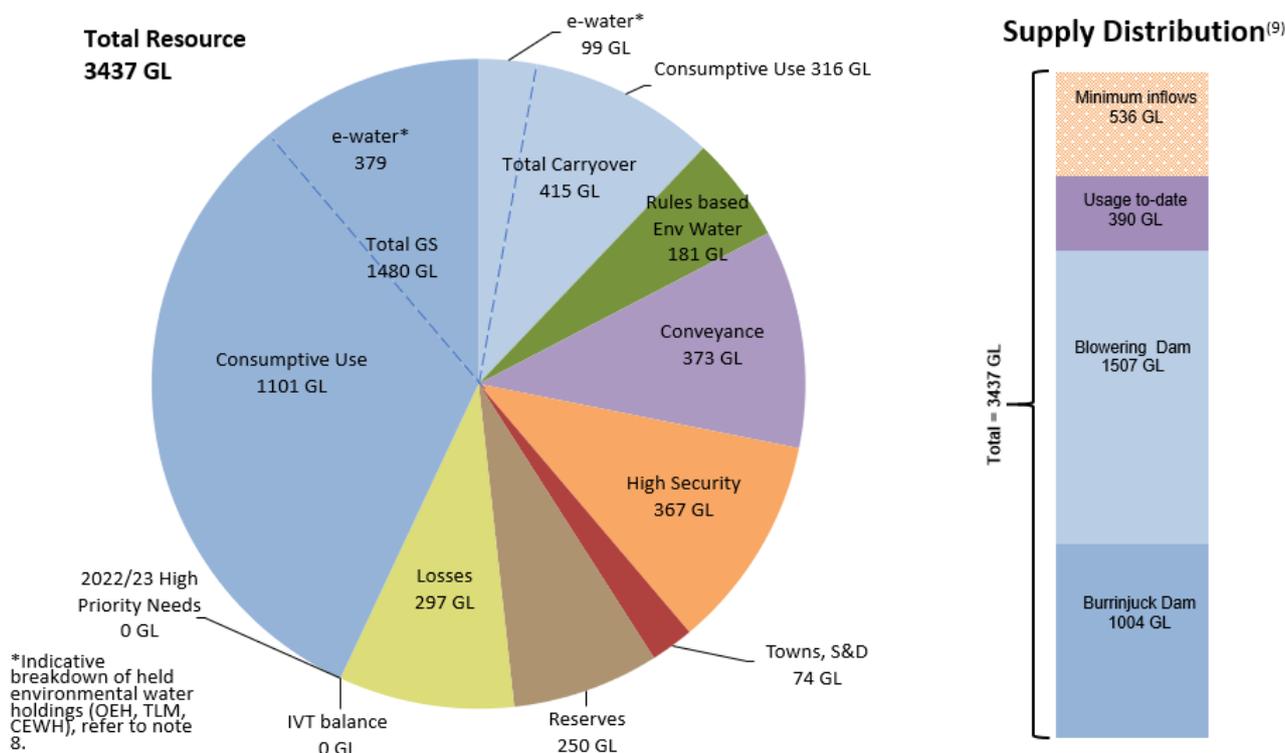


Announced General Security (100%) ⁽⁸⁾ 1,480

Year 2 (2022-23) high priority needs ⁽⁷⁾ 0

*See notes below

Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2021/22 – 1 November 2021



Data sheet notes

- 1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the day of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus minimum inflows for rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro’s assured Required Annual Release (RAR) (including any flex (pre-release) from the prior year), as well as estimated usage to date. Snowy Hydro’s net Jounama Release for this year (2021-22) is estimated to be about 469 GL (includes montane release).
- 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 = 53 GL, EWA2 = 42 GL, EWA3 = 0 GL). Excludes ‘licence-based’ environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as 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 as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = 200 GL, PSV2 = nil).
- 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. Conveyance licences in the Murrumbidgee valley can also carryover 30% of their entitlement.
- 5) Losses – 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 updated monthly.
- 6) IVT account carryover value into 2021-22. Does not reflect the current IVT balance. Balance of 0 GL anticipates spill of IVT account balance on 15 November 2021. A small residual volume of Vic trade water may be retained after the NSW spill.
- 7) 2022-2023 high priority needs on 1 July 2022 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2022, for ‘Year 2’, including potential carryover.
- 8) Held environmental water (HEW) – licenced water administered by environmental water holders is reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation and carryover also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 379 GL of GS, 16 GL of HS, 75 GL of conveyance allocation and 99 GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), The Living Murray (TLM) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

- 9) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply includes volumes at the time of the assessment for the following categories: active volumes in the dams, indicative usage to-date (may be estimates prior to reconciliation with hydrographic updates) and assumed minimum future inflows (includes Snowy Hydro’s guaranteed inflows for the water year, and late season inflows).

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