

1 August 2017

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is **no increase** in NSW Murray regulated river general security allocation at this time.

July has been extremely dry with Murray inflows forecast to exceed 98 in 100 years (98% Annual Exceedance Probability).

This assessment is based on an updated carryover volume of 41 per cent of entitlement, meaning that overall general security water availability is 54 per cent of entitlement. Of note, about 60 per cent of licence holders carried over the maximum 50 per cent entitlement.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	13%	41%
Lower Darling	100%	100%	n/a

Upper Murray storage levels (as at 31 July 2017)

- Dartmouth Dam is 79 per cent full – steady – holding 3,034,000 megalitres (ML).
- Hume Dam is 76 per cent full – rising – holding 2,282,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates that below average rainfall conditions over much of the Murray Valley are likely to continue from August to October, particularly in August. It is also highly likely that above average temperatures will continue over the coming three months, with greater than 80 per cent chance of warmer than average days and nights.

Both of Australia's major climate drivers at this time of year, the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), continue to remain neutral.

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 protects existing downstream entitlement holders from the risk of delivery shortfall caused by the limited physical capacity of the Barmah choke.

Water users are encouraged to monitor the MDBA website at - <http://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.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Trade **into** (and within) the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, and trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley opened on Friday, 28 July 2017. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.watersw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and closure triggers.

Next announcements

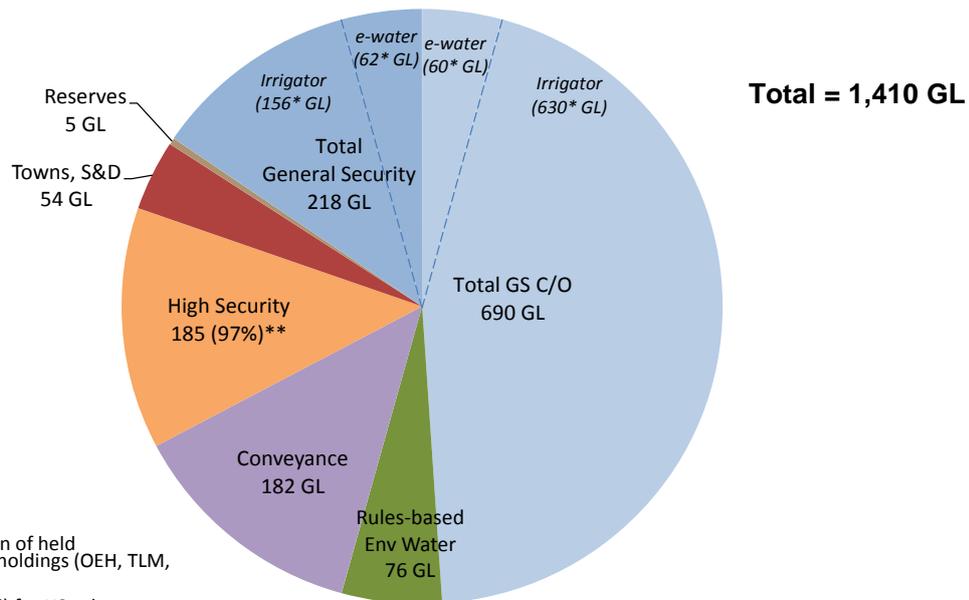
The next allocation update for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling valleys will be on **Tuesday 15 August 2017**, and will contain an updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 August) for 2017-18	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,410
less	
Carryover ^{(2), (7)}	690
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	76
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	54 (100%)
Announced High Security subcategory (education, research) ⁽⁴⁾	1 (100%)
Announced High Security ⁽⁴⁾	184 (97%)
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	182
Reserves ⁽⁶⁾	5
Announced General Security ⁽⁷⁾	218 (13%)

*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2017-18
NSW Murray - 1 Aug 2017**



* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, TLM, CEWH), refer to note.

** includes 1GL (100%) for HS subcategory (community & education, research).

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.
- (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. This carryover value remains an estimate until finalised by WaterNSW in late July.
- (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 Additional Environmental Allowance (AEA) (about 6 GL), Wakool system requirements (up to 70 GL), and the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (which is currently 100 per cent borrowed). 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), and estimated to be 62 GL of GS, 24 GL of HS, 23 GL of conveyance allocation and a provisional value of 60 GL of GS (excludes Snowy Savings Initiative entitlements, 16GL of which was inadvertently included in the last assessment). 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 holdings.