

15 July 2020

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

Allocations to **general security have increased by 4 per cent** in the Murrumbidgee regulated valley. Cumulative allocations for 2020-21 to general security now total 14 per cent of entitlement.

Wetter conditions over the past few months have improved the catchment's response to rainfall and is resulting in higher than minimum inflows and increasing available resource. The Murrumbidgee resource has improved by about 100,000 megalitres (ML) since the opening 1 July 2020 assessment. The improvement has been allocated to general security entitlements, with a commensurate increase in the Conveyance entitlement as per the Water Sharing Plan.

As the year progresses, inflows will be allocated to general security and used to ensure high priority needs for 2021-22 can be met on 1 July 2021.

Improved rainfall conditions have facilitated supplementary access in the valley. Announcements and details, including timings and reaches where access is permitted, can be found on the WaterNSW website, <https://www.waternsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/supplementary>.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover	Drought Stage
Murrumbidgee	95%	14%	18%	 Stage 1

### Drought stage

The **Murrumbidgee Valley** regulated river water source is in Stage 1 drought criticality, meaning all allocated water can be delivered under normal regulated river operations. Despite promising signs and improving water availability, the drought is not far behind. Therefore the resource situation continues to be monitored closely to ensure that high priority needs remain secure.

Further information on critical valleys in drought can be found at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought)

### Storage levels (as at 14 July 2020)

- Blowering Dam is 59 per cent full – rising – holding 975,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 44 per cent full – rising – holding 455,000 ML.

### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be wetter than average across the catchment, while temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau indicates that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are neutral. The Bureau has issued a La Niña WATCH alert, with models indicating that La

Niña conditions may develop over spring. There is also a possibility of negative IOD conditions developing over spring. La Niña and negative IOD conditions typically increase the probability of above average rainfall during spring.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

### Trade

Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley is **closed** (as of 14 July 2020) with an IVT balance of 99.9 GL. Trade **into** the Murrumbidgee valley is **open**. Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for daily information about the IVT account balance and the status of trade.

### Next announcement

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Monday 3 August 2020**. It will be short statement, updating any improvements in resource and allocations.

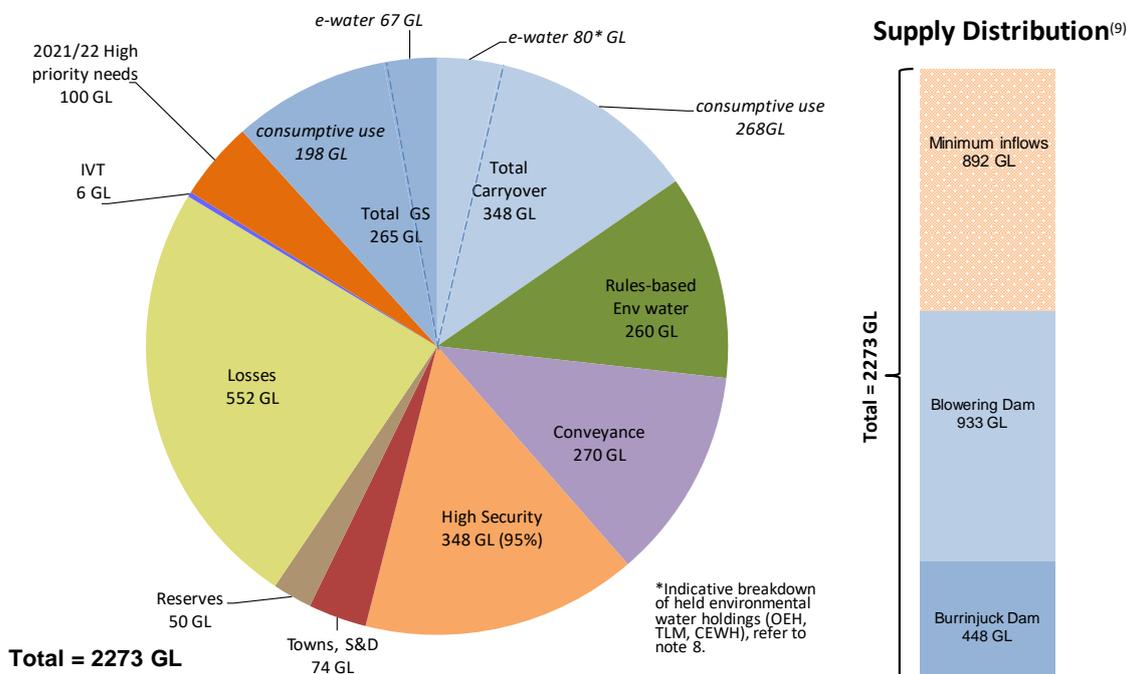
The next comprehensive statement, including the likely improvement in general security allocations under various inflow scenarios, will be published on Monday 17 August 2020.

### Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (15 July) for 2020-21	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,273
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) <sup>(8)</sup>	348
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	260
Towns, Stock, Domestic	74 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	270
Announced High Security	348 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	552
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover as of 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup>	6
Announced General Security <sup>(8)</sup>	265 (14%)
Year 2 (2021-22) high priority needs <sup>(7)</sup>	100

\*See notes below.

### Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2020-21 – 15 July 2020



#### 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 (2020-21) is estimated to be about 619 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 210 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 0 GL, EWA2 = 50 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 25GL per dam as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = nil, 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 2020-21. Does not reflect the current IVT balance.
- 7) 2021-2022 high priority needs on 1 July 2021 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2021, 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 67 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 50 GL of conveyance allocation and 80 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). Details on e-water 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).

## Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		Mid Jul 2019 (GL)	Mid Jul 2020 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	315	448	
	Blowering	734	933	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1049</b>	<b>1381</b>	Improved conditions in 2020
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operations)		507	552	Similar
1 July IVT carryover balance		24	6	Similar
GS Available		0%	14%	Higher water availability in 2020
Average GS Carryover		8%	18%	Higher water availability in 2020

### Chances of improvement

The chances of improved general security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the following table under a variety of conditions. The forecast is based on all available historical data, which is appropriate given the seasonal outlook, and gives a better outlook than using just the driest years on record (dry tercile).

It is important to note that these estimates are indicative improvements only and are not guaranteed allocations. Estimates may change based on weather conditions, water management decisions and river operations. This means water users should use this information with caution and at their own risk, as it projects many months ahead.

### Forecast General Security allocations (per cent)

(Any carryover water can be added to these indicative allocations)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Sept 2020	1 Nov 2020
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	14	14
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	16	22
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	20	32
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	24	45

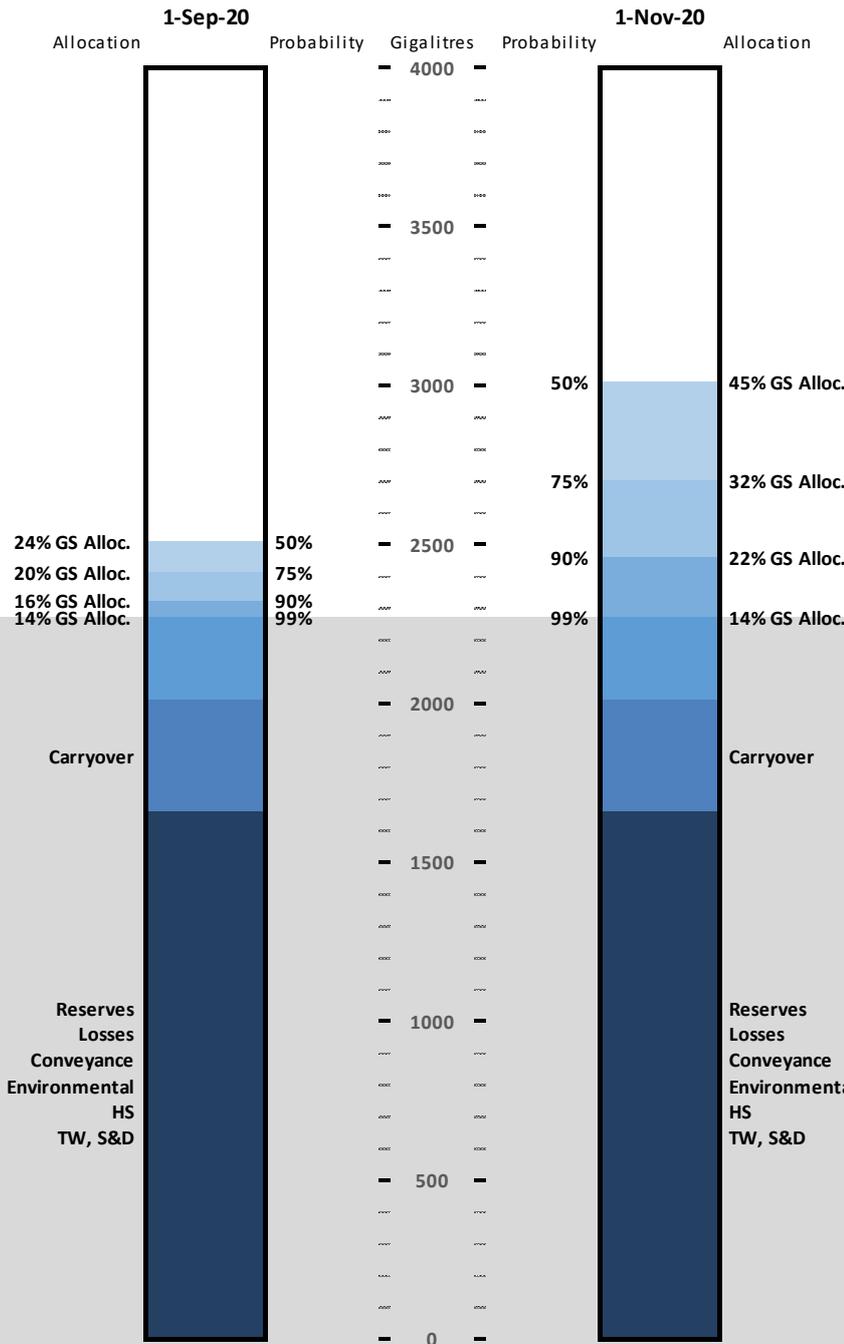
Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.

Note 3: Forecast assumes 18 per cent general security carryover.

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## Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

as at 15 July 2020



This figure provides indicative improvements in general security allocations for two forecast snapshots, 1 September 2020 and 1 November 2020. The allocation improvements are indicative only, and do not constitute guaranteed allocations. As of 15 July 2020, General Security allocation is at 14 per cent, and under 99% inflow conditions, will remain the same for the rest of the water year.