

1 August 2017

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

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

Given the dry conditions experienced in June and July, combined with storage inflows tracking close to historical minimums, there is no improvement to resources. Caution has been applied to the operational loss allowance to ensure irrigation supplies can be delivered in full despite the dry seasonal outlook.

This assessment is based on an updated carryover volume of 27 per cent of entitlement, meaning that overall general security water availability is 47 per cent of entitlement. Interestingly, about 90 per cent of general security licence holders carried over the maximum 30 per cent of entitlement.

The NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) commenced an in-stream environmental watering action from Murrumbidgee storages on 24 July 2017 aimed at improving condition of the mid-Murrumbidgee wetlands and stimulating native fish migration. This watering is scheduled to continue until mid-August 2017.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	20%	27%

#### Storage levels (as at 31 July)

- Blowering Dam is 78 per cent full – falling – holding 1,283,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 56 per cent full – falling – holding 579,000 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook indicates that below average rainfall conditions over much of the Murrumbidgee 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

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.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and closure triggers.

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

**Next announcements**

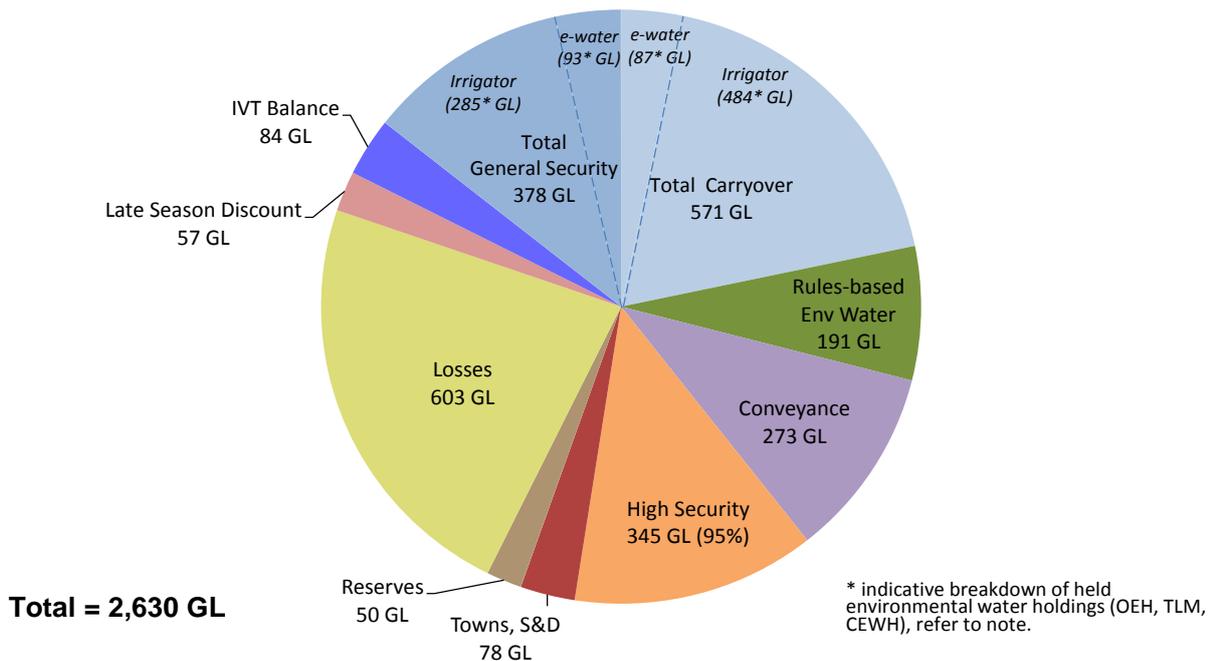
The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be on **Tuesday 15 August 2017**, and will contain an updated probability analysis showing likely improvement in water availability under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram.

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

Resource Distribution (as at 1 August) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,630
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance) <sup>(7)</sup>	571
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	191
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	50
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	273
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	603
Murrumbidgee IVT balance	84
Late Season Discount <sup>(6)</sup>	57
Announced General Security <sup>(7)</sup>	378 (20%)

\*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2017-18  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 August 2017**



## Notes

- (1) 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 Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR) plus estimated usage to date.
- (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 191 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.
- (3) 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).
- (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. (This category of licence in the Murrumbidgee valley, like general security, can carry over up to 30% of entitlement).
- (5) 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.
- (6) 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.
- (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 HEW is limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage), and estimated to be 93 GL of GS, 12 GL of HS, 35 GL of conveyance allocation and a provisional value of 87 GL of GS carryover. These 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.