



17 October 2016

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is sufficient improvement in water availability **to increase allocation to Murrumbidgee general security entitlements by 10 per cent to 71 per cent.**

Now that general security allocation has increased beyond 70 per cent, carryover in accounts will start to boost allocations because individual account limits, 100 per cent entitlement in the Murrumbidgee, are being reached. In other words, those with maximum carryover (30 per cent) cannot benefit from further allocation improvement and their forfeited water is allocated to others.

Rainfall in the past fortnight has continued to produce abundant inflows into storage with the dams effectively full and water usage is minimal.

Supplementary access has been continuous since the start of the water year. It has been again extended in downstream reaches until the end of October.

The flood peak has passed Darlington Point, but flood warnings are still in place at various locations on the Murrumbidgee River. Details can be found on the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) website - www.bom.gov.au/nsw/warnings.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	71%	19%

Storage levels (as at 13 October)

- Blowering Dam is 100 per cent full - holding 1,628,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 93 per cent full - steady - holding 957,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

September was the wettest on record for large portions of inland NSW, as well as the Murray-Darling Basin. Regular rainfall has also continued into October. The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook indicates that wet conditions in the Murrumbidgee catchment are highly likely over the next three months, particularly in October. Cooler days and nights are also likely.

Major drivers of the current outlook include a negative Indian Ocean Dipole, combined with a La Niña-like pattern of warm seas around northern Australia.

Trade

Trade **into** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, but trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and status of trade.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Next announcements

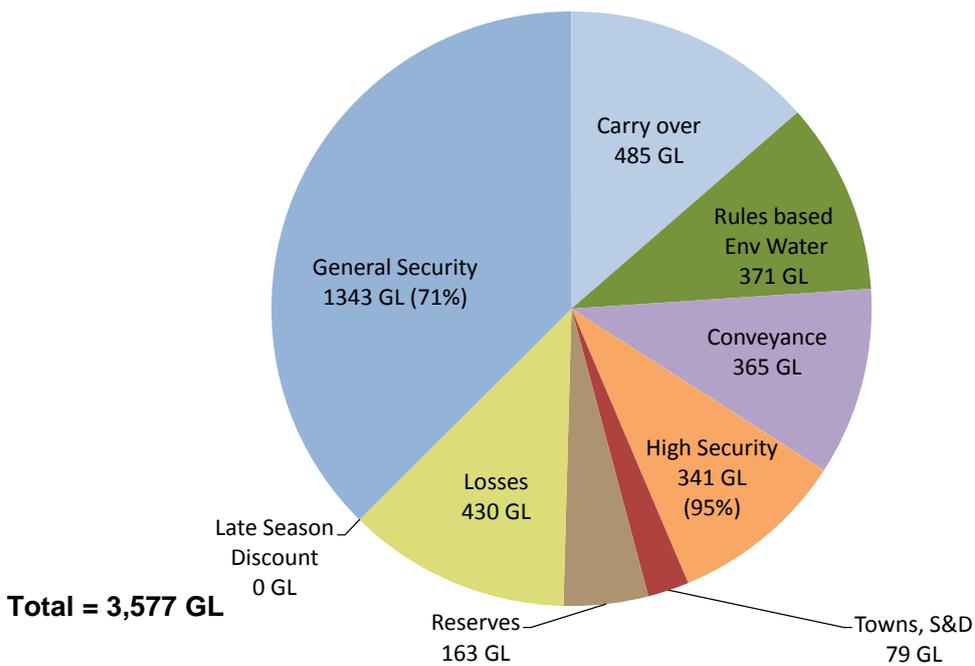
The next resource assessment and allocation update will be on **Tuesday 1 November 2016**. Additional detailed information will be issued on Tuesday 15 November 2016 following the mid-month assessment.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 17 October) for 2016-17	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,577
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover) ⁽²⁾	485
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	371
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽⁴⁾	163
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	365
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	1,343 (71%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁶⁾	430
Late Season Discount ⁽⁷⁾	0

**See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution 2016-17
Murrumbidgee Valley - 17 October 2016**



Notes

- (1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the time of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus assumed drought inflows for rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR) plus usage to date.
- (2) Carryover – Murrumbidgee general security water users can carryover a maximum of 30 per cent of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 100 per cent of entitlement, which can consist of both allocation and carryover. This means that those with maximum carryover have now forfeited 1 per cent of improvement, and this has been assigned to others. From now on allocations will be boosted because carryover water will increasingly cause the forfeiture of water from full accounts and those with little or no carryover will be the beneficiaries of the forfeited water.
- (3) Rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements (currently 100 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. Environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3) currently total 271 GL.
- (4) Reserves – required under water sharing plans. Includes 50 GL operational reserve (25 GL in each dam) plus Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2). The PSV1 has a balance of 113 GL being 25 GL plus 8.75GL for each 1% increase in allocation when allocation plus carryover exceeds 80%.
- (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 high and general security allocations. (This category of licence in the Murrumbidgee valley, like general security, can carry over up to 30% of entitlement).
- (6) 'Losses' – is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet demands for the remainder of the year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly updated as the year unfolds.
- (7) Late Season Discount – is the estimated inflow volume that will arrive into storage after the peak irrigation demand (usually post-February). This Late Season Discount cannot be sustainably 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 has arrived in storage.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		Mid Oct 2015 (GL)	Mid Oct 2016 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	730	957	Substantial Inflows this year
	Blowering	791	1,628	High natural inflows this year
	Total	1,521	2,585	Higher storage levels this year
Transmission Losses**		408	318	Reduced losses for 2016
1 July IVT carryover balance		11	100	Current IVT balance 100 GL
Late Season Inflows		150	0	No storage imbalance forecast
GS Available		29%	71%	Above average rainfall
Average GS Carry Over		23%	19%	Similar

** Includes assumed loss from downstream of storages along the entire river length

Chances of improvement

It is reasonable to assume that full allocation is highly likely in coming months, particularly as the weather warms, paddocks dry, irrigation demand increases and recession flows are stored.