

2 August 2021

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

There is no change to Murrumbidgee regulated river water allocations. Cumulative allocations for general security in 2021-22 remains at a total 50% of entitlement.

Ongoing wet conditions are requiring airspace releases and causing unregulated conditions, resulting in supplementary access across the valley. Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/](http://waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/)) for publication of supplementary announcements.

Further improvements to resource is contingent on regulated usage creating airspace in the major storages to capture new inflows. As storages are full, current inflows cannot be captured and therefore no improvement to resource is being realised. Estimates of useable future inflows have also been adjusted down, as part of this assumed future resource has potentially already spilled.

As the year progresses, particularly as irrigation demand commences and further inflows replenish storages, the resource improvements will accrue to general security licences, while also ensuring high priority needs for 2022-23 can be met on 1 July 2022.

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	50%	22%*

\* Carryover is provided as an estimate only. Final carryover numbers will be provided once accounts have been reconciled for the 2020-21 water year. Carryover estimate has been revised down from 26% to 22% since the last assessment.

### Storage levels (as at 30 July 2021)

- Blowering Dam is 101% full – steady – holding 1,640,000 ML.
- Burrinjuck Dam is 100% full – steady – holding 1,030,000 ML.

### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is highly likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be average to warmer than average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation indicator remains inactive. Models indicate that negative Indian Ocean Dipole conditions have developed, which increases the chances of above average rainfall in winter-spring.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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 **closed**, while trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open** (as of 30 July 2021). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.watarnsw.com.au](http://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.

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Monday 16 August 2021**. It will be a comprehensive statement, including the likely improvement in general security allocations under various inflow scenarios.

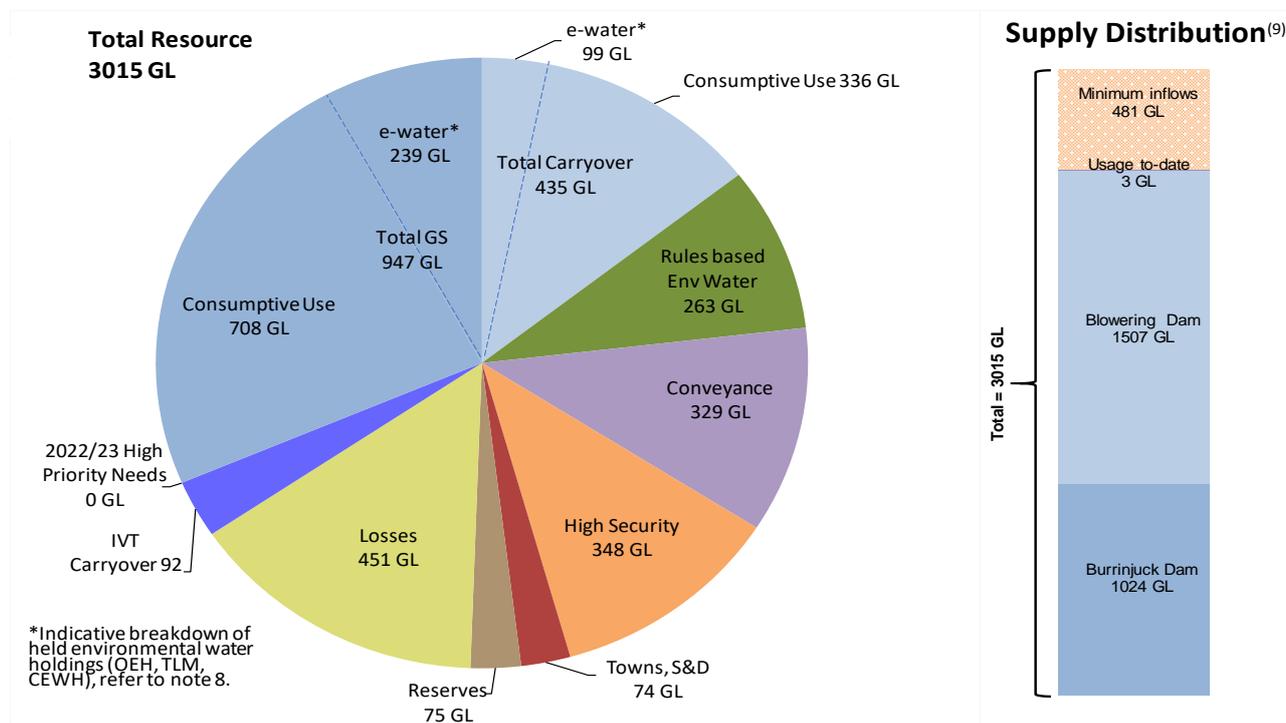
## Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (2 August) for 2021-22	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	3,015
<b>less</b>	
Carryover <sup>(8)</sup>	435 <sup>#</sup>
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	263
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	75
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	329
Announced High Security (95%)	348
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	451
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup>	92
Announced General Security (50%) <sup>(8)</sup>	947
Year 2 (2022-23) high priority needs <sup>(7)</sup>	0

\*See notes below

<sup>#</sup> Carryover is provided as an estimate only. Final carryover numbers will be provided once accounts have been reconciled for the 2020/21 water year. Carryover estimate has been revised down from 26% to 22% since the last assessment.

### Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2021-22 – 2 August 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 390 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 192 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 53 GL, EWA2 = 18 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 = 25 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.
- 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 239 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 10 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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