

2 August 2021

## NSW Murray and Lower Darling

### Water allocation update

**There is a 16% increase to general security water allocations in the NSW Murray regulated river water source.** This brings the total cumulative allocation to general security licences in the NSW Murray to 26% of entitlement for this water year. All **Lower Darling** regulated river entitlements, including general security, received their full allocation (100%) for this water year on 1 July 2021.

Ongoing wet conditions have increased the NSW Murray resources by approximately 365,000 megalitres (ML) since the last assessment. High tributary inflows are pushing Murray flows above the re-regulation capacity of Lake Victoria, thereby creating unregulated flow conditions. This has triggered a supplementary access event for NSW water users. Details of when and where supplementary access applies can be found on the WaterNSW website:

[waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/](http://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/)

The Barmah Millewa Environmental Water Allowance (BMEWA) has been fully borrowed as of 1 July 2021. Repayment of the borrowed water will commence when general security allocation reaches 30% of entitlement, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Inflows into the Menindee Lakes system continue to accrue, with the current combined storage around 1,160,000 ML. Gauges upstream of the lakes are recording significant flows, therefore the total storage is expected to increase further in the coming weeks. The Menindee Lakes System will remain a shared resource with the Murray until it next falls below 480,000 ML, after which the system will be managed to meet Lower Darling needs only.

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	26%	43%*
Lower Darling	100%	100%#	2%*

# Availability of allocation on individual licences is subject to account limits as per the rules in the water sharing plan

\* Carryover is provided as an estimate only. Final carryover numbers will be provided once accounts have been reconciled for the 2020-21 water year. The carryover estimate has been revised up from 39% to 43% since the last assessment.

### Murray storage levels (as at 30 July 2021)\*

- Dartmouth Dam is 70% full – rising – holding 2,685,000 ML.
- Hume Dam is 81% full – rising – holding 2,420,000 ML.
- Lake Victoria is 79% full – rising – holding 535,000 ML.

\* The NSW share of this water is approximately 34%, 49% and 33% for these storages respectively, or 39% in total (averaged across resource in all three storages).

### State sharing of the Murray resource

The bulk accounts assessment indicates that 6,710 gigalitres (GL) of total shared Murray resource is available in the extreme dry (99<sup>th</sup> percentile) case, of which about 2,670 GL is needed to run the

system (incorporating South Australia's 'operational' [dilution and loss] entitlement and any shared resource which cannot be regulated). The NSW share of the regulated resource is 1,820 GL, based on rules in the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. Following adjustments, including South Australia's non-dilution entitlement, trade, tributary inflows and usage to date, the assessment results in a volume of **Murray resource for NSW to allocate of 1,710 GL**.

## 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

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to '**no net trade downstream**'. Downstream trade opens to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade. Water users are advised to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website ([www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)) for information about the trade balance and status of trade across the Barmah choke.

Temporary trade between the Lower Darling and the Murray is now open and will likely remain open until the system next falls below 480 GL. Trade within the Lower Darling regulated river water source remains open.

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.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.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.

## NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (2 August) for 2021-22	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	1,710
<b>less</b>	
Carryover <sup>(2), (8)</sup>	720 <sup>#</sup>
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	31
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	62 (100%)

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

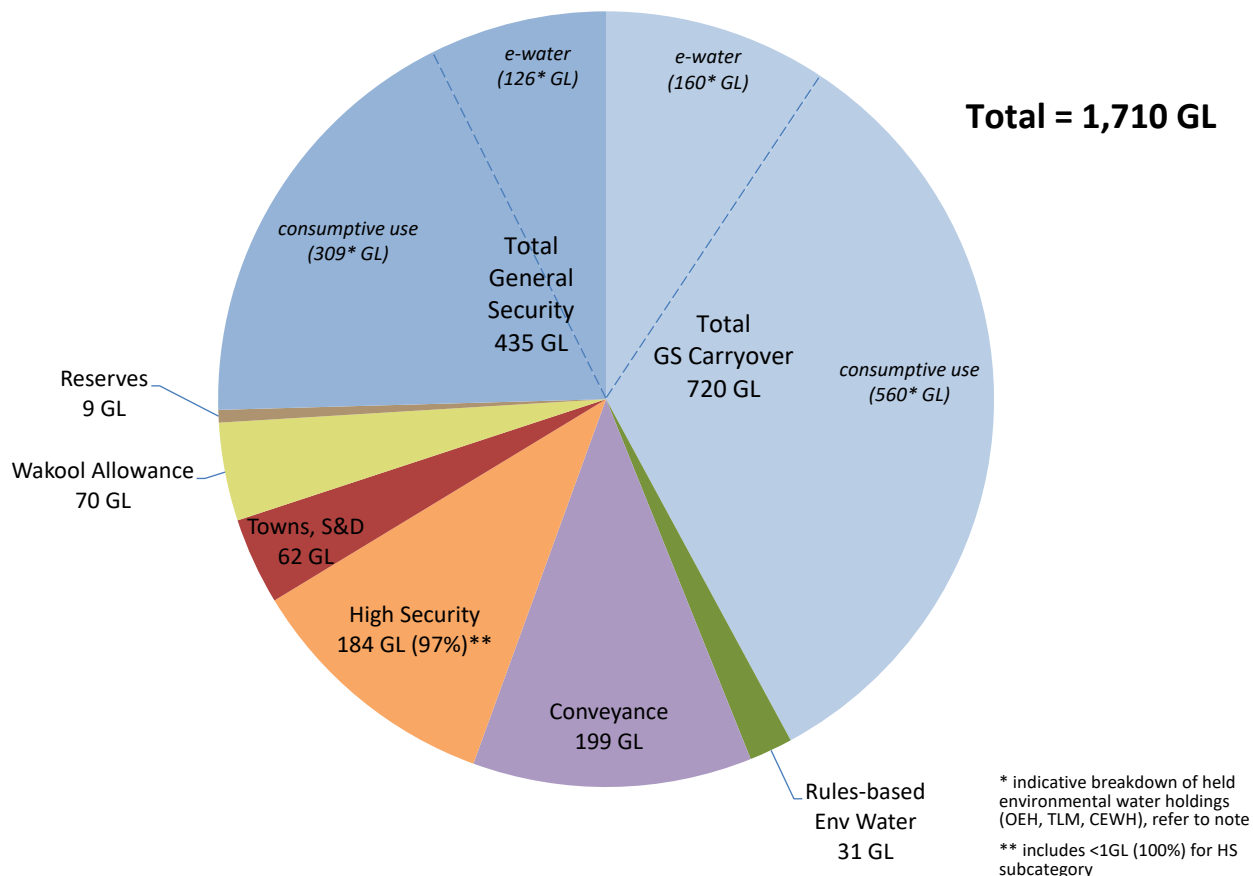


Announced High Security subcategory <sup>(4)</sup>	<1 (100%)
Announced High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	184 (97%)
Conveyance <sup>(5)</sup>	199 (60%)
Wakool Allowance <sup>(6)</sup>	70
Reserves <sup>(7)</sup>	9
Announced General Security <sup>(8)</sup>	435 (26%)
Year 2 (2022-23) high priority needs <sup>(9)</sup>	0

\*See notes below

# Carryover volume estimated. Final carryover numbers will be provided once accounts are reconciled for the 2020/21 water year. Carryover estimate has been revised up from 39% to 43% since the last assessment.

## NSW Murray resource distribution 2021-22 – 2 August 2021



### Data sheet 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 (99%ile) inflows for the 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 M1 releases to date for this water year (2021-22) is estimated to be about 360 GL. NSW is in Special Accounting with South Australia (SA) as of 1 August 2021. The details of Special Accounting can be found in the MDB Agreement clauses 123-129. Special Accounting is triggered when forecasts indicate that NSW will have an end of year reserve of less than 1,250 GL.

- (2) Carryover – NSW Murray General Security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50% of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 110% of entitlement, meaning that account credits from allocation and/or carryover cannot exceed 110% of entitlement in any water year. The limit does not include allocation trade.
- (3) Primarily rules-based planned environmental water (PEW) – water required to be set aside to provide for riverine environments, as per the Water Sharing Plan and other inter-jurisdictional agreements. In the NSW Murray this includes the Murray Additional Allowance (MAA) (about 6GL) and the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (0 GL – will remain fully borrowed until GS allocations reach 30%, borrowed balance is 350 GL). It also includes River Murray Increased Flows (RMIF) in Hume, accrued as part of the Snowy Water Initiative (currently 25 GL). The total commitments to B-MA and RMIF will decrease over the water year as they are released from Hume for use. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water, 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 licences 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) Wakool Allowance – a conveyance volume necessary for NSW to operate the Edward-Wakool system. Typically up to 70 GL.
- (7) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, up to 61GL; set aside for critical human needs in accordance with Clause 11.03 of the Basin Plan.
- (8) Held environmental water (HEW) – 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 limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage or trade), and estimated to be 126 GL of GS, 24 GL of HS, 30 GL of conveyance allocation and 160 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) 2022-2023 high priority needs on 1 July 2022 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2022, for 'Year 2'.

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