

15 January 2021

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

Murrumbidgee regulated river water source allocation to **general security licences has increased by 23%**. This brings the total allocation to general security this water year to 100% of entitlement, meaning general security allocations are now at their maximum as per the water sharing plan. A commensurate **increase to high security entitlements of 5%** has also been made, bringing the total allocation to high security entitlements to 100% for this water year.

Inflows and reduced losses have resulted in a moderate improvement in the Murrumbidgee regulated valley. The improvement has been allocated to general security entitlements, with a commensurate increase to high security and Conveyance entitlements, in accordance with the water sharing plan. Conveyance entitlements have now also achieved full allocations.

Water users should note that the general security account limit is 100% of entitlement. Due to carryover, full allocations to general security have been achieved from the current moderate resource improvement due to the spilling of water user accounts who have hit their account limit.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover	Drought Stage
Murrumbidgee	100%	100%	18%*	 Stage 1

\*General security account limit is 100% of entitlement, therefore, carryover plus new allocations in 2020/21 will be limited to 100% of entitlement. Water users who carried over water into 2020/21 will forego allocation improvement to the extent of the carryover volume.

### Drought stage

The Murrumbidgee regulated river water source is in Stage 1 drought criticality, meaning all allocated water can be delivered under normal regulated river operations. The resource situation continues to be monitored closely to ensure that future 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 January 2021)

- Blowering Dam is 78% full – falling – holding 1,275,000 ML.
- Burrinjuck Dam is 78% full – falling – holding 805,000 ML.

### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that rainfall is likely to be near or above average. While forecast rainfall may be near average or higher, as the forecast period is historically a dry period, average rainfall will likely not yield the same runoff as average rainfall during the wet season (winter/spring). Daytime temperatures are likely to be near average, while overnight temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau has declared La Niña conditions, with models indicating that the current La Niña event has likely reached its peak and a return to neutral conditions anticipated during autumn. As the La

Niña event continues, it will continue to influence rainfall drivers and favour the probability of above average rainfall.

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 Valley is **closed** (as at 14 January 2021) with the IVT balance at its upper limit. Trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open**. Water users should check the WaterNSW website ([www.watarnsw.com.au](http://www.watarnsw.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 15 March 2021**. As allocations for 2020/21 have reached their maximum limit, no further allocation announcement for this water year will be made.

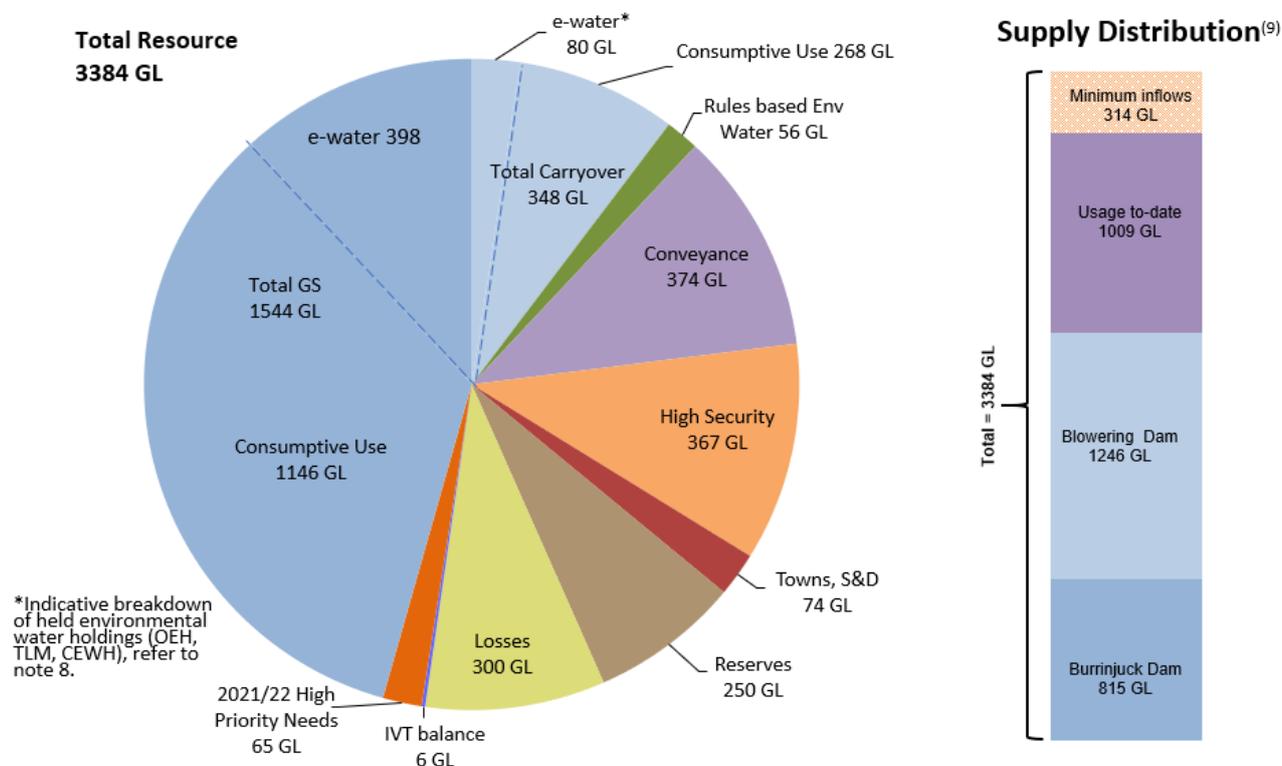
From March 2021, the mid-monthly statements will communicate the potential water availability on 1 July 2021 for the 2021-22 water year. It will be updated monthly. This should help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

## Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (15 January) for 2020-21	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	3,384
<b>less</b>	
Carryover <sup>(8)</sup>	348
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	56
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	250
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	374
Announced High Security (100%)	367
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	300
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup>	6
Announced General Security (100%) <sup>(8)</sup>	1,544
Year 2 (2021-22) high priority needs <sup>(7)</sup>	65

\*See notes below

### Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2020-21 – 15 January 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 releases to date for this water year (2020-21) is estimated to be about 605 GL (includes montane releases).
- 2) 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 50 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 6 GL, EWA2 = 0 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 = 200 GL, PSV2 = 1GL).
- 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. Current carryover on conveyance entitlements in the valley is about 5 GL.
- 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. Any late season inflows are also included in this volume.
- 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 398 GL of GS, 16 GL of HS, 75 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 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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