

1 August 2022

# Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is no increase to general security allocation in the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source at this time. General security allocation remains at 38%. With average carryover of approximately 28%, total general security water availability is around 66%.

Due to on-going wet conditions, unregulated flows have continued into this water year along with corresponding periods of supplementary access. Subject to their licence conditions and approved periods of access, water users can take supplementary water and use uncontrolled flow provisions. Supplementary access details can be found at: [waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au](http://waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au)

The assessment considers the storages effectively full, meaning airspace is not available to capture new resources, preventing resource and allocation improvements despite substantial inflows. Further resource improvement for allocations will primarily be driven by regulated usage creating airspace in storages along with higher than minimum inflows being captured.

Information on the Murrumbidgee Intervalley Trade (IVT) **balance spill** (scheduled for 31 August 2022) is provided below in this statement.

| 2022/23      | High Security | General Security | Average Carryover |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Murrumbidgee | 95%           | 38%              | 28%^              |

<sup>^</sup> Carryover is subject to minor adjustments as accounts are finalised for the 2021/22 water year.

## Storage levels (as at 1 August 2022)

- Blowering Dam is 92% full – falling – holding about 1,500,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 90% full – rising – holding about 930,000 ML.

## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Day time temperatures are likely to be below average for majority of the catchment, while overnight temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau’s El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook is on La Niña WATCH, meaning there is an elevated chance of it developing later in the year. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index is near the negative IOD threshold, with models indicating that negative IOD conditions may develop in the coming weeks. A negative IOD increases the chances of above average winter–spring rainfall for much of Australia.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

## Trade

Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee is **closed**, while trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open** (as of 1 August 2022). 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. The normal operating range for the Murrumbidgee IVT account is between 0 GL and 100 GL.

## Uncontrolled Flow (without debit take)

The water sharing plan permits general security water users to take water from uncontrolled flows (i.e. unregulated flows) without debit of their account water. This is permitted during periods of announced supplementary access. Supplementary access details can be found at: [waterinsights.waternsw.com.au](http://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au)

Without debit take from uncontrolled flows by individual general security entitlements is subject to the following rules:

- Without debit take from uncontrolled flows (i.e. during periods of unregulated flows when supplementary access is permitted) is allowed when effective available water for the current water year is less than or equal to 70% of entitlement (i.e. 0.7 megalitres per unit share component). Exercising of without debit take provisions is subject to the licence conditions of the respective individual entitlement/licence.
- Effective available water for an individual general security entitlement is defined as;
  - just the general security allocation for the current year if the carryover is less than 15% of entitlement for the relevant licence, or
  - general security allocation plus carryover minus 15% when carryover is greater than 15% of entitlement for the relevant licence.
- Effective available water in the current year plus without debit take from uncontrolled flows cannot exceed 85% of an individual entitlement's share components (i.e. 0.85 megalitre per unit share component). Should these respective values sum to greater than 85% (for example, due to allocations increasing), then without debit take volumes will be converted to debit take, to the extent necessary to bring the sum down to 85%. That is, the account will reflect new allocation as already having been used.
- When effective available water in the current year is 85% (i.e. 0.85 megalitre per unit share) or greater for an individual entitlement, it cannot take water without debit from uncontrolled flows. Any take from uncontrolled flows will be with debit to the water account.

Water users should refer to the licence conditions of their individual licences for further details of rules applicable to their entitlements.

## IVT in 2022/23

When water physically spills from Murrumbidgee storages (including pre-releases for airspace operations), a decision must be made to spill or retain any IVT balance. The NSW Murray total general security water availability is currently 97% (comprised of 51% allocation and 46% carryover), which is significantly higher than the Murrumbidgee total general security water

availability of 66% (comprised of 38% allocation and 28% carryover). **Therefore, a decision has been made to spill the IVT balance to help boost Murrumbidgee allocations.**

**The full volume of the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance will be spilt on 31 August 2022.** This removal of water from the IVT account will open trade opportunity to the Murray on the morning of 31 August 2022. Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for detailed information on trade.

Spilling of the IVT account will likely result in an allocation boost of 3-5% to Murrumbidgee general security entitlement holders, however; the exact impact on allocation improvement can only be confirmed when a resource assessment is undertaken after spilling of the IVT account.

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Monday 15 August 2022**. It will include the likely improvement in general security allocations under various inflow scenarios.

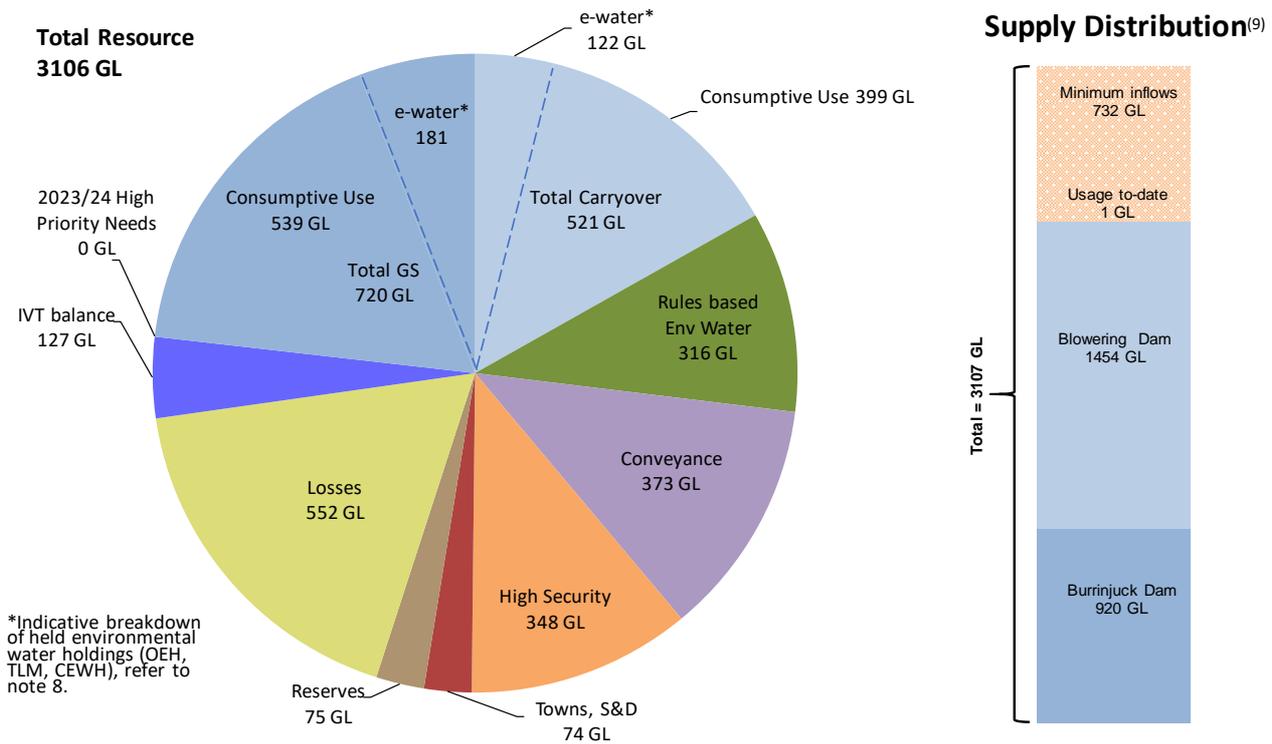
**Note: Murrumbidgee statements are now available around 2:30pm on the day of the publication.**

## Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

| Resource Distribution* (1 August) for 2022/23                  | Volume (GL) |
|--|-------------|
| Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>                        | 3,106       |
| <i>less</i>  |             |
| Carryover <sup>(8)</sup>                                       | 521         |
| Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>                 | 316         |
| Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)                                  | 74          |
| Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>  | 75          |
| Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>                                      | 373         |
| Announced High Security (95%)                                  | 348         |
| Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup> | 552         |
| Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup>  | 127         |
| Announced General Security (38%) <sup>(8)</sup>                | 720         |
| Year 2 (2023-24) high priority needs <sup>(7)</sup>            | 0           |

\*See notes below

## Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2022/23 – 1 August 2022



\*See notes below

### 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 (2022/23) is estimated to be about 465 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 194 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 100 GL, EWA2 = 22 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 2022/23. Does not necessarily reflect the current IVT balance.
- 7) 2023-2024 high priority needs on 1 July 2023 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2023, 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 181 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 59 GL of conveyance allocation and 122 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 and Environment, The Living Murray and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. 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).

## Allocations in 2022/23

| Date   | License Category                   | Increment            | Total 2022/23        |
|--------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1-Jul  | Domestic & Stock                   | 100%                 | 100%*                |
| 1-Jul  | Local Water Utility                | 100%                 | 100%*                |
| 1-Jul  | High Security (sub-categories)     | 100%                 | 100%*                |
| 1-Jul  | High Security                      | 0.95 ML/unit share   | 0.95 ML/unit share   |
| 1-Jul  | Supplementary (lowbidgee)          | 1.00 ML/unit share   | 1.00 ML/unit share*  |
| 1-Jul  | Supplementary                      | 1.00 ML/unit share   | 1.00 ML/unit share*  |
| 1-Jul  | General Security                   | 0.35 ML/unit share   | 0.35 ML/unit share   |
| 1-Jul  | Conveyance                         | 0.35 ML/unit share   | 0.35 ML/unit share   |
| 1-Jul  | Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance | 0.7654 ML/unit share | 0.7654 ML/unit share |
| 1-Jul  | Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance  | 0.8585 ML/unit share | 0.8585 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jul | General Security                   | 0.03 ML/unit share   | 0.38 ML/unit share   |
| 15-Jul | Conveyance                         | 0.03 ML/unit share   | 0.38 ML/unit share   |
| 15-Jul | Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance | 0.0204 ML/unit share | 0.7858 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jul | Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance  | 0.0175 ML/unit share | 0.8760 ML/unit share |

\*Maximum allowable

## Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Murrumbidgee regulated system is available at the following link:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

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