

1 November 2018

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

The Murrumbidgee regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at seven per cent of entitlement.**

With the dry conditions and outlook, combined with the likelihood of significant inflows continuing to reduce statistically as summer approaches, resource improvements must first be set aside to ensure high priority commitments can be met on 1 July 2019, before allocating further to general security entitlements in the current water year.

Scattered intermittent rainfall during October and lower than expected losses has resulted in a small resource improvement that has been assigned to the 2019-20 high priority commitments.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	7%	22%

Storage levels (as at 31 October 2018)

- Blowering Dam is 55 per cent full – decreasing – holding 918,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 42 per cent full – steady – holding 432,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for November to January indicates that rainfall conditions are generally likely to be drier than average in the valley over this period, with November indicating high chances of being dry, while December shows no clear indications of drier or wetter than average conditions. Above average temperatures experienced so far in 2018 are likely to continue into early 2019.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT, with El Niño likely to develop before the end of the year. Observations continue to indicate that a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is likely underway, though may dissipate through November. When combined, an El Niño and positive IOD event increase the chances of dry and warm conditions, particularly during spring.

Trade

Water allocation can currently be traded **within** and **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley, but trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website (www.watarnsw.com.au) for information about the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcement

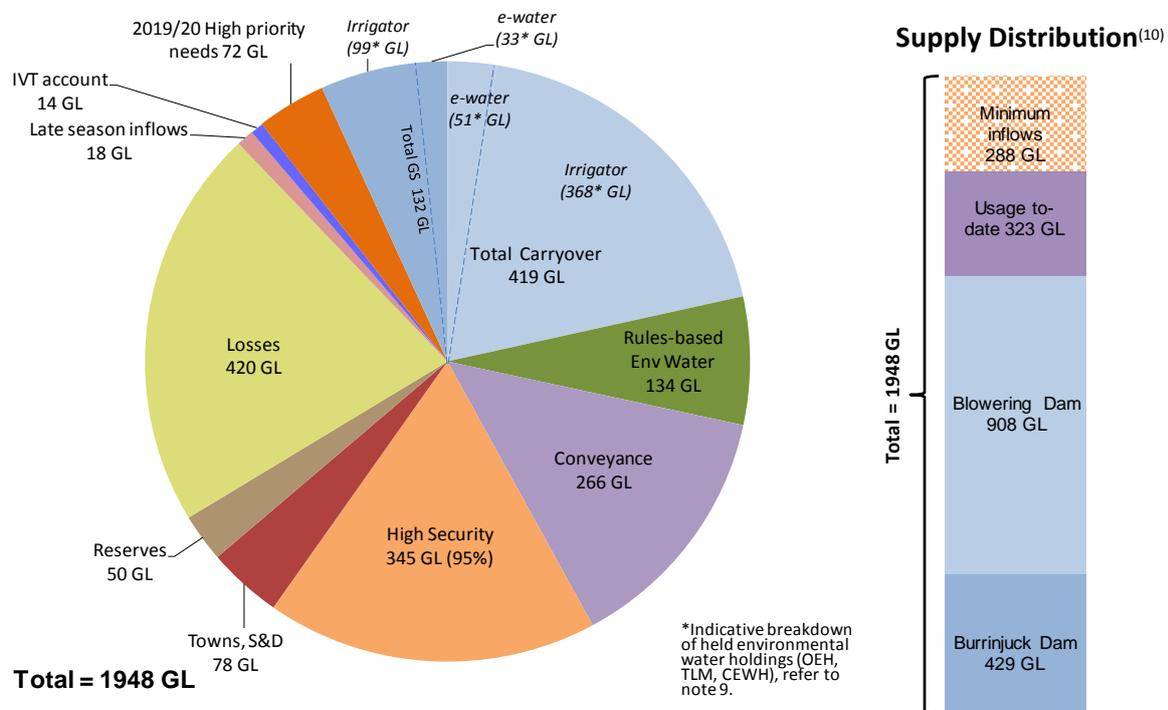
The next water allocation statement for the regulated Murrumbidgee Valley will be issued on **Thursday 15 November 2018**. Forecast improvements under various inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram, will be included in this next water allocation statement.

Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution 2018-19 (at 1 November 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,948
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance)	419
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	134
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	266
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	420
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover as of 1 July) ⁽⁶⁾	14
Late Season Inflows ⁽⁷⁾	18
Announced General Security	132 (7%)
Future (including 2019/20) high priority needs ⁽⁸⁾	72

*See notes below.

Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2018-19 – 1 November 2018



Notes

- 1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the day of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus drought 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 (2018-19) to date is 680 GL, and 200GL of flex release was pre-released in 2017-18.
- 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 83 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 50GL, EWA2 = 1GL, EWA3 = nil). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as commitments are met and water is used during the year.
- 3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25GL per dam as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = nil, 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. (This category of licence in the Murrumbidgee valley, like general security, can carry over up to 30% of entitlement).
- 5) Losses – is 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 regularly updated as the year unfolds.
- 6) IVT account – this represents the carryover value into 2018/19. As the account status was negative, meaning Murray water is 'owed' to the Murrumbidgee that cannot be delivered, this volume of 14GL must be set aside from allocation in the Murrumbidgee. The current IVT balance is around minus 0.5 GL, meaning that around 13 GL has been traded out of Murrumbidgee valley.
- 7) Late Season Inflows – is the estimated inflow volume that will arrive into storage late in the year, after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This water cannot be allocated to water users at the start of the water-year, otherwise there could be an expectation that the water is available for delivery and use before it is captured in storage.
- 8) Future high priority needs – As it has been extremely dry so far this year and a dry outlook continues, consideration must first be given to meeting high priority commitments on 1 July 2019 for next water year (2019-20), before further allocating to general security entitlements. This volume is currently estimated to be about 267 GL, 72 GL of which has been met, resulting in a 195 GL shortfall. This value may change from month to month based on the projected historical inflow sequence used in the assessment.
- 9) 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 33GL of GS, 12GL of HS, 37GL of conveyance allocation and 51GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), The Living Murray (TLM) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
- 10) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply includes volumes at the time of the assessment for the following categories: active volumes in the dams (excludes early release volumes of next year's Snowy Hydro commitments), 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).