



Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

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Current water availability

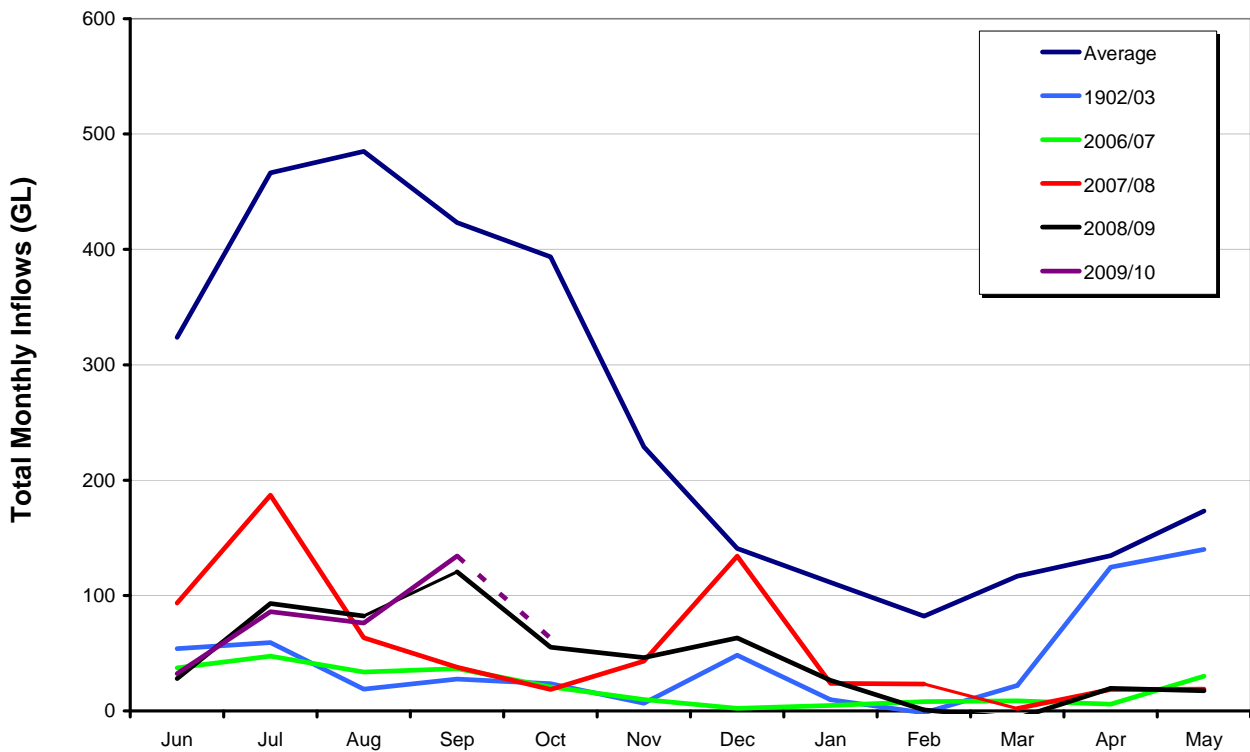
Rainfall across the catchment has generally been very poor except for the alpine regions of the Snowy Mountains with Thredbo Village receiving 294.7 millimetres (mm) of rain, 160 per cent of average October rainfall. Gundagai has received 49.8 mm; 70 per cent of average October rainfall, Griffith 19.0 mm; 50 per cent of average October rainfall and Hay 20.0 mm; 60 per cent of average October rainfall. The following table shows Murrumbidgee Valley storage levels as at 12 October 2009.

Storage @ 12 October 2009	Volume (GL)	Percent of capacity	Change in Volume 11 September to 12 October 2009 (GL)	Volume at this time last year.
Burrinjuck Dam	424	41	+25	502
Blowering Dam	658	40	+4	779
Total	1082		+29	1281



Inflow graph

Total Murrumbidgee Valley System Natural Inflows (excluding Snowy)
Selected Drought Years-v-Long term average



Inflows have fallen to about the same rate as last year.

What this means

There has been sufficient improvement in resources to enable general security allocations to be increased from 3 per cent to 4 per cent of entitlement. There is also sufficient water to make a corresponding small increase to Murrumbidgee Irrigation Ltd and Coleambally Irrigation Ltd for associated conveyance losses.

Trade

The temporary embargo on trades from the Murrumbidgee Valley to the Murray Valley continues.

All other trades are permitted under the same rules that applied last year.

Lowbidgee

Releases have commenced into Lowbidgee area to provide essential domestic and stock water supplies. Two gigalitres (GL) is also being made available from the Environmental Water Allowance to supply this area with water to support critical wildlife habitat.

Compliance

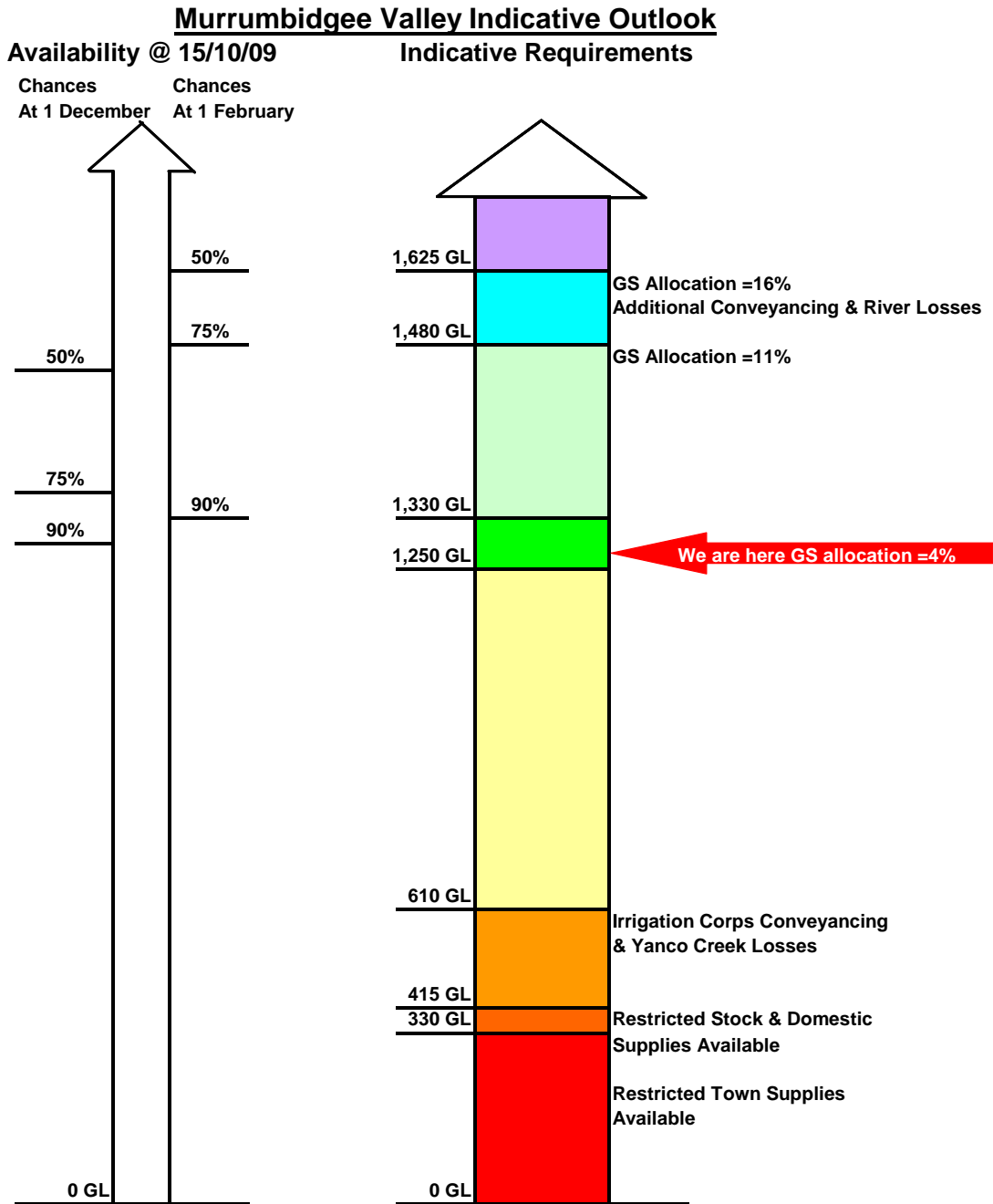
The NSW Office of Water's Drought Contingency Planning Program will only work if everyone adheres to the restrictions and is careful with **all** water use. To ensure that the system is run fairly, the community should report any suspected breaches to the NSW Office

of Water's Compliance Unit via phone 1800 633 362 or by email to watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au. All reports are confidential.

Water availability outlook

The figures that have been used to inform this diagram are based on dry tercile and are very conservative. They refer to water availability in **2009/10**.

The volumes on the "rocket" are indicative only and may change depending on the priority of access following stakeholder feedback and the reservation of water for 2010/11.



Contact: Bunty Driver 03 5898 3910 mobile 0407 403 234