

Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

Issue 29 | 16 November 2009

Current water availability

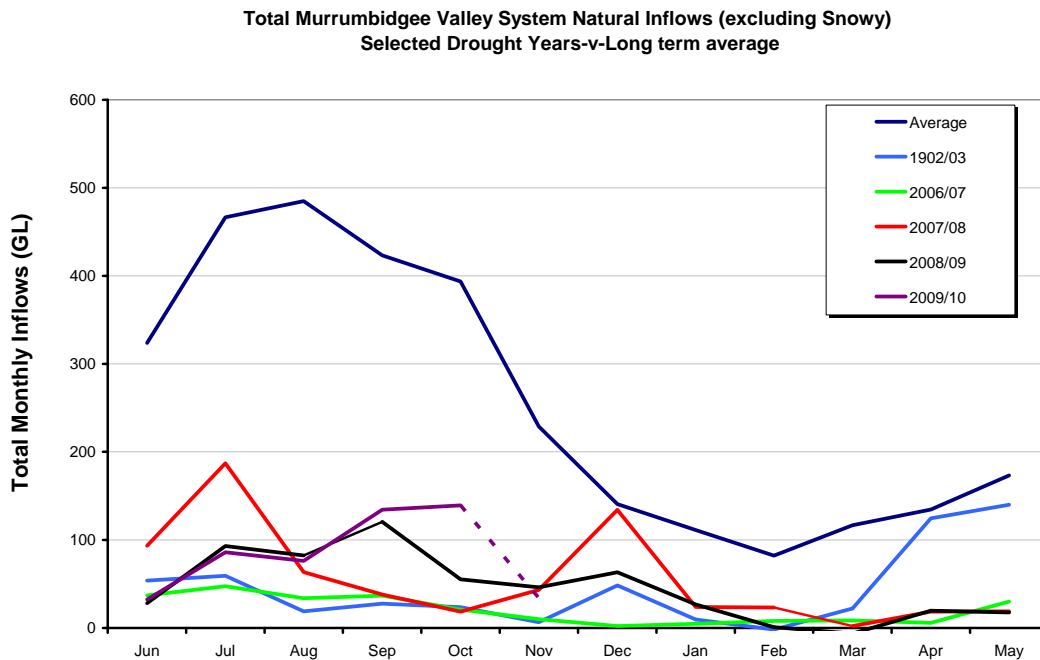
Rainfall across the catchment has generally been low except for the alpine regions of the Snowy Mountains. In much of the valley no rain has been recorded so far in November.

Location	13 October (mm)	12 November (mm)	Total (mm)	November Average (mm)	% of November Average
Thredbo Village	146.9	4.4	151.3	160.1	95
Gundagai	46	0	46	63.4	73
Griffith	14.2	0	14.2	32.5	44
Hay	3.4	0	3.4	24.9	14

The following table shows Murrumbidgee Valley storage levels as at 12 November 2009

Storage @ 12 November 2009	Volume (GL)	Percent of capacity	Change in Volume 12 October 2009 to 12 November (GL)	Volume at this time last year.
Burrinjuck Dam	449	44	+25	498
Blowering Dam	599	36	-59	718
Total	1048			1216

Inflow graph



What this means

The inflows in both the Snowy and Burrinjuck catchments have now reduced to the minimum rates forecast when the last announcement was made. This coupled with the lack of rain and high temperatures for this time of year, means that there is no increase in water availability and no increase to the general security allocation.

The NSW Office of Water will now begin to reserve water to meet critical human needs for the Murrumbidgee Valley for 2010/11 by reserving a proportion of all inflows in the coming months.

Trade

A second trade ballot for the Murrumbidgee Valley has been announced. A total of 42 gigalitres of water will be available to be traded by ballot from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray Valley. Applications will be accepted between Monday 16 November and 3:45 pm on Thursday 3 December 2009.

Further information on the ballot is available on State Water's website at www.statewater.com.au

Carryover

While the water sharing plan remains suspended, carryover rules in the Murrumbidgee Valley will remain as they did in 2008/09. The Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan will only recommence when water resources improve enough to provide full high security allocations for the both the 2009/10 year and 2010/11.

This will also trigger the resumption of carryover rules outlined in the Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan.

Until then, high and general security and conveyance licences will be allowed to carryover up to 30 percent of their entitlement. Water use; that is allocation plus carryover for each

licence in 2010/11, will be limited to 100 per cent unless additional water is purchased in that year.

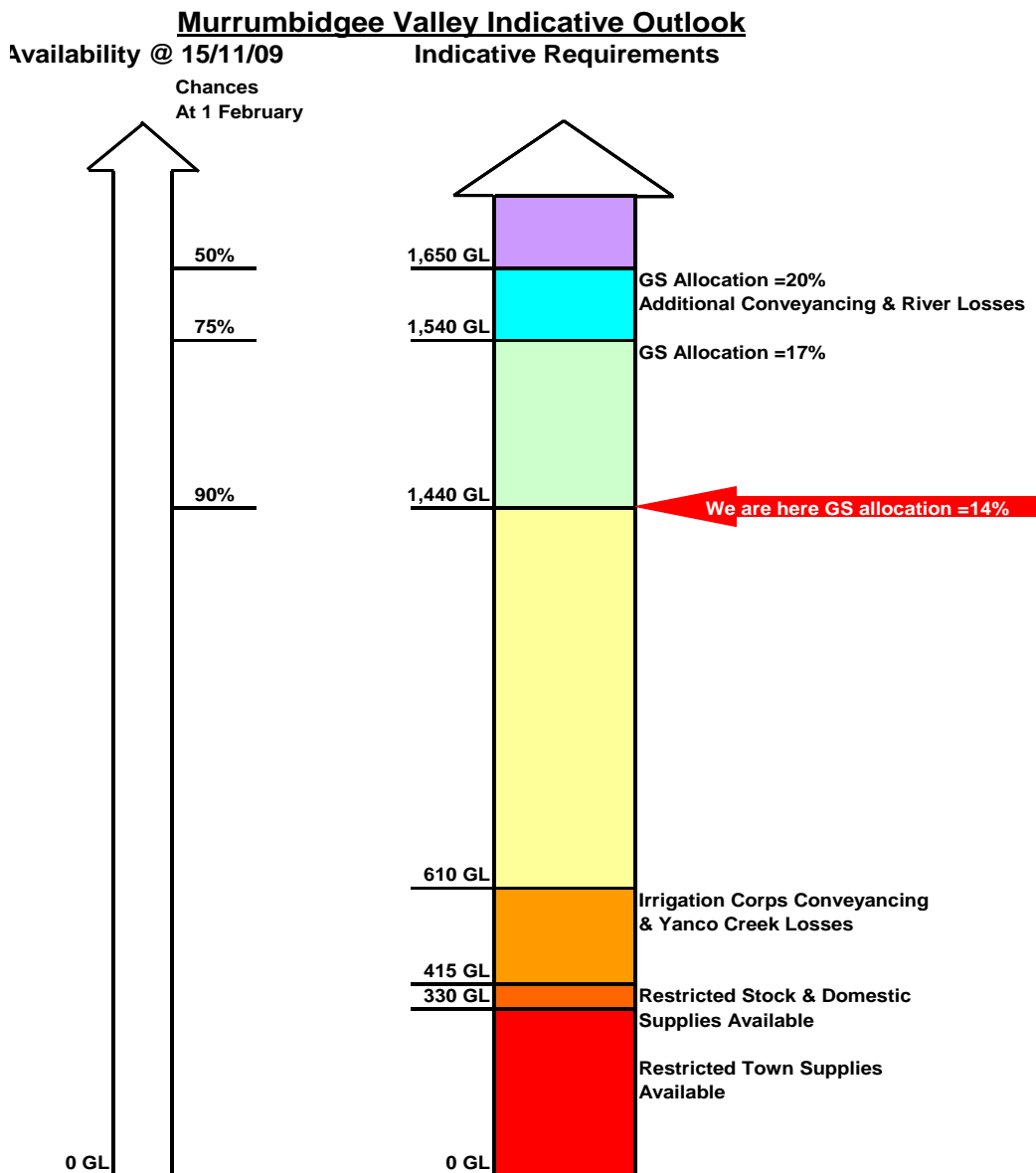
Compliance

The NSW Office of Water’s Drought Contingency Planning Program will only work if everyone adheres to the restrictions where these apply 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.



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