

Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

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Current water availability

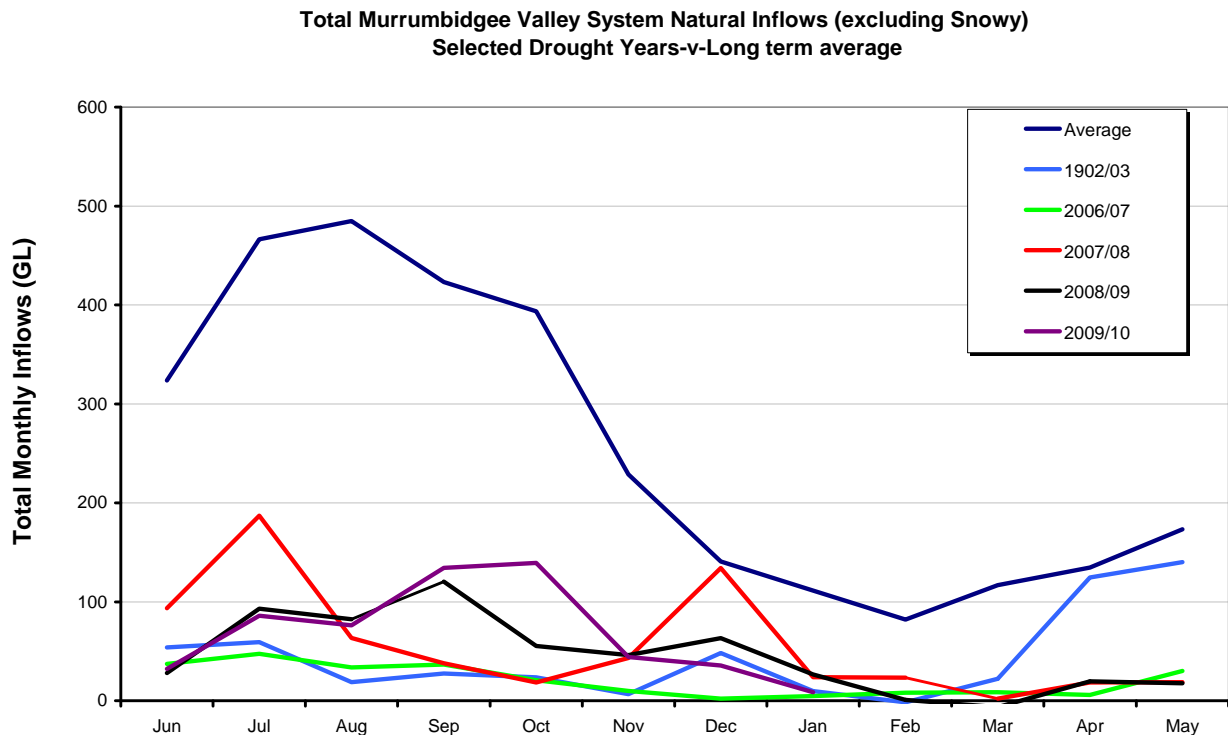
While December remained very dry with rainfall throughout the valley below average, the rain that did fall in late December 2009 resulted in minor inflows into the Burrinjuck and Blowering dams. It also resulted in a significant reduction in the water required to meet river transmission losses.

Location	From 11- 31 December (mm)	From 1-13 January (mm)	Total (mm)	January average (mm)	% of December average
Thredbo Village	95.8	67.2	163	104.7	156
Gundagai	58.2	22.2	70.4	65.8	107
Griffith	41.2	8.6	49.8	32.6	151
Hay	12.2	6.6	18.8	27.2	69

The following table shows Murrumbidgee Valley storage levels as at 13 January 2010 and compares these volumes with those at this time last month and this time last year.

Storage @ 13 January 2010	Volume (GL)	Percent of capacity	Change in Volume since 13.12.09 (GL)	Approximate volume at this time last year.
Burrinjuck Dam	432	41	-9	428
Blowering Dam	491	28.9	-84	461
Total	923			889

Inflow graph



What this means

Inflows into the storages have continually reduced since October 2009 to very low levels, but these have still been above the record low levels the NSW Office of Water uses in its planning.

The small improvement has enabled a three per cent increase to the general security allocation bring it to 18 per cent of entitlement.

Carryover

The water sharing plan for the Murrumbidgee Valley remains suspended and will be re-introduced only when water availability improves sufficiently to have secured high security entitlements for 2010/11 and 2011/12.

Until then, carryover rules in the Murrumbidgee Valley will remain as they have for the past two years.

That is; licensed high and general security and conveyance entitlement holders will be allowed to carryover any unused water from 2009/10, up to 30 per cent of their entitlement.

Water use in 2010/11, which includes allocation plus carryover and any water traded out, will be limited to 95 percent of entitlement unless additional water is purchased in during 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 conservative 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. All reports are treated confidentially.

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