



# critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

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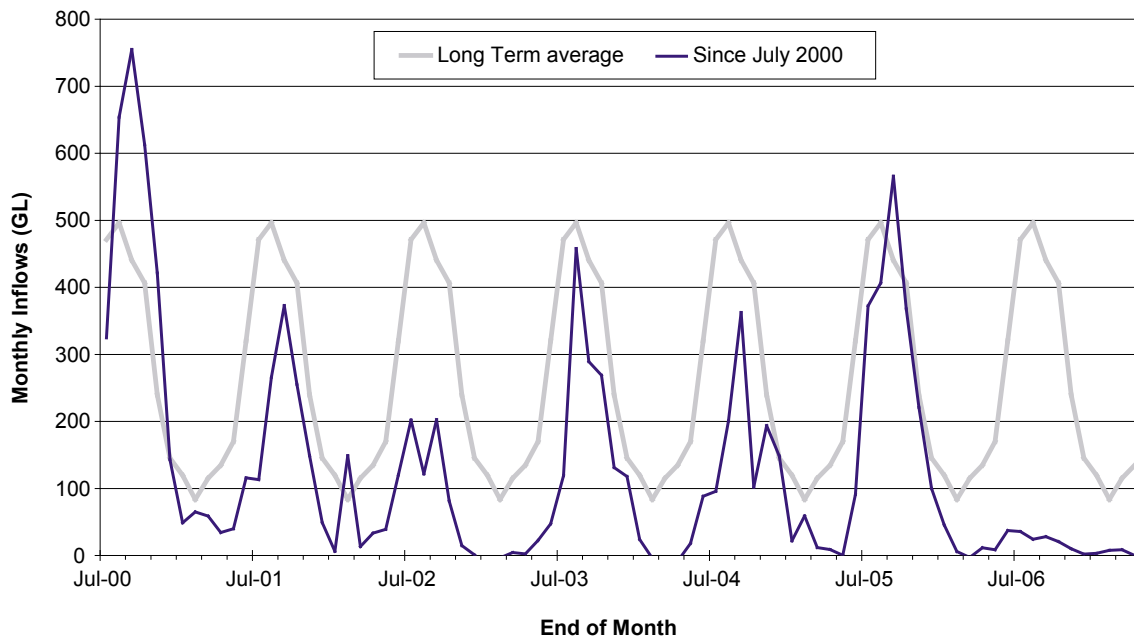
## CURRENT RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Rainfall across the Murrumbidgee Valley since the 18th of May has been variable, with falls generally between 30 to 60 millimetres (mm). Yass recorded 42 mm of rainfall, Gundagai recorded 51 mm, and 30.8 mm was recorded at Griffith. This rainfall was insufficient to generate run off, but has improved conditions slightly by reducing evaporation and wetting catchment areas.

Storage @ 28 May	Volume GL	Percent of capacity
Burrinjuck	251	24
Blowering	254	14
Snowy Tumut Storage	145 (22 May)	

Note: Although the Snowy Scheme contains less water than at any time since it commenced operations, most of the water the Scheme is required to deliver to water users in 2007/08 has already been released and is being stored in Blowering Dam.

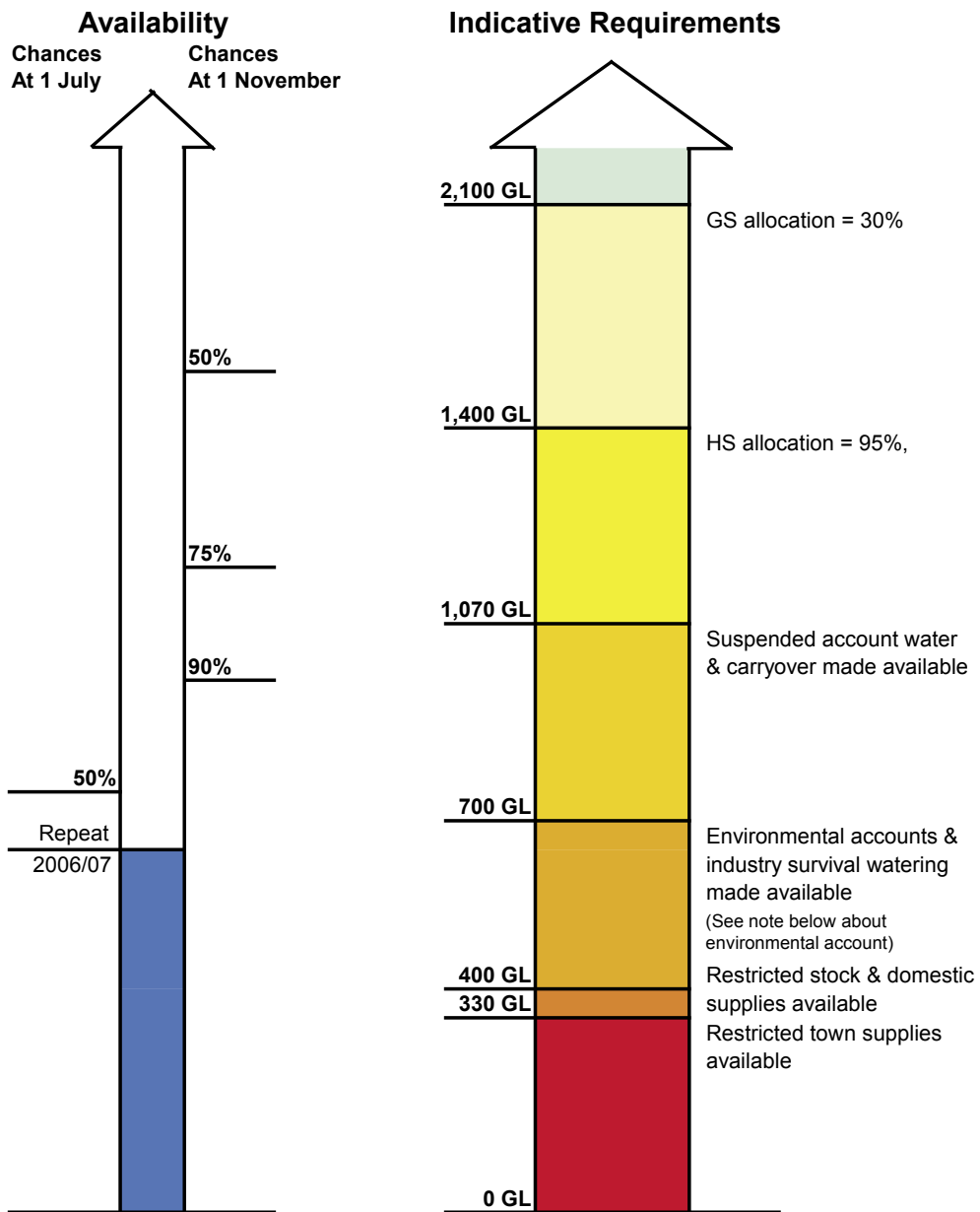
**Inflows to the Murrumbidgee System**  
(Excluding Snowy releases)



## WEATHER OUTLOOK

- Forecasts for the southern part of the Murray-Darling Basin for June to August indicate average rainfall.

## Murrumbidgee Valley Indicative Outlook



Note: These figures are indicative only and will be subject to constant change.

### WHAT THIS OUTLOOK MEANS

Currently there is approximately 650 gigalitres of water in the Murrumbidgee System.

Most of this water is required to supply river and storage losses and to meet essential town water supply and domestic needs during 2007/08. However, there is a small volume that can be made available for critical industry needs in July.

Before November 2007, water will need to be set aside to meet critical town water supplies and domestic needs for 2008/09.

Water borrowed from the environmental water accounts to provide irrigation water in 2006 will be required to be repaid at some stage. This will not be considered before August or September 2007, unless there are significant inflows into the Murrumbidgee System.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CONDITIONS IMPROVE

Restricted town water supply, domestic and stock, and critical industrial needs will have the highest priority while water availability remains restricted.

As water availability improves, after these high priority needs are met, the first water returned to accounts will be water that was suspended in 2006 and any carryover water.

To deliver critical industrial water within the irrigation corporations requires the provision of conveyance water. This is also being planned for on a month by month basis.

## CRITICAL WATER ADVISORY GROUP

The Murrumbidgee Regional Critical Water Advisory Group met in Wagga on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May. At this meeting the Group agreed to provide information to the Department of Water and Energy on the critical water needs of industries on a month by month basis. This information will assist the Department to prioritise the distribution of the limited water resource. The Group will continue to meet regularly to provide advice to the NSW Government on regional water issues.

## CONTACT

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