

3 December 2018

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

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

Some intermittent rainfall in the last fortnight produced small inflows, and importantly helped to reduce river transmission losses. The resulting resource improvement will reduce the current gap in water availability for next year's (1 July 2019) high priority commitments.

It is not unusual to have a 'Year 2' deficit at this time. The Year 2 situation becomes more reliable in February and March at which time likely 1 July allocations begin to be published.

The estimated high priority commitment for 2019/20 varies monthly as we step through this year and depends on water usage, operational requirements and the future inflow volumes. Currently 300 gegalitres (GL) is estimated needed of which 135 GL is already available.

Any resource improvements must first ensure that next year's high priority commitments can be met on 1 July 2019, before allocating further to general security users this year.

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

#### Storage levels (as at 30 November 2018)

- Blowering Dam is 51 per cent full – steady – holding 847,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 42 per cent full – increasing – holding 433,000 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for December to February shows no clear indication of drier or wetter conditions for the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook (issued 20 November 2018) remains at El Niño ALERT and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event persists. El Niño conditions continue to develop and are expected to remain through the summer months while the current positive IOD will decay by early summer. El Niño conditions are likely to bring warmer than average temperatures for large parts of the continent while a positive IOD typically has very little influence on Australia from December to April.

#### 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.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for information about the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

## Next announcement

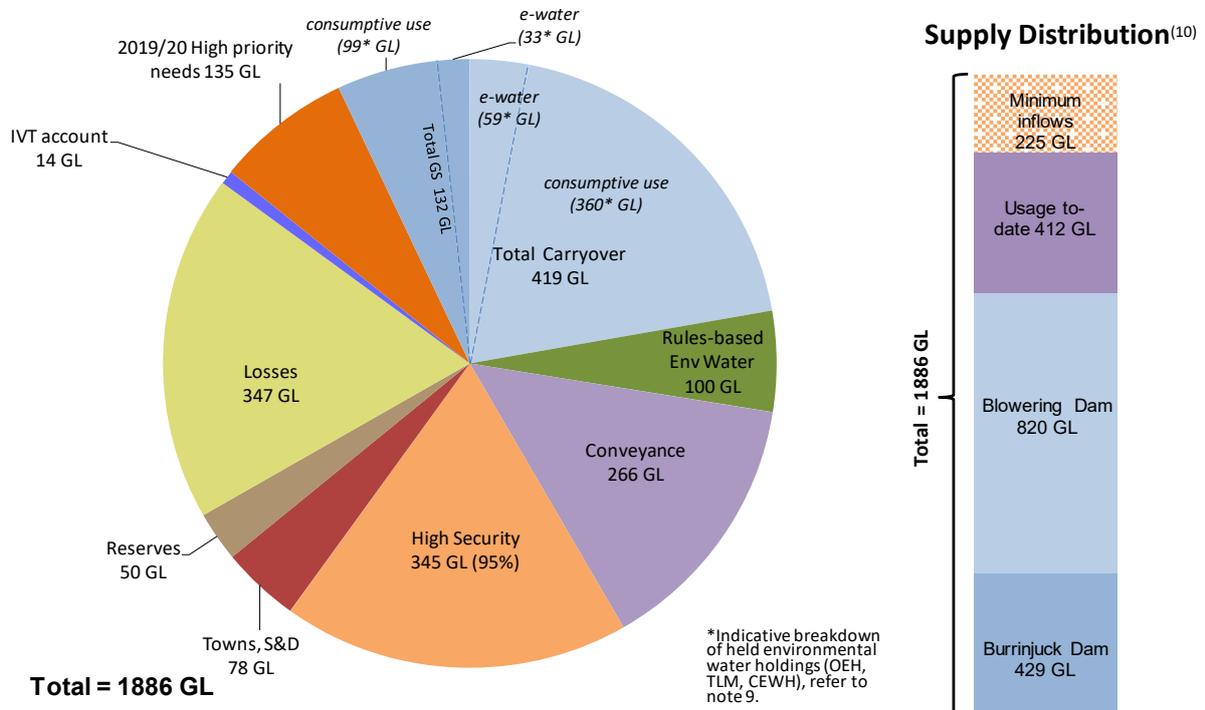
The next water allocation statement for the regulated Murrumbidgee Valley will be issued on **Monday 17 December 2018**, and will include forecast improvements under different inflow scenarios, including the rocket diagram.

## Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

| <b>Resource Distribution 2018-19 (at 3 December 2018)</b>        |             |
|--|-------------|
|  | Volume (GL) |
| Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>                          | 1,886       |
| <b>less</b>  |             |
| Carryover (GS and Conveyance)                                    | 419         |
| Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>                   | 100         |
| Towns, Stock, Domestic   | 78 (100%)   |
| Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>  | 50          |
| Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>  | 266         |
| Announced High Security  | 345 (95%)   |
| Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>   | 347         |
| Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover as of 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup> | 14          |
| Late Season Inflows <sup>(7)</sup>                               | 0           |
| Announced General Security                                       | 132 (7%)    |
| Future (including 2019/20 high priority needs) <sup>(8)</sup>    | 135         |

*\*See notes below.*

## Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2018-19 – 3 December 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 estimated to be about 680GL, 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 64GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 37GL, EWA2 = 0GL, 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 on 1 July 2018, meaning Murray water was 'owed' to the Murrumbidgee that could not be delivered, this volume of 14GL was set aside from allocation in the Murrumbidgee. As the IVT balance at the time of the assessment has increased to a positive value of 2.2GL, it means that about 16GL has been traded out of Murrumbidgee valley since the beginning of the water year negating the adverse impact on Murrumbidgee water users. Effectively the impact on all Murrumbidgee water users has been resolved by those choosing to trade out of the valley thereby eliminating the negative IVT balance.
- 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 – we are required to look ahead to next water year (2019/20) to ensure there is sufficient resource set aside to meet high priority commitments on 1 July. This volume is currently estimated to be about 300GL of which 135GL has been met. This value changes from month to month based on the complex interaction of climatic factors, projected historical inflow sequence, usage/potential carryover, and actual transmission and operational losses as the water year unfolds.
- 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 and 8GL conveyance 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).