

15 January 2018

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

Murrumbidgee regulated river general security allocation **remains unchanged at 33 per cent of entitlement.**

As we move through summer, high priority commitments are assessed to ensure they can be met on 1 July 2018, for the 2018-19 water year, before allocating further to general security entitlements in the current water year.

Improved resource availability following well above average rainfall in December has been sufficient to meet the previous shortfall in next water year's (2018/19) high priority commitments, and also to fully credit environmental water (EWA1) and provisional storage volume (PSV1) accounts, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Further resource improvements can now be allocated to general security entitlement holders.

December's rainfall and tributary responses also allowed supplementary access to be made available for much of the month, ceasing in all reaches in late December.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	33%	27%

Storage levels (as at 12 January 2018)

- Blowering Dam is 44 per cent full – falling – holding 730,000 ML.
- Burrinjuck Dam is 64 per cent full – steady – holding 662,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that average rainfall conditions are likely in the valley over the next three months. Daytime temperatures are likely to be cooler than average in the region.

Weak La Niña conditions are present and models suggest this event will end by mid-autumn. La Niña typically brings above average rainfall to eastern Australia during summer; however the current event is forecast to be weak and short-lived, therefore having less influence on rainfall. La Niña events can also increase the likelihood of prolonged warm spells for southeast Australia.

Trade

Trade **out** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, but trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - <http://www.watersw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee> - for information regarding the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcements

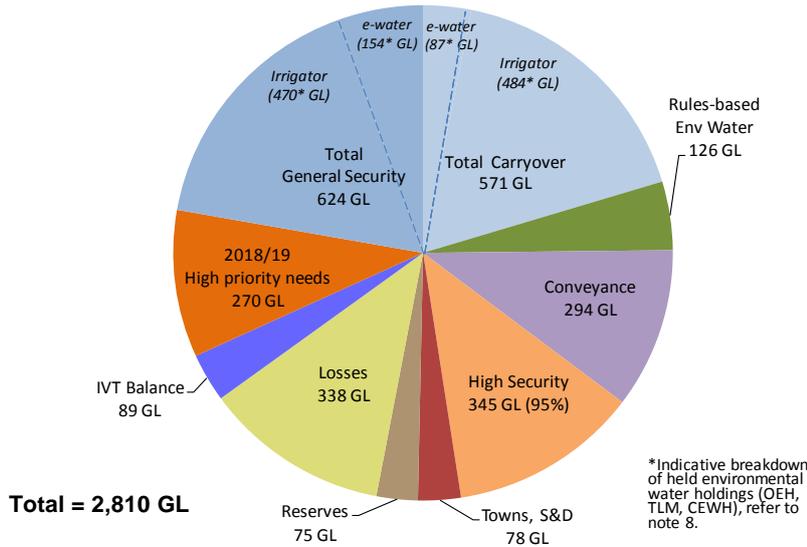
The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee regulated river valley will be issued on **Thursday 1 February 2018**.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

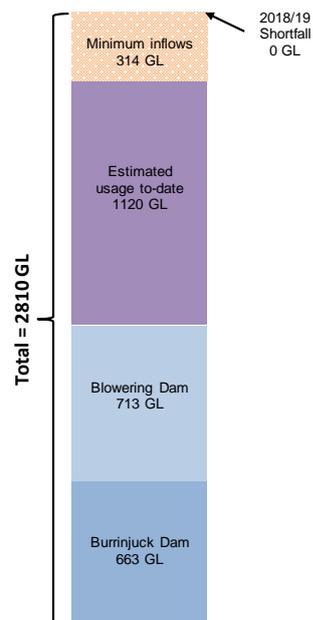
Resource Distribution (15 January) for 2017-18	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,810
less	
Carryover (GS and Conveyance)	571
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	126
Towns, Stock, Domestic	78 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	294
Announced High Security	345 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	338
Murrumbidgee IVT balance carryover at 1 July 2017	89
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0
Announced General Security	624 (33%)
Future (2018/19) high priority needs ⁽⁷⁾	270

*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2017-18
Murrumbidgee Valley - 15 January 2018**



Supply Distribution⁽⁹⁾



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 estimated usage to date including Snowy Hydro's net Jounama Release of 486 GL from 1 May 2017 to 10 January 2018.
- 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 51 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 50 GL, EWA2 = 25 GL, EWA3 = 0 GL). 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 25 GL per dam as an operational reserve, as well as Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = 25, PSV2 = 0).
- 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) Late Season Discount – 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 use before it is captured in storage.
- 7) Future high priority needs – at this time of year, we look ahead to next water year (2018/19) to ensure there is sufficient resource set aside to meet high priority needs on 1 July 2018. The required volume to meet these commitments is currently 270 GL. This value may change slightly from month to month based on the projected historical inflow sequence used in the assessment.
- 8) Held environmental water (HEW) – as a trial, general security allocation and carryover water administered by the environmental water holder has been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is total allocated in accounts (not usage) and includes 154GL of GS, 12GL of HS, 39GL of conveyance allocation and 87GL of GS 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). Interested parties should refer to individual Agency websites for more detailed information on held environmental water holdings.
- 9) Supply Distribution – as a trial, the distribution of supply is being provided. This includes volumes at the time of the assessment for the following categories: active volumes in the dams, 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). At this time of year, it also indicates any existing shortfall in meeting next year's (2018/19) high priority needs (refer to note 7).