

15 August 2016

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations

NSW Murrumbidgee general security allocation has **increased 6 per cent to 50 per cent of** entitlement along with commensurate increase in conveyance allocations.

Above average wet conditions in July eased in the early part of August. Last week there was about 10 mm of rainfall across the upper catchment. Storage levels are rising slowly and downstream tributaries above Wagga Wagga are providing significant inflows to the main river.

Supplementary access is currently available along the full length of the regulated river including Lowbidgee. Also, general security licence holders can use their uncontrolled flow provisions.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	50%	19%

Storage levels (as at 12 August)

- Blowering Dam is 77 per cent full - rising - holding 1,260,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 87 per cent full - rising - holding 899,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook continues to indicate a high likelihood (about 65 to 75 per cent chance) of above average rainfall conditions continuing across the Murrumbidgee catchment over the three months to October 2016. Cooler days are also likely.

Although La Niña conditions remain possible, the BoM indicates that the majority of model outlooks are maintaining neutral values throughout the remainder of winter and spring.

Sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean show a strong negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD), and climate models indicate it will persist through to the end of spring. A negative IOD often results in greater than average winter-spring rainfall and cooler than average day time temperatures over south-eastern Australia.

Trade

Water users can trade **into** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley, but trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at www.waterrsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee for information about the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance and status of trade.

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

Next announcements

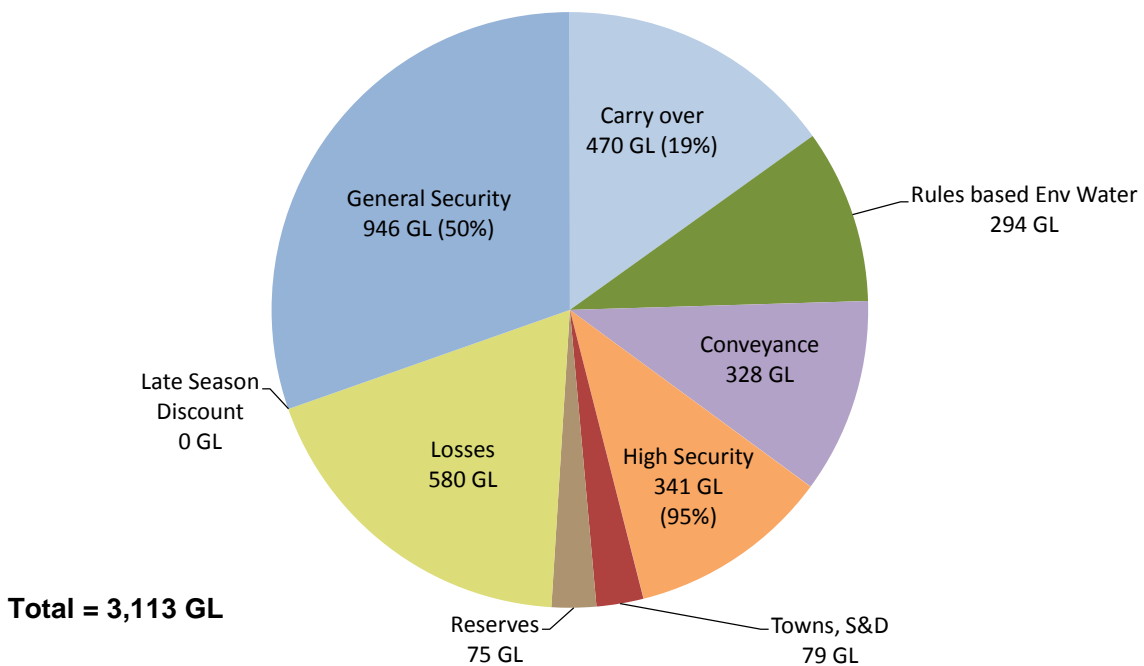
The next resource assessment and allocation update for the Murrumbidgee regulated valley will be on **Thursday 1 September 2016**. The additional detailed information including an update of the attached rocket diagram will be issued on Thursday 15 September 2016.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 15 August) for 2016-17	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,113
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	470
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	294
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	328
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	946 (50%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	580
Late Season Discount ⁽⁶⁾	0

**See notes below.*

**Resource Distribution 2016-17
Murrumbidgee Valley - 15 August 2016**



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) plus usage to date.
- (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 179 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1, EWA2 & EWA3). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water. This total volume typically reduces as commitments are met and water is used during the year. As general security allocation plus carryover water from the previous year has reached 60 per cent, 1 August assessment credited EWA1 with 50 gegalitres (GL).
- (3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25 GL per dam plus any Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2). As general security allocations plus carryover water from the previous year have reached 60% and a provision has been made for the EWA1 (50 GL), therefore 25 GL has been credited to provisional storage volume (PSV1).
- (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 plan 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 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 after the peak irrigation demand season (usually post-February). This Late Season Discount cannot be sustainably 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 has arrived in storage.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		15 Aug 2015 (GL)	15 Aug 2016 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	615	899	Higher than last year
	Blowering	696	1259	More SHL* power generation so far this year
	Total	1311	2,158	High in storage this year
Transmission Losses**		408	460	
1 July IVT carryover balance		11	100	Current IVT balance 100 GL
Late Season Inflows		161	0	Timely SHL release will help peak summer demand
GS Available		17%	50%	Above average rainfall
Average GS Carry Over		23%	19%	

*SHL = Snowy Hydro Limited ** Includes assumed loss from downstream of storages along the entire river length

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved inflows conditions and increased allocations are as follows:

MURRUMBIDGEE Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 October General Security Allocations *	Forecast 1 December General Security Allocations *
Current allocation (99% inflows)	50	50
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	53	57
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	56	62
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	62**	68
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	63**	73

Using all years of inflow records.

* Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

** Under wetter conditions when allocation plus carryover reaches 80%, the water sharing plan requires crediting of bulk water accounts (EWAs and PSVs), which slows the continued rise in general security allocation.

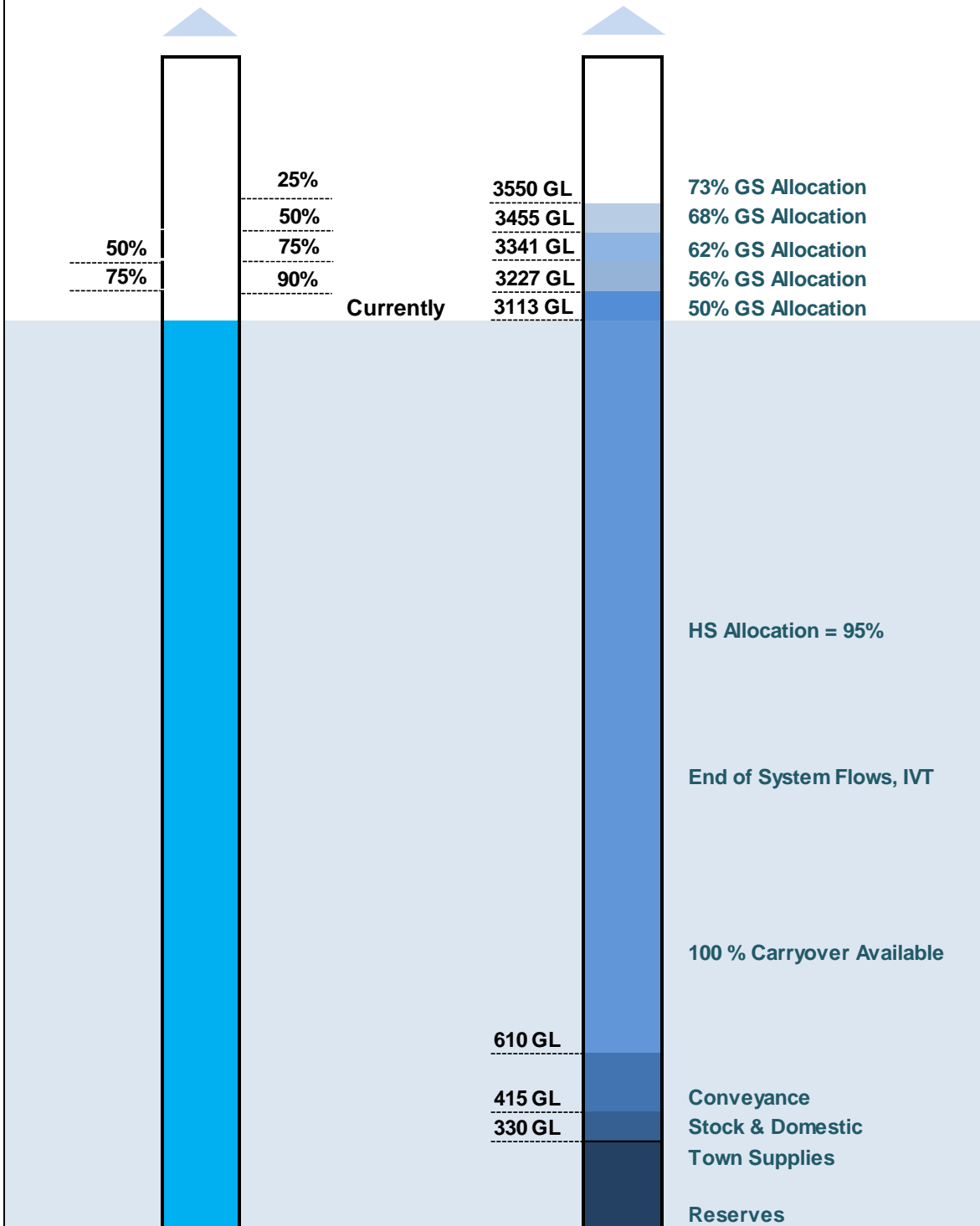
NSW Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook As at 15 August 2016

Probability of improvement

1-Oct

1-Dec

Indicative requirements



* The figure is based on probabilities and does not guarantee allocations, volumes are indicative only.