

1 September 2016

## Murrumbidgee Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

NSW Murrumbidgee general security allocation has **increased 4 per cent to 54 per cent of** entitlement, along with commensurate increase in conveyance allocations.

Intermittent rainfall combined with already wet catchments has led to significant runoff and inflows into the Murrumbidgee storages. Storage levels continue to rise with downstream tributaries below Wagga Wagga contributing significant inflows to the main river. Further rainfall is forecast.

Supplementary access continues to be available along the full length of the regulated river, including Lowbidgee.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	54%	19%

#### Storage levels (as at 30 August)

- Blowering Dam is 82 per cent full - rising - holding 1,345,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 89 per cent full - rising - holding 912,000 ML.

#### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) climate outlook for spring (September to November 2016) indicates the chances of a wetter or drier spring are equal. September is likely to be wetter in localised areas, especially in the middle to lower catchment areas. Warmer spring days and nights are likely across western fringes and the eastern catchments have roughly equal chances of warmer or cooler spring days.

The current outlook reflects a weakening negative Indian Ocean Dipole and tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures potentially approaching La Niña thresholds.

#### Trade

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

#### Next announcements

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

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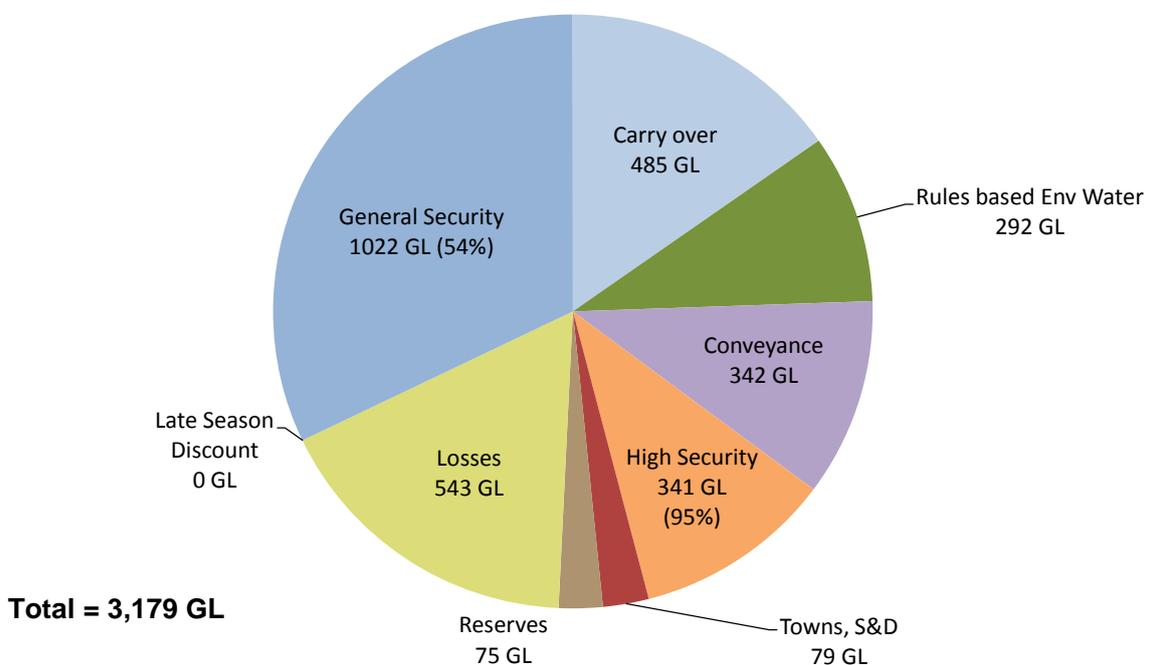
[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (as at 1 September) for 2016-17</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	3,179
<b>less</b>	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	485
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	292
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	75
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	342
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	1,022 (54%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	543
Late Season Discount <sup>(6)</sup>	0

\*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2016-17  
Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 September 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 assumed 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 the water sharing plan to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements (currently 158 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, the EWA1 account has been credited with 50 gigalitres (GL).
- (3) Reserves – required under water sharing plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25 GL per dam plus Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 & PSV2) balances. 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), 25 GL has also 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.