

2 November 2015

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

Murrumbidgee general security allocation remains unchanged at **29 per cent** of entitlement.

Rainfall has been patchy across the upper catchments over the last two weeks and temperatures have remained high. There is insufficient improvement in water availability to make a further allocation to general security water users at this time.

This assessment does not include any rainfall across the region on the weekend of 31 October.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	29%	23%

Dam levels (at time of assessment)

- Blowering Dam is 42 per cent full, holding 695,000 megalitres
- Burrinjuck Dam is 69 per cent full, holding 720,000 megalitres

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) latest outlook shows a drier than average November is likely in the lead up to summer across parts of southeast Australia. The three month period from November to January is also likely to be drier than average across most parts of NSW.

The current outlook reflects a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific , decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

Trade

Trade of account water **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley is closed, but trade into the valley and within the valley is unaffected.

Next Announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee will be on 16 November 2015. It will include more detailed information, including comparison with last year. However, the next Seasonal Outlook, including probability table and rocket diagram will be provided on 15 December 2015.

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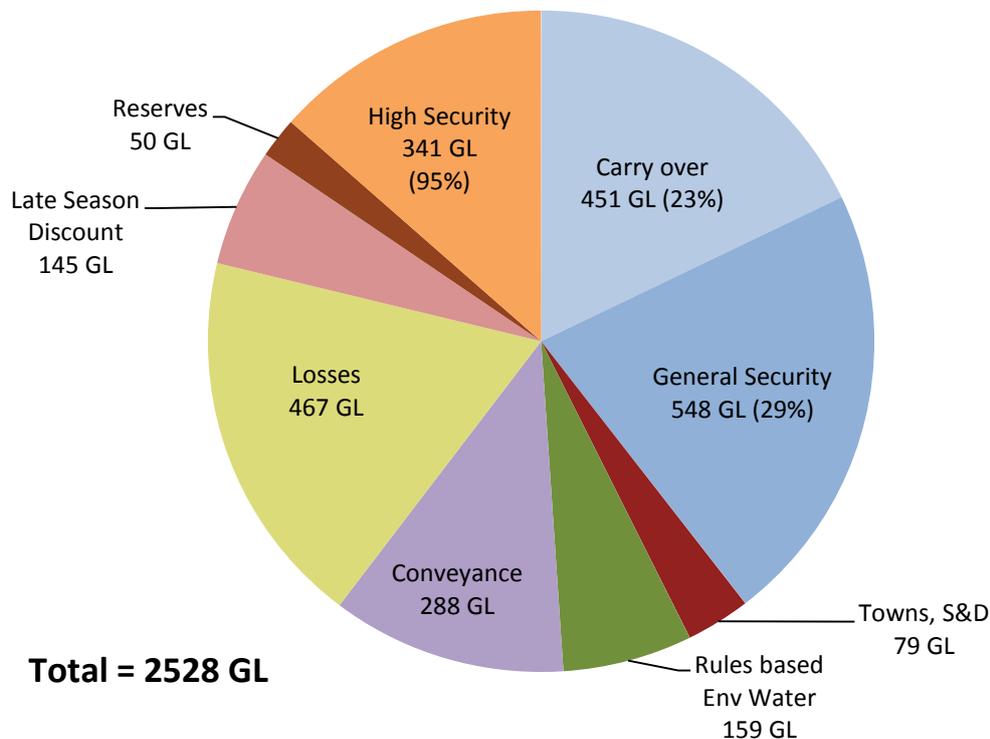
Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 2 November) for 2015-16

	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	2,528
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	159
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽²⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	288
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	548 (29%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁴⁾	467
Late Season Discount ⁽⁵⁾	145

*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2015-16
Murrumbidgee Valley - 2 November 2015**



Notes:

- (1) 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 and environmental allowance. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (2) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes.
- (3) 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 current high and general security allocations. (This category of licence, like general security, can carryover up to 30% of entitlement in this valley).
- (4) 'Losses' is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river under expected conditions to meet demands for the remainder of the year. They include storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. It is assumed there is no further rainfall and that inflow returns to dry conditions. This estimate is constantly refined as the year unfolds.
- (5) Late season inflow is the volume estimated to be available only after the peak irrigation demand season - after February. Therefore these inflows cannot be used for current allocations. They consist of a proportion of assured Required Annual Release (RAR) inflows from Snowy Hydro Limited (SHL) as well as assumed drought inflow sequence flows from other parts of the catchment.

A potential bias toward later delivery of RAR this year will support an allocation improvement of 3 to 5 per cent in March 2016, if not before. (If this water was included in current allocations, the water could be ordered and the storages emptied before the late season inflow actually arrives).