

16 August 2021

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Murrumbidgee regulated river water source allocation to general security licences has increased by 2%. Cumulative allocations for general security in 2021-22 are now at a total 52% of entitlement.

Wet conditions and airspace releases are causing unregulated flows in the system, resulting in supplementary access across the valley. Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/) for publication of supplementary announcements.

Minor improvements are accruing from savings in the loss budget and small usage under unregulated flow conditions, however; significant allocation improvement can accrue once demand increases significantly and that water usage is replaced by new system inflows.

As the year progresses, particularly as irrigation demand commences and further inflows replenish storages, the resource improvements are expected to increase to general security licences, while also ensuring high priority needs for 2022-23 can be met on 1 July 2022.

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	52%	22%

Storage levels (as at 13 August 2021)

- Blowering Dam is 98% full – steady – holding 1,595,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 88% full – steady – holding 910,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for September to November indicates that rainfall is highly likely to be above average across the catchment. Temperatures are likely to be near average or warmer than average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation indicator remains inactive. Models indicate that negative Indian Ocean Dipole conditions have developed, which increases the chances of above average rainfall in winter-spring.

For further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Trade

The normal operating range for the Murrumbidgee IVT account is between 0 GL and 100 GL. Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee is **closed**, while trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open** (as of 13 August 2021). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (www.watarnsw.com.au) for daily information about the IVT account balance, the status of trade, and other information. The IVT account balance at the end of the previous water year has carried forward into this water year.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Wednesday 1 September 2021**. It will be a short statement, updating any improvements in resource and allocations.

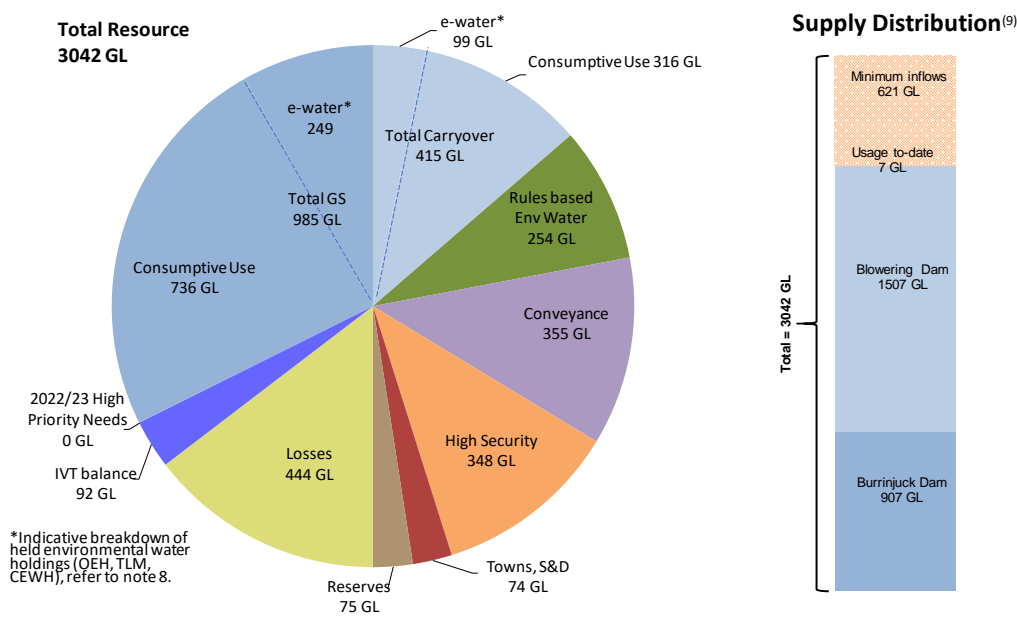
The next comprehensive statement, including likely improvements in general security allocations under various inflow scenarios, will be published on Wednesday 15 September 2021.

Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (16 August) for 2021-22	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,042
less	
Carryover ⁽⁸⁾	415
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	254
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	355
Announced High Security (95%)	348
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	444
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) ⁽⁶⁾	92
Announced General Security (52%) ⁽⁸⁾	985
Year 2 (2022-23) high priority needs ⁽⁷⁾	0

*See notes below

Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2021-22 – 16 August 2021



Data sheet notes

- 1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the day of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus minimum 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 (2021-22) is estimated to be about 375 GL (includes montane release).
- 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 = 53 GL, EWA2 = 22 GL, EWA3 = 0 GL). Excludes ‘licence-based’ environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as 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, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = 25 GL, 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. Conveyance licences in the Murrumbidgee valley can also carryover 30% of their entitlement.
- 5) Losses – 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 updated monthly.
- 6) IVT account carryover value into 2021-22. Does not reflect the current IVT balance.
- 7) 2022-2023 high priority needs on 1 July 2022 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2022, for ‘Year 2’, including potential carryover.
- 8) 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 249 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 67 GL of conveyance allocation and 99 GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment (DPIE), The Living Murray (TLM) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
- 9) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply 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, and late season inflows).

Comparison with 2020-21

Item		Mid Aug 2020 (GL)	Mid Aug 2021 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	691	907	
	Blowering	1,113	1,507	
	Total	1,804	2,414	Stored water from 20/21 bolstering resources in 21/22.
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operations)		523	444	Lower delivery losses in 2021 due to unregulated conditions and recessions cover losses.
1 July IVT carryover balance		6	92	
GS Available		32%	52%	
Average GS Carryover		18%	22%	

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved general security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the following table under a variety of conditions. The forecast is based on all available historical data, which is appropriate given the seasonal outlook and gives a better outlook than using just the driest years on record (dry tercile).

It is important to note that these estimates are indicative improvements only and are not guaranteed allocations. Estimates may change based on weather conditions, water management decisions and river operations. This means water users should use this information with caution and at their own risk.

Forecast general security allocations (%)

(Any carryover water can be added to these indicative allocations)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Oct 2021	1 Feb 2022
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	52%	52%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	52%	52%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	52%	55%
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	56%	69%

Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.

Note 2: Forecast assumes 22% general security carryover on average.

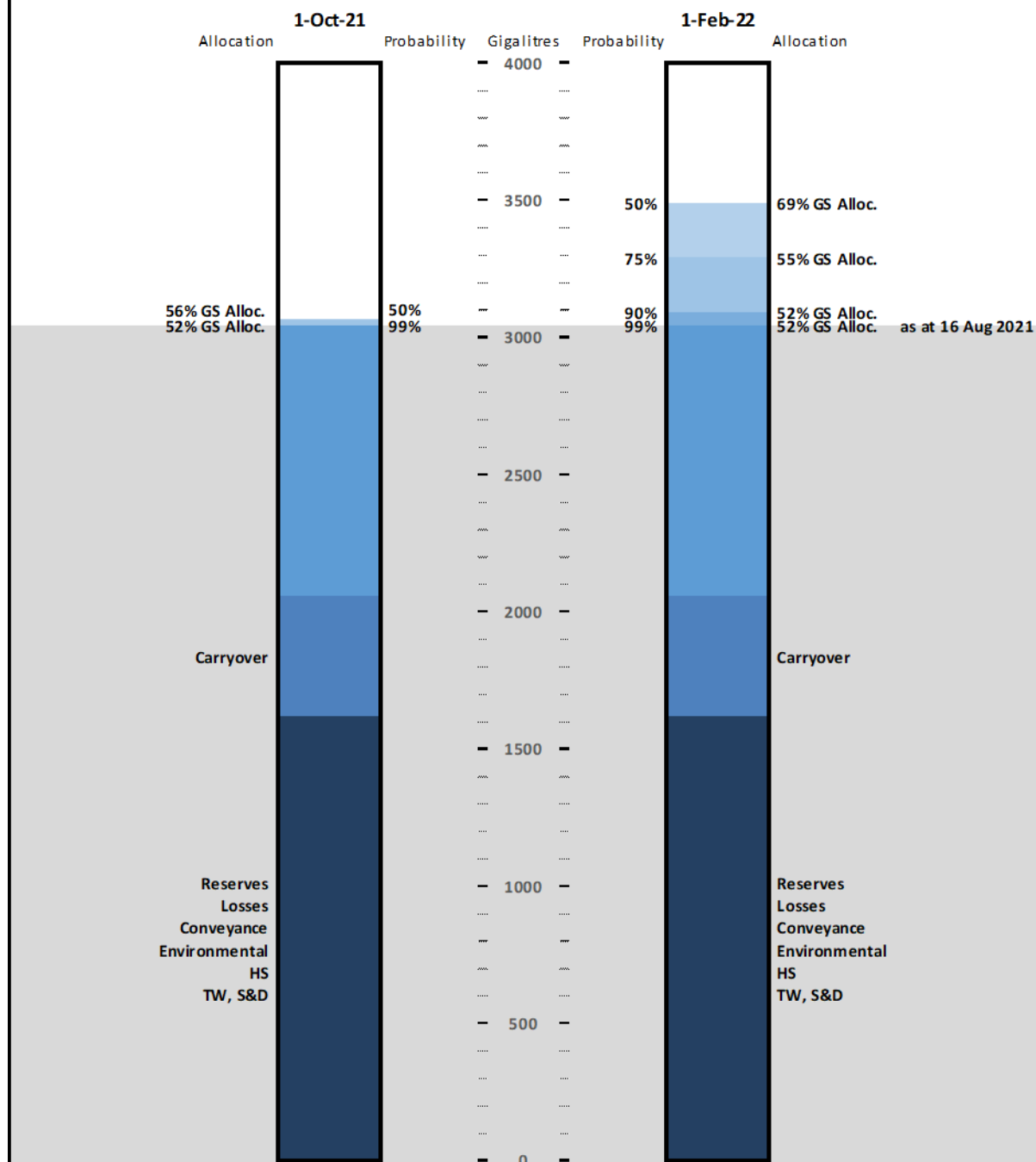
Note 3: Physical spills limit resource improvements as inflows are unable to be captured. Actual resource improvements will be highly dependent on the pattern of inflows and demands experienced over the coming months. With storages full, and future inflows at high risk of partial spill, there is high uncertainty in the numbers provided above.

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Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

as at 16 August 2021



This figure provides indicative improvements in general security allocations for two forecast snapshots, 1 October 2021 and 1 February 2022. The allocation improvements are indicative only, and do not constitute guaranteed allocations. As of 16 August 2021, General Security allocation is at 52 per cent, and under 99% inflow conditions, will remain the same for the rest of the water year.