

1 September 2021

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

There is **no change** to Murrumbidgee regulated river water allocations. Cumulative allocation for general security in 2021-22 remains at a total 52% of entitlement. Incorporating carryover, average general security water availability is approximately 74%.

Recent wet conditions and airspace releases have facilitated ongoing unregulated flows in the system, resulting in extended periods of supplementary access. Water users can monitor the website (waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/) for publication of supplementary announcements.

Near full storages and higher than minimum recession inflows for September have been assumed for this assessment. It shows that storages have no capacity to capture new inflows and improve allocations. It is expected that irrigation demand will soon generate airspace to capture new inflows and allow allocations to increase.

Any further resource improvements will be used to increase general security allocations and 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 31 August 2021)

- Blowering Dam is 94% full – falling – holding 1,525,000 ML.
- Burrinjuck Dam is 92% full – rising – holding 950,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

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

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation is neutral. Models indicate that negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) conditions have developed and may persist until summer. Negative IOD conditions increase 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 31 August 2021). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (www.waternsw.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

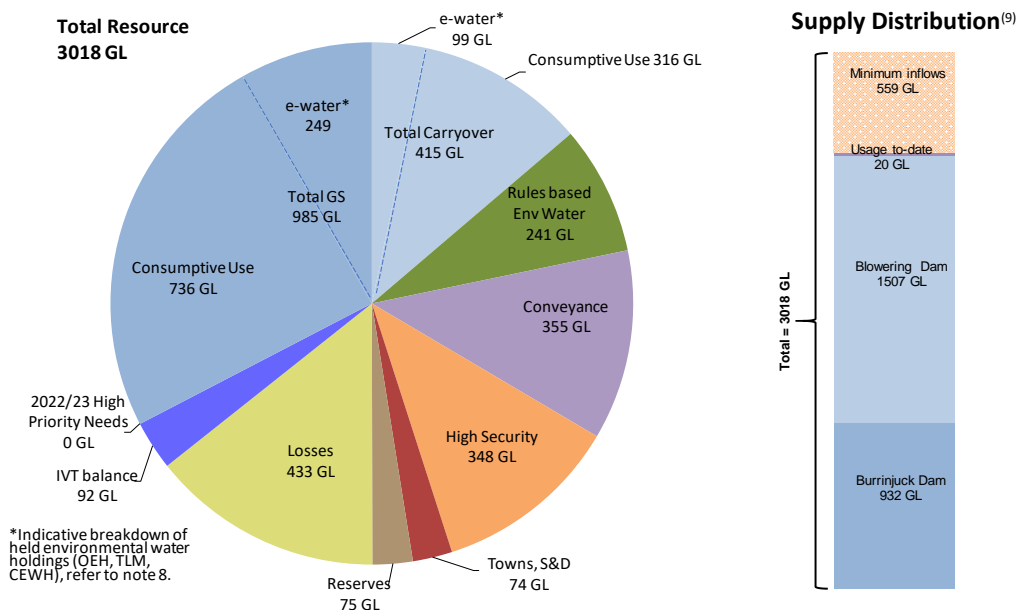
The next water allocation statement will be published on **Wednesday 15 September 2021**. It will be a comprehensive statement, including the likelihood of improvement in general security allocations under various inflow scenarios.

Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (1 September) for 2021-22	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,018
less	
Carryover ⁽⁸⁾	415
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	241
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	355
Announced High Security (95%)	348
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	433
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 – 1 September 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 380 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 161 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 53 GL, EWA2 = 27 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).

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