Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

NSW GOVERNMENT

2 March 2020

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

This abbreviated statement updates water availability and confirms that allocations for the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source **remain unchanged.**

Easing of hot and dry conditions has resulted in a small resource improvement from increased inflows and reduced losses. The improvement has been set aside to meet next year's high priority commitments and reduce the risk of any shortfall in opening allocations on 1 July 2020.

While a minor shortfall risk still exists in meeting full high priority opening allocations for 2020-21, including all general security carryover, it is expected to be met from autumn and winter inflows unless extreme dry conditions set-in for the remainder of this year.

Conditions will continue to be closely monitored and water allocation statements updated, ensuring that any water that does become available is safely and promptly allocated in accordance with statutory water sharing plans.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover	Drought Stage	
Murrumbidgee	95%	6%	8%		Stage 1

Next announcement

The next mid-monthly comprehensive water allocation statement for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be published on **Monday 16 March 2020**. It will update the indicative water availability outlook for the start of next year (1 July 2020).

While it is still early for reliable forecasts, they will continue to be updated on a mid-monthly basis until mid-May in the lead-up to the new water year. The reliability of the outlook will improve as the forecast period reduces.

The availability outlook for next year aims to help water users with their end of year water management decisions. Forecast conditions are best estimates only and not guaranteed water availability. They should be used with caution, particularly when projecting many months ahead.

Subscribe here to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.