

16 January 2023

# Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is a 35% increase to general security allocation in the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source. As a result, general security allocation has reached its maximum limit of 100% of entitlement for the current 2022/23 water year. Additionally, high security and all conveyance entitlements have also been incremented to their full allocation of 100% of entitlement.

## Year to date allocations

2022/23	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	100%	100% <sup>#</sup>	28% <sup>*</sup>

<sup>#</sup> Water availability on individual licences is subject to account limits as per the rules in the water sharing plan.

<sup>\*</sup> Carryover in private accounts can be considered forfeited and replaced by allocation when full allocations are announced.

Demand has increased in recent weeks, helping create airspace, which has back-filled with receding inflows, boosting resources and underpinning the allocation increases announced today. With conditions turning dry and demand increasing, storages have come off airspace operations and transitioned to normal regulated operations.

While storages have transitioned to regulated operations, the risk of spill remains high due to high storage volumes. Therefore, the **interstate trade restriction has been extended**, as the risk of spilling the incoming resource to underpin trades remains high. Details are provided further below in this statement. Intervalley trade within NSW is permitted subject to the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance. IVT account details and trade status can be found at: [www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)

Announced general security allocations this water year have also been supported by retiring early Snowy Savings liability within the Murrumbidgee regulated valley. This volume is formally notified to Snowy Hydro in February each water year and is adjusted in the required annual release and delivered from the Snowy Scheme for environmental programs in the following water year. The early retirement of liability this year has been added to the usage-to-date volumes in the pie and bar charts presented further below.

In accordance with the water sharing plan, as general security water availability exceeds 80%, a portion of the current resources must be set aside to meet *Provisional Storage Volume 1* (PSV1) requirements.

As conditions turn dry and demand increases, supplementary access is ceasing. However, supplementary access is still available in limited lower reaches. Subject to individual licence conditions and approved periods of access, users can take supplementary water. Supplementary access details can be found at: [waterinsights.waternsw.com.au](http://waterinsights.waternsw.com.au)

As general security allocations are now full, uncontrolled flow provisions on these licences is no longer available.

## Storage levels (as of 16 January 2023)

- Blowering Dam is about 93% full – steady – holding about 1,515,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is about 93% full – falling – holding about 955,000 ML.

## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April shows no clear indication of wet or dry conditions. Day time and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for most of the catchment.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) index outlook indicator remains at La Niña, which is slowly weakening. La Niña typically increases the chance of above average rainfall for northern and eastern Australia during summer. Long-range forecasts suggest ENSO-neutral conditions will return in coming weeks and El Niño conditions may develop in winter. However, as long-range forecast accuracy is generally lower at this time of year, ENSO outlooks that extend through autumn should be viewed with caution.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

## Trade

Trade **out of** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **closed** and trade **into** the Murrumbidgee is **open** (as of 16 January 2023). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for daily information about the IVT account balance, the status of trade, and other information. The Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated between its normal 0 GL and 100 GL range and the account balance may vary daily. The Murrumbidgee IVT balance was spilt on 31 August 2022. There is no further IVT carryover water to spill from the Murrumbidgee IVT account this water year.

## Interstate 71V restriction

A temporary restriction on interstate water trades (clause 71V of the *Water Management Act 2000*) into the NSW Murray, Lower Darling and Murrumbidgee regulated river water sources from other states was announced on 5 August 2022.

Interstate trades are typically accompanied by a reassignment of physical water (resource) in storages from the selling state to the buying state. Due to full storages, there is limited capacity to hold reassigned resource and a high risk that any resource which is reassigned will spill. Therefore, interstate trades into NSW cannot be safely underpinned by resource. Should NSW accept incoming interstate trades, it is likely to adversely impact existing NSW Murray allocations and water users. Therefore, a temporary restriction on interstate trades into NSW has been put in place to protect NSW water users.

The **temporary restriction will remain in force until 31 March 2023, unless repealed earlier** should NSW storage levels reduce sufficiently to safely receive traded water.

More information on temporary water restrictions can be found at:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions)

## Next announcement

As all licences have been fully allocated for the 2022/23 water year, ongoing allocation increments, and therefore announcements, will no longer be made for the remainder of the water year.

However, from Wednesday 15 March 2023, monthly statements will be commenced to communicate the potential water availability on 1 July 2023 for the 2023-24 water year. This should help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

**Note: Murrumbidgee statements are now available around 2:30pm on the day of the publication.**

## Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

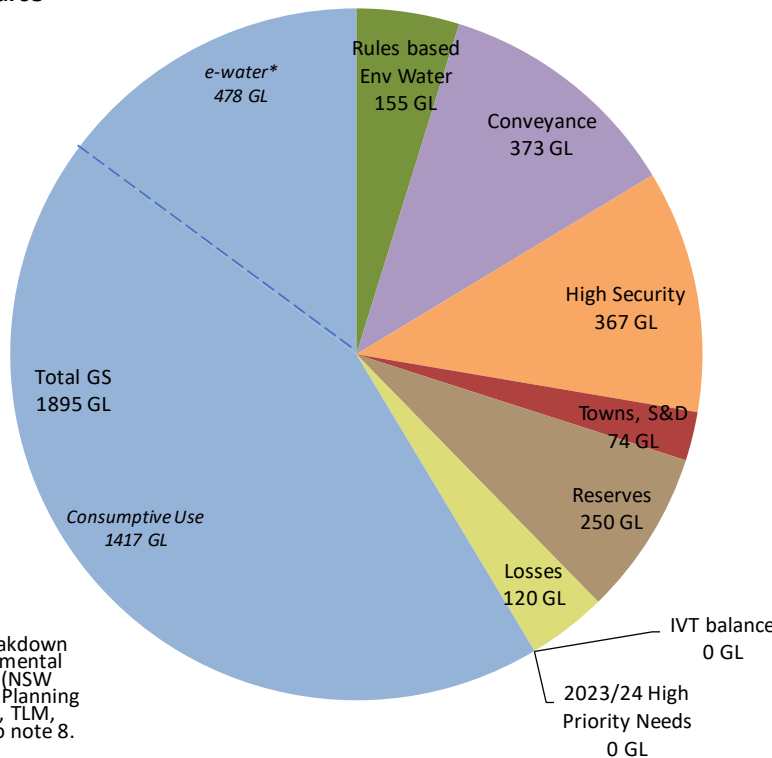
Resource Distribution* (16 January) for 2022/23	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	3,234
<i>less</i>	
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	155
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	250
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	373
Announced High Security (100%)	367
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	120
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup>	0
Announced General Security (100%) <sup># (8)</sup>	1,895
Year 2 (2023/24) high priority needs <sup>(7)</sup>	0

\*See notes below

# The total share component of general security category is 1,895 GL (which includes regulated river conveyance of 3 GL). Therefore, with a 100% announced general security, carryover plus general security AWD volume must equal to total general security share components. Carryover in private accounts can be considered forfeited and replaced by allocation when full allocations are announced. Account limit for general security is 100% as per the water sharing plan, therefore, for each individual licence carryover plus announced general security cannot exceed 100%.

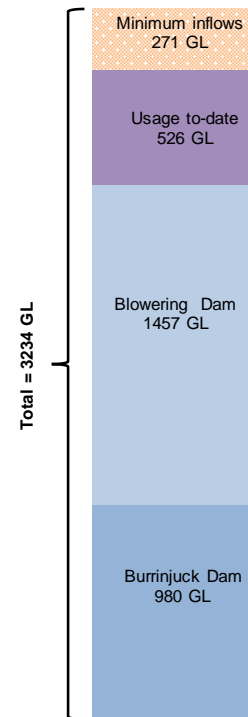
## Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2022/23 – 16 January 2023

**Total Resource**  
3234 GL



\*Indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (NSW Department of Planning & Environment, TLM, CEWH), refer to note 8.

**Supply Distribution<sup>(9)</sup>**



\*See notes below

### Data sheet notes

- 1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) as at the day of the assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus minimum inflows for the rest of the water year plus Snowy Hydro’s assured Required Annual Release (RAR) (including any flex (pre-release) from the prior water year), as well as estimated usage to date. Snowy Hydro’s net Jounama Release for this water year (2022/23) is estimated to be about 852 GL (includes montane releases).
- 2) Rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements (currently 50 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 75 GL, EWA2 = 30 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 water 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 = 200 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 security 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 rest of the water year. Includes storage evaporation, transmission and operational loss. This estimate is updated monthly.
- 6) IVT carryover value into 2022/23. It does not necessarily reflect the current IVT balance. The balance was spilt on 31/8/2022.
- 7) 2023/24 high priority needs on 1 July 2023 – the volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2023, 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 478 GL of GS, 16 GL of HS and 78 GL of conveyance allocation. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, The Living Murray and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. 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).

## Allocation Increments in 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security (sub-categories)	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	0.95 ML/unit share	0.95 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Supplementary (Lowbidgee)	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	General Security	0.35 ML/unit share	0.35 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Conveyance	0.35 ML/unit share	0.35 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.7654 ML/unit share	0.7654 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.8585 ML/unit share	0.8585 ML/unit share
15-Jul	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.38 ML/unit share
15-Jul	Conveyance	0.03 ML/unit share	0.38 ML/unit share
15-Jul	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0204 ML/unit share	0.7858 ML/unit share
15-Jul	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0175 ML/unit share	0.8760 ML/unit share
15-Aug	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.41 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Conveyance	0.03 ML/unit share	0.41 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0204 ML/unit share	0.8062 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0136 ML/unit share	0.8896 ML/unit share
1-Sep	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.46 ML/unit share
1-Sep	Conveyance	0.05 ML/unit share	0.46 ML/unit share
1-Sep	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0340 ML/unit share	0.8402 ML/unit share
1-Sep	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0094 ML/unit share	0.8990 ML/unit share

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
15-Sep	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.47 ML/unit share
15-Sep	Conveyance	0.01 ML/unit share	0.47 ML/unit share
15-Sep	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0068 ML/unit share	0.8469 ML/unit share
15-Sep	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0019 ML/unit share	0.9008 ML/unit share
4-Oct	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.50 ML/unit share
4-Oct	Conveyance	0.03 ML/unit share	0.50 ML/unit share
4-Oct	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0204 ML/unit share	0.8674 ML/unit share
4-Oct	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0056 ML/unit share	0.9065 ML/unit share
17-Oct	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.53 ML/unit share
17-Oct	Conveyance	0.03 ML/unit share	0.53 ML/unit share
17-Oct	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0395 ML/unit share	0.9068 ML/unit share
17-Oct	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0056 ML/unit share	0.9120 ML/unit share
1-Nov	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.54 ML/unit share
1-Nov	Conveyance	0.01 ML/unit share	0.54 ML/unit share
1-Nov	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0132 ML/unit share	0.9200 ML/unit share
1-Nov	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0019 ML/unit share	0.9139 ML/unit share
15-Nov	General Security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.55 ML/unit share
15-Nov	Conveyance	0.01 ML/unit share	0.55 ML/unit share
15-Nov	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0132 ML/unit share	0.9332 ML/unit share
15-Nov	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0019 ML/unit share	0.9158 ML/unit share
1-Dec	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.60 ML/unit share
1-Dec	Conveyance	0.05 ML/unit share	0.60 ML/unit share
1-Dec	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0658 ML/unit share	0.9990 ML/unit share
1-Dec	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0094 ML/unit share	0.9252 ML/unit share

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
15-Dec	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.65 ML/unit share
15-Dec	Conveyance	0.05 ML/unit share	0.65 ML/unit share
15-Dec	Murrumbidgee Irrigation Conveyance	0.0010 ML/unit share	1.0000 ML/unit share*
15-Dec	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0094 ML/unit share	0.9345 ML/unit share
16-Jan	General Security	0.35 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
16-Jan	Conveyance	0.35 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
16-Jan	Coleambally Irrigation Conveyance	0.0655 ML/unit share	1.0000 ML/unit share*
16-Jan	High Security	0.05 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*

\* Maximum allowable

## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Murrumbidgee regulated system is available at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

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