

15 July 2021

Murrumbidgee Valley

Water allocation update

Allocations to general security licences have increased by 20% in the Murrumbidgee regulated valley. Cumulative allocations for 2021-22 to general security now total 50% of entitlement.

Wet conditions in the past month have pushed storage levels in the Murrumbidgee Valley to effectively full. Significant releases are being made for airspace operations and unregulated conditions have resulted in ongoing supplementary access. Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/) for publication of supplementary announcements.

Further improvements to resource is contingent on regulated usage creating airspace in the major storages to capture new inflows. As the year progresses, any improvements will be used to allocate to general security and ensure high priority needs for 2022-23 can be met on 1 July 2022.

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	50%	26%*

* Carryover is provided as an estimate only. Final carryover numbers will be provided once accounts have been reconciled for the 2020-21 water year.

Storage levels (as at 14 July 2021)

- Blowering Dam is 96% full – steady – holding 1,565,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 95% full – steady – holding 975,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is highly likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be average to warmer than average.

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

For further details: 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 14 July 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 **Monday 2 August 2021**. It will be a short statement, updating any improvements in resource and allocations.

The next comprehensive statement, including the likely improvement in general security allocations under various inflow scenarios, will be published on Monday 16 August 2021.

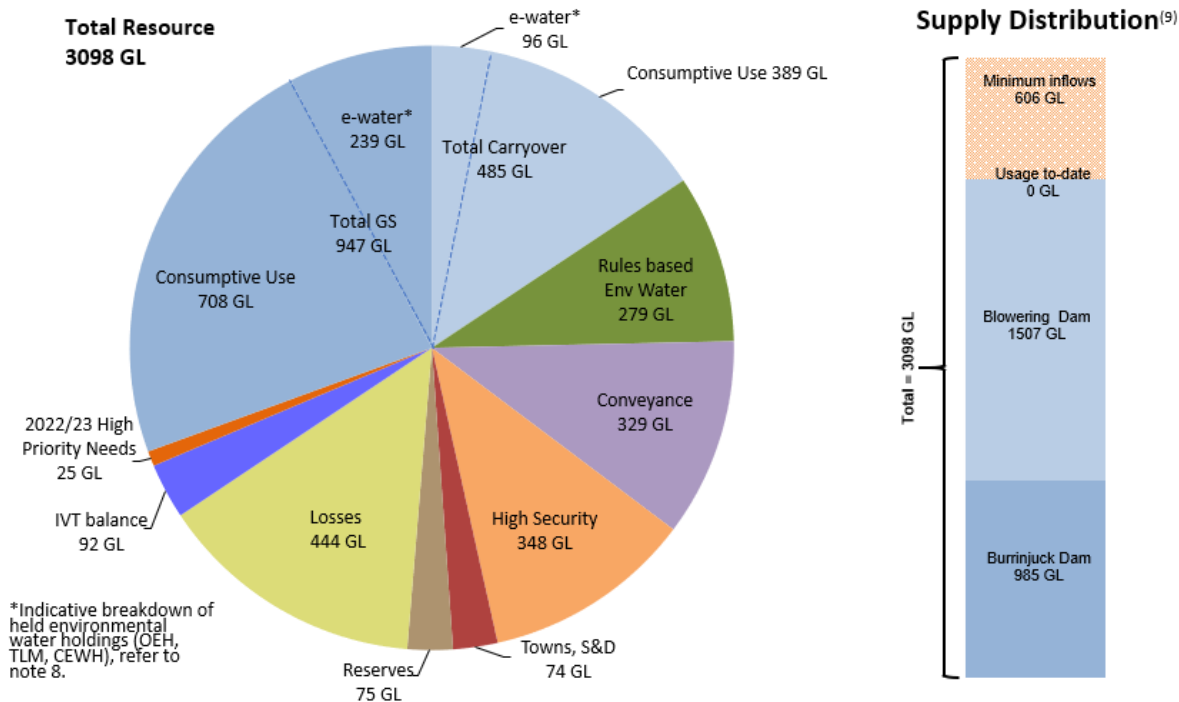
Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (15 July) for 2021-22	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,098
<i>less</i>	
Carryover ⁽⁸⁾	485 [#]
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	279
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves ⁽³⁾	75
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	329
Announced High Security (95%)	348
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	444
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) ⁽⁶⁾	92
Announced General Security (50%) ⁽⁸⁾	947
Year 2 (2022-23) high priority needs ⁽⁷⁾	25

*See notes below

[#] Carryover volume estimated. Final carryover numbers will be provided once accounts are reconciled for the 2020/21 water year.

Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2021-22 – 15 July 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 390 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 208 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 53 GL, EWA2 = 18 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 239 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 10 GL of conveyance allocation and 96 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).

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item		Mid Jul 2020 (GL)	Mid Jul 2021 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	448	985	
	Blowering	933	1507	
	Total	1381	2492	Significantly improved conditions in 2021/22
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operations)		552	444	Lower delivery losses due to wetter conditions
1 July IVT carryover balance		6	92	High trade balance
GS Available		14%	50%	Higher water availability in 21/22
Average GS Carryover		18%	26%	Higher water availability in 20/21

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 Sept 2021	1 Nov 2021
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	50%	50%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	51%	51%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	55%	60%
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	57%	61%

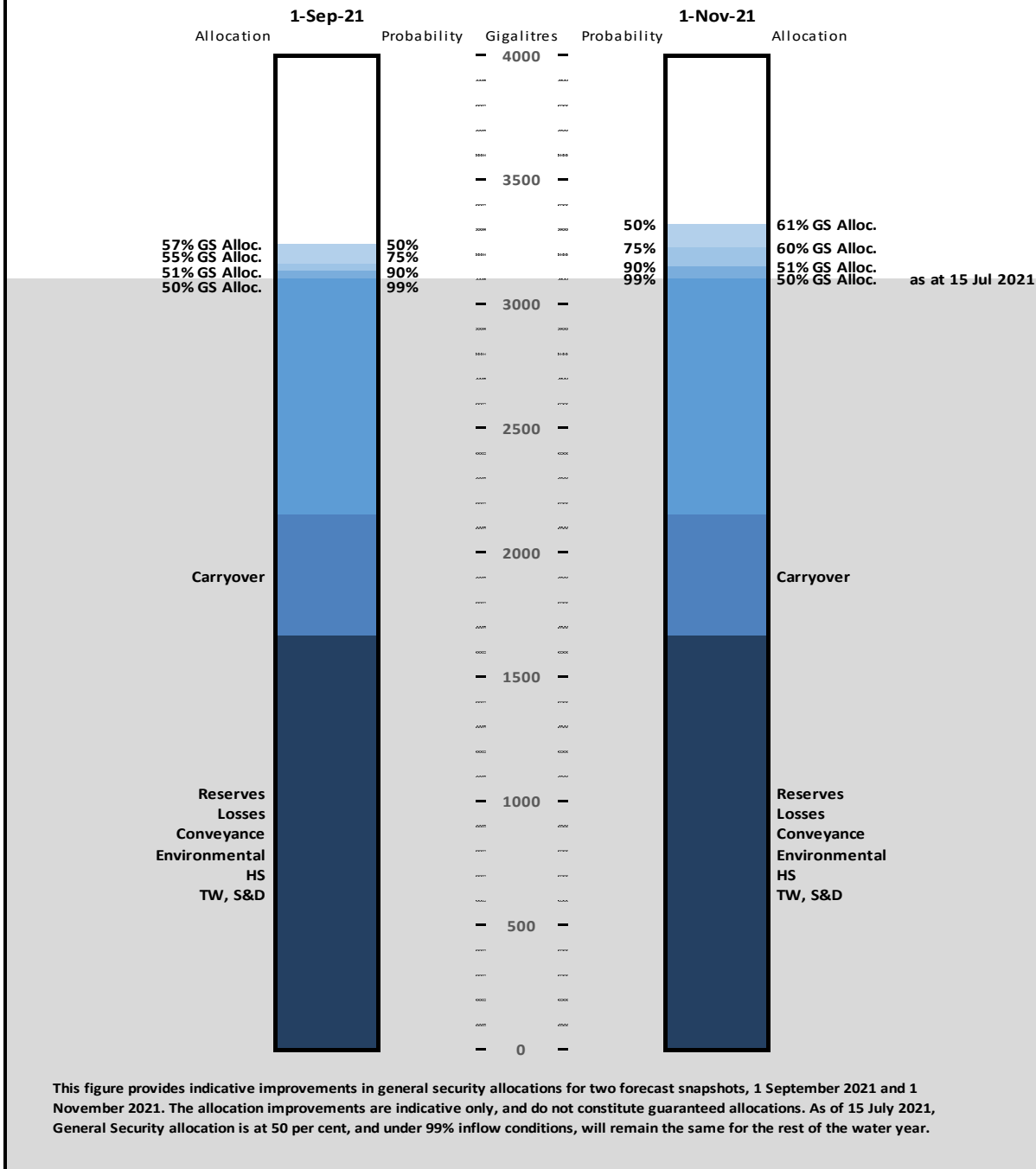
Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.

Note 2: Forecast assumes 26% carryover on average.

Note 3: A physical spill is likely under most inflow conditions. A physical spill limits resource improvements as inflows are unable to be captured.

Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

as at 15 July 2021



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