

1 February 2024

Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is a 34% increase to general security allocations from the latest resource assessment in the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source, taking general security allocations to their maximum annual limit for 2023/24 of 100% of entitlement. Additionally, high security and conveyance entitlements have also been incremented to their full allocation of 100%, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Inflow improvements and reduced losses from above average rainfall over January has underpinned the allocation improvements announced today. As required by the water sharing plan, the Provisional Storage Volume 1 (PSV1) account has been increased commensurate with general security allocations.

Rainfall and order rejections has also resulted in some surplus flows in the lower Murrumbidgee and Yanco systems. Water users should look to waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au for the latest supplementary access details. **With full allocations being announced today, uncontrolled flow provisions for general security entitlement holders are no longer available, in accordance with the water sharing plan.**

Any further resource improvements for the remainder of 2023/24 will be used to assure high priority needs for 2024/25, and subject to sufficient resource being available, assist in an opening allocation to general security on 1 July 2024.

Year to date allocations for 2023/24

2023/24	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	100%	100%*	28%*

*Carryover plus allocations on individual accounts is limited to 100%, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Storage levels (as of 1 February 2024)

- Blowering Dam is about 74% full – holding about 1,220,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is about 91% full – holding about 940,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The latest Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for February to April does not show a clear indication of drier or wetter than average conditions. Daytime and overnight temperatures are generally expected to be hotter than median over this period.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) index outlook indicator points to El Niño. Models indicate that El Niño conditions are likely to persist into autumn. Also, a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is currently active, but observations indicate it is nearing its end. El Niño and positive IOD events typically influence weather conditions to become drier than median.

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

Trade

Trade out of Murrumbidgee is closed and trade into the Murrumbidgee is open (as of 1 February 2024). 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 including seasonal trade closures. The Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated between limits of 0 GL and 100 GL however the balance can move rapidly. The information presented in this statement is current at the time of writing.

Currently, there is no 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. The restriction is based on the risk of spill from headwater storages in the NSW Murray system. Conditions will be closely monitored, and any sustained risk of spill may require a temporary interstate trade restriction.

More information on temporary water restrictions can be found at:

www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions

Next announcement

As all entitlements in the Murrumbidgee regulated valley have reached their full allocation, publication of regular statements will cease until mid-March 2024.

The next Murrumbidgee water allocation statement will be published on Friday 15 March 2024, to communicate potential water availability on 1 July 2024 for the 2024-25 water year.

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

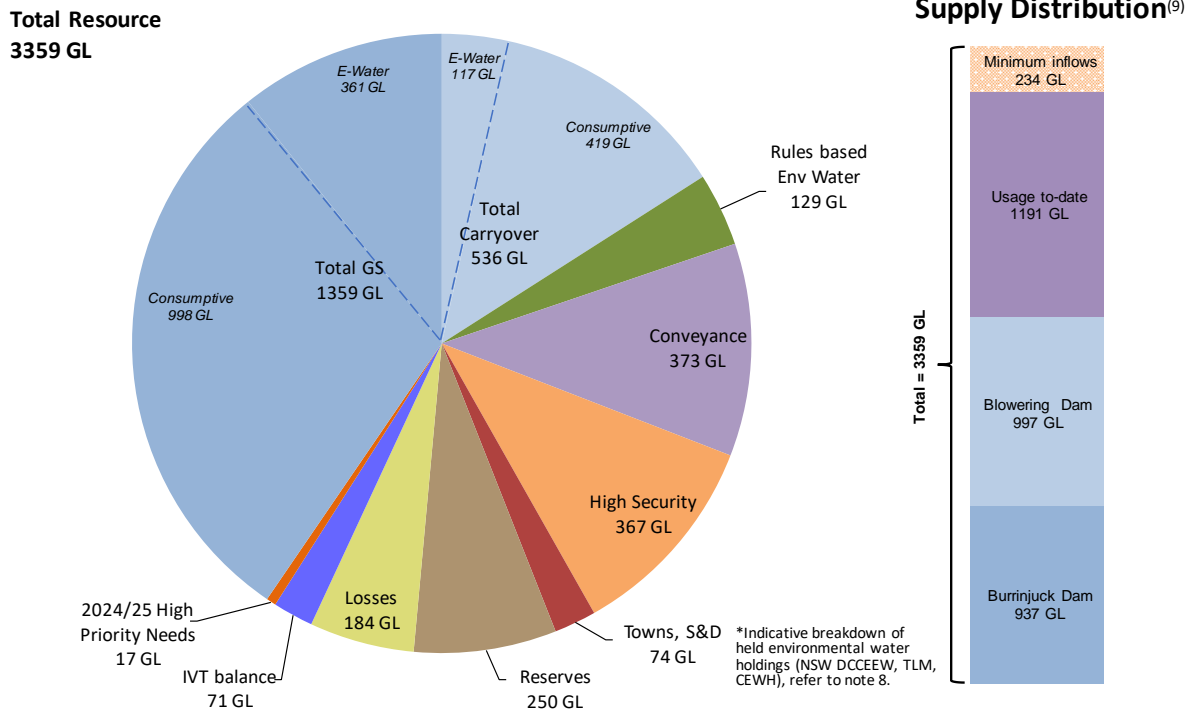
Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (1 February) for 2023-24	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	3,359
less	
Carryover ^{(8)#}	536
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	129
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves ⁽³⁾	250
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	373
Announced High Security (100%)	367
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) ⁽⁵⁾	184
Murrumbidgee IVT account (this is the carryover remaining from 1 July) ⁽⁶⁾	71
Announced General Security (100%) ^{(8)#}	1,359
Year 2 (2024-25) high priority needs ⁽⁷⁾	17

*See notes below

#Carryover plus allocation is limited to 100% of entitlement

Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2023-24 – 1 February 2024



*See notes below

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 (2023-24) is estimated to be about 970 GL (includes montane release). Any pre-release of next year’s RAR is quarantined and will be used to support allocations in 2024/25.
- 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 46 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 83 GL, EWA2 = 0 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 = 200 GL, PSV2 = nil).
- 4) Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued to Irrigation Corporations to enable delivery of water in their channel systems. Allocation is prescribed in the water sharing plan and is a function of high and general security allocation. Conveyance licences in the Murrumbidgee valley can carryover 30% of their entitlement.
- 5) Losses – the best estimate of the conservative volume required to run the river to meet demands for the remainder of the water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission and operational loss. This estimate is updated monthly.
- 6) IVT account carryover value into 2023-24. Does not necessarily reflect the current IVT balance. Balance was reduced by 18 GL (equating to the IVT spill which occurred on 14 August 2023) from 89 GL to 71 GL.
- 7) 2024-2025 high priority needs on 1 July - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2024, for ‘Year 2’.
- 8) Carryover plus General Security allocation cannot exceed 100% of entitlement. 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 361 GL of GS, 11 GL of HS, 76 GL of conveyance allocation and 117 GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DCCEEW, TLM and 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 assessment for the following: 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). It also includes the current balance of Blowering Compensation Account, held within the Snowy Scheme and available if Blowering levels get critically low.

Allocations in 2023/24 for the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source

Date	License Category	Increment (% or ML/share)	Total 2023/24 (% or ML/share)
1-July	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.8702	0.8702
1-July	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	100*
1-July	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	100*
1-July	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.7790	0.779
1-July	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.3700	0.37
1-July	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.3700	0.37
1-July	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.9500	0.95
1-July	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1.0000	1.0000*
1-July	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER (LOWBIDGEE)	1.0000	1.0000*
15-Aug	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0117	0.8819
15-Aug	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0136	0.7926
15-Aug	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.0200	0.3900
15-Aug	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.0200	0.3900
15-Sep	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0133	0.8952
15-Sep	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0340	0.8266
15-Sep	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.0500	0.4400
15-Sep	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.0500	0.4400
3-Oct	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0037	0.8989
3-Oct	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0136	0.8402
3-Oct	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.0200	0.4600
3-Oct	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.0200	0.4600
15-Dec	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0150	0.9139
15-Dec	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0798	0.9200
15-Dec	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.0800	0.5400
15-Dec	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.0800	0.5400
2-Jan	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0112	0.9251

Date	License Category	Increment (% or ML/share)	Total 2023/24 (% or ML/share)
2-Jan	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0790	0.9990
2-Jan	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.0600	0.6000
2-Jan	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.0600	0.6000
15-Jan	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0112	0.9363
15-Jan	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0010	1.0000*
15-Jan	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.0600	0.6600
15-Jan	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.0600	0.6600
1-Feb	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0637	1.0000*
1-Feb	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.3400	1.0000*
1-Feb	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.3400	1.0000*
1-Feb	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.0500	1.0000*

*Maximum allowable

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water - 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: water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

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