

15 July 2024

Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is a 5% allocation increase to General Security entitlements in the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source. The increment brings the cumulative General Security allocation to 33%. Incorporating average carryover of around 27%, the total water availability averaged across all General Security entitlements is around 60%.

Prior to further General Security allocation increases, Environmental Water Allowance and Provisional Storage Volume accounts must be incremented in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan. Further resource improvements, should they occur, will first be used to increment these accounts and then to increase General Security allocations.

Carryover volumes assumed in this resource assessment are based on provisional data. Carryover volumes will be finalised in August once water user accounts have been reconciled and finalised.

The resource improvement underpinning the allocation increase announced today has been from a combination of higher than assumed minimum storage and tributary inflows, reduced losses and a lower carryover liability than previously assumed.

Cumulative allocations for 2024/25

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	33%	27%

Storage levels (as at 13 July 2024)

- Blowering Dam is about 74% full – holding about 1,220 gigalitres (GL).
- Burrinjuck Dam is about 76% full – holding about 780 GL.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for August to October 2024 indicates that rainfall will likely to be around average to above average across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Trade

Trade **out of Murrumbidgee is closed** and **trade into the Murrumbidgee is open** (as of 13 July 2024). 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 important information. The Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated

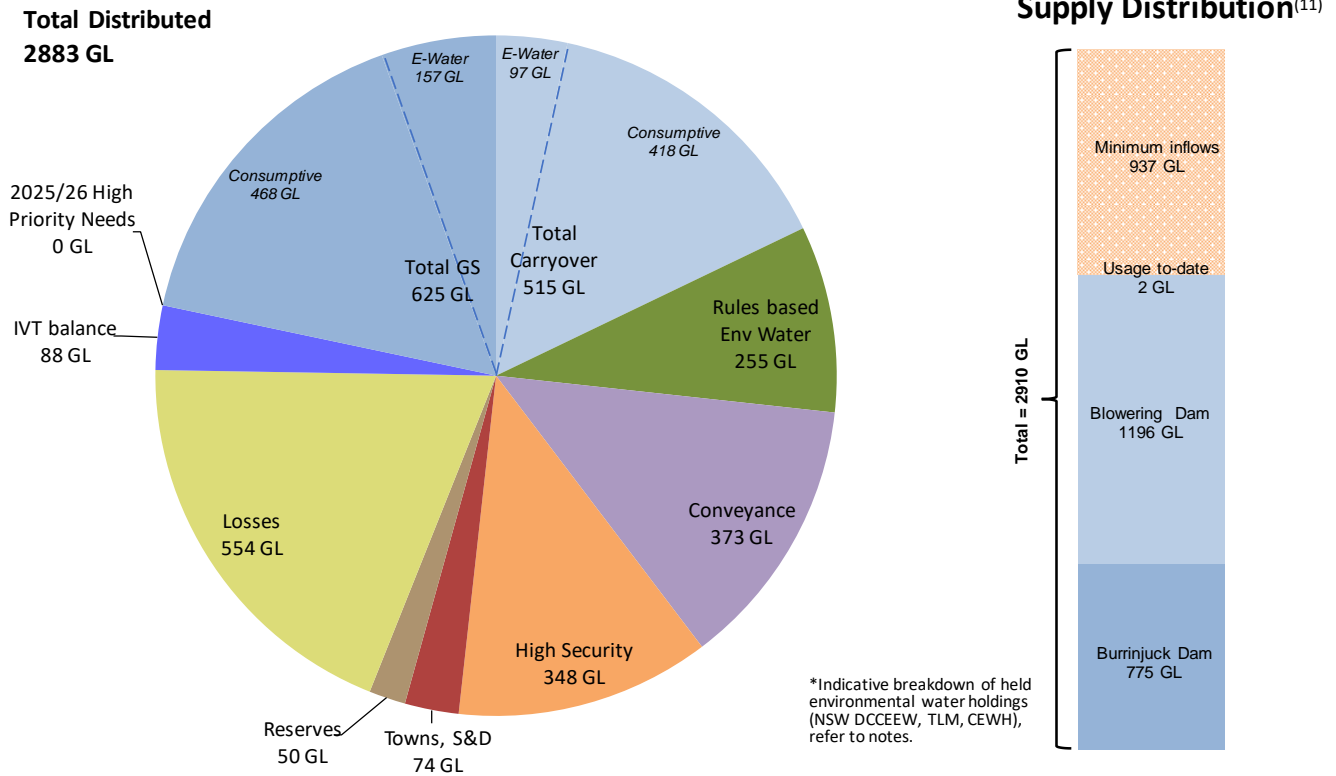
between limits of 0 GL and 100 GL however the balance can move rapidly. The information presented in this statement is current at the time of writing.

Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (15 July) for 2024/25	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,910
<i>less</i>	
Carryover ^{(2), (8)}	515
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	255
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74
Reserves ⁽⁴⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	373
High Security (95%)	348
Losses ⁽⁶⁾	554
Murrumbidgee IVT (carryover remaining from 1 July) ⁽⁷⁾	88
General Security (33%) ⁽⁸⁾	625
2025/26 high priority needs reserve ⁽⁹⁾	0
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽¹⁰⁾	28

*See notes below

Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2024/25 – 15 July 2024



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 (2024-25) is estimated to be about 141 GL.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 = 38 GL, EWA2 = 9 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.
- 4) 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 = nil, PSV2 = nil).
- 5) Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued to Irrigation Corporations to enable delivery of water in their channel systems. Allocation rules are prescribed in the Water Sharing Plan and are a function of High and General Security allocation. Conveyance licences in the Murrumbidgee valley can carryover 30% of their entitlement.
- 6) 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.
- 7) IVT account carryover value into 2024/25. Does not necessarily reflect the current IVT balance.
- 8) This reporting of Held Environmental Water is the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 158 GL of General Security, 15 GL of High Security, 60 GL of Conveyance allocation and 97 GL of General Security carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, The Living Murray and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
- 9) 2025/26 high priority needs on 1 July 2025 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2025, for ‘Year 2’.
- 10) Remaining unallocated water. Any surplus volume which was insufficient to provide an additional increment to allocations in the current assessment will be used in future resource assessments, if possible, to underpin allocation increases and meet any necessary Water Sharing Plan requirements. Any deficit volume will be covered by any future resource improvements prior to any further allocation increases.
- 11) 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.

Chances of improvement

The potential improvements in Murrumbidgee General Security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below under a range of conditions from wet to extreme dry. The forecast is based on all available historical data, which gives a more optimistic 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 are subject to change based on weather conditions, water user behaviour, water management decisions and other events. This means water users should use this information with caution and at their own risk, particularly as it projects many months ahead.

Forecast general security allocations (%)

(Any carryover water can be added to these indicative allocations)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Sep 2024	1 Nov 2024
99 chances in 100 (extreme dry) (99%)	33%	33%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	33%	33%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	37%	39%
1 chance in 2 (median) (50%)	43%*	54%*
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	48%*	63%*

* Potential storage spills may limit resource improvements if usage is limited, as spilling storages and low usage means liabilities do not retire from the storages, and therefore resources do not improve. Therefore, actual allocations for the given inflow condition may be lower than the forecast.

Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this regulated system is available at the following link:

[Resource assessment process | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Further information

The next statement will be published on 2:30 pm, Thursday 1 August 2024.

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