

1 September 2015

NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys: Water availability and allocation update

NSW Murray Valley

Allocations

NSW Murray high security allocations have **increased by 2 per cent to 97 per cent of entitlement**, due to improved inflows over the past two weeks.

With all high priority allocations now fully established in the NSW Murray, future improvements can now start to accrue to general security entitlements, up to 30 per cent, after which water borrowed from environmental accounts will begin to be paid back.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray (Current allocations)	97%	0%	30%

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) seasonal rainfall outlook for September to November shows an even chance (50%) of experiencing average rainfall conditions. The record warm sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean indicate strengthening El Nino conditions in late spring or early summer, which may produce dry summer conditions.

Trading

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke is restricted to 'no net trade downstream'; however, there is currently capacity for about 37,000 megalitres of downstream trade.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 September 2015) for 2015-16

	NSW Murray Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	960
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	500
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	56
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54
Reserves ⁽²⁾	2
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	165
Announced High Security	183 (97%)
Announced General Security	0 (0%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, ops) ⁽⁴⁾	
Late Season Discount ⁽⁵⁾	

*See notes below

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Murrumbidgee Valley

Allocations

Murrumbidgee general security entitlements **have increased by 10 per cent to 27 per cent**, due to improved inflows over the past two weeks.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee (Current allocations)	95%	27%	23%

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) seasonal rainfall outlook for September to November shows an even chance (50%) of experiencing average rainfall conditions. The record warm sea surface temperatures in the Indian Ocean indicate strengthening El Nino conditions in late spring or early summer, which may produce dry summer conditions.

Trading

Trade of account water **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley is closed, but trade into the valley is unaffected.

Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet Resource Distribution (as at 1 September 2015) for 2015-16

	Murrumbidgee Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	2,494
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	248
Towns, Stock, Domestic Reserves ⁽²⁾	79
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	50
Announced High Security	285
Announced General Security	341 (95%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, ops) ⁽⁴⁾	322 (27%)
Late Season Discount ⁽⁵⁾	537
	181

***See notes below**

Notes:

- (1) Primarily 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 and environmental allowance. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (2) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes Murrumbidgee Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV).
- (3) Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued by 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 current high and

general security allocations. (This category of licence can carry over up to 30% of entitlement in the Murrumbidgee but none in the NSW Murray).

- (4) 'Losses' is the best estimate of the volume required to run the river to meet demands for the remainder of the year. They do not appear in the Murray distribution because they are debited by Murray Darling Basin Authority before NSW is provided its share of Murray resource. They include storage evaporation, transmission losses, operational loss and assumes a return to dry conditions. This estimate is constantly refined as the year unfolds.
- (5) The last few months of the assumed drought inflow sequence and the assured RAR inflows from Snowy Hydro arrive too late to support peak demand so cannot be used for current allocations. This value was increased in the mid-August assessment based on discussions with Snowy Hydro and a potential later delivery of RAR this year. This water will support allocation improvement of 3 to 5 percent in March 2016, if not before. (If this water was included in current allocations, the water could be used and the storages emptied before the late season inflow arrives).