



Thursday, 1 October 2015

NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys:

Water availability and allocation update

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Allocations

From today NSW Murray general security allocations will **increase by 2 percentage points** to 6 per cent of entitlement. There is **no change** to Lower Darling allocations.

This improvement is largely the result of slightly better than expected inflows into upper Murray and Snowy storages since the last assessment.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	6%	30%
Lower Darling	20%	0%	Restricted access

Outlook

Competing influences between a very warm Indian Ocean and a mature El Niño in the Pacific are influencing the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) seasonal outlook for October to December. Drier than average conditions are forecast for the southeast of the State, and roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier three months for the rest of the State.

The mid October announcement will include an update of the allocation outlook for 1 December and 1 March as well as the 'rocket' diagram of likely improvements.

Trading

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke is restricted to 'no net trade downstream'; however there is currently capacity for downstream trade (by virtue of upstream trades).

Trade is permitted within the Lower Darling water source but inter-valley trade is closed due to the water shortage. NSW Murray water users can trade into the Murrumbidgee valley.

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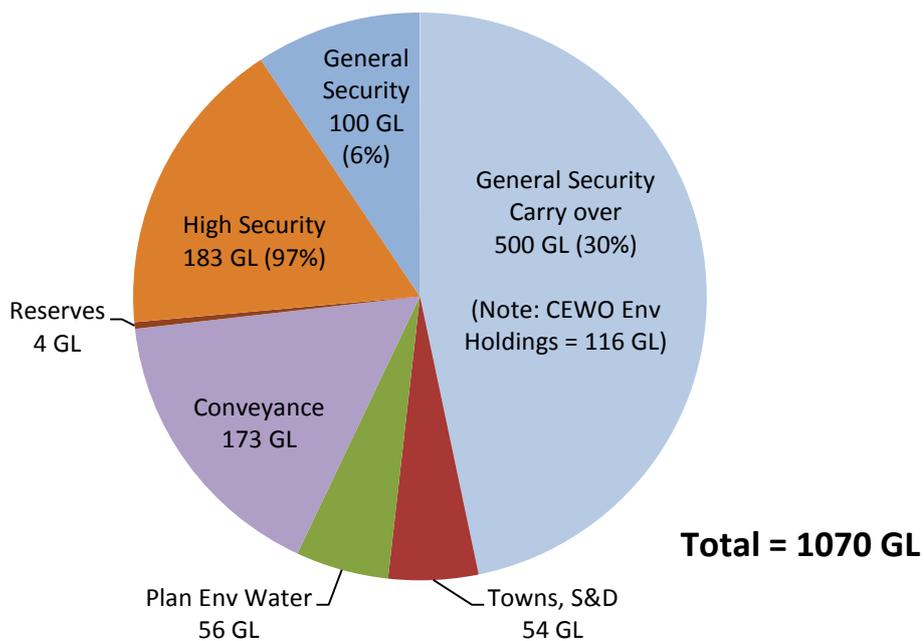
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NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 October) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	1070
less	
Carryover	500
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	56
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54 (100%)
Reserves ⁽²⁾	4
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	173
Announced High Security	183 (97%)
Announced General Security	100 (6%)

*See notes below – refer to next Data Sheet table.

**Allocation Distribution 2015-16
NSW Murray - 1 October 2015**



Murrumbidgee Valley

Allocations

There is **no increase** in Murrumbidgee general security allocations at this time.

There has been little runoff into storages with catchments beginning to dry out in recent weeks. Supplementary access has closed based on reduced tributary inflow and rising irrigation demand. There is insufficient improvement in water availability to make a further allocation to general security users at this time.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	27%	23%

Outlook

Competing influences between a very warm Indian Ocean and a mature El Niño in the Pacific are influencing the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) seasonal outlook for October to December. Drier than average conditions are forecast for the southeast of the State, and roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier three months for the rest of the State.

The mid October announcement will include an update of the allocation outlook as well as the 'rocket' diagram of likely improvements.

Trading

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

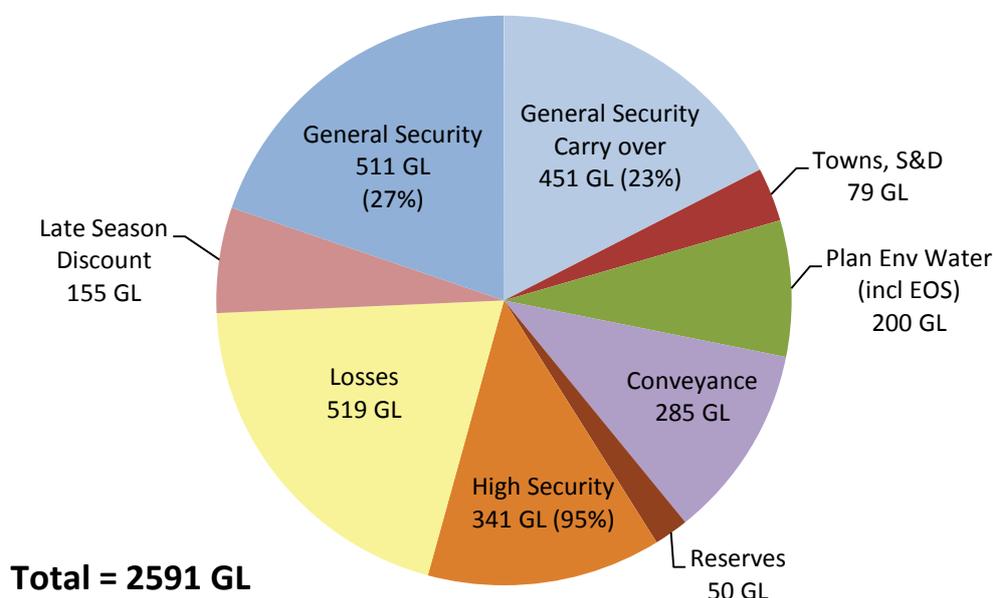
Murrumbidgee Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 October) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	2,591
less	
Carryover (incl. Murrumbidgee IVT carryover)	451
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	200
Towns, Stock, Domestic	79 (100%)
Reserves ⁽²⁾	50
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	285

Resource Distribution (as at 1 October) for 2015-16	
Announced High Security	341 (95%)
Announced General Security	511 (27%)
Losses (transmission, evaporation, ops) ⁽⁴⁾	519
Late Season Discount ⁽⁵⁾	155

*See notes below.

Allocation Distribution 2015-16 Murrumbidgee Valley - 1 October 2015



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. In the Murray this includes AEA and Wakool system requirements. 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.
- (3) 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 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, operations loss. It is assumed there is no further rainfall and that inflow returns 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).