

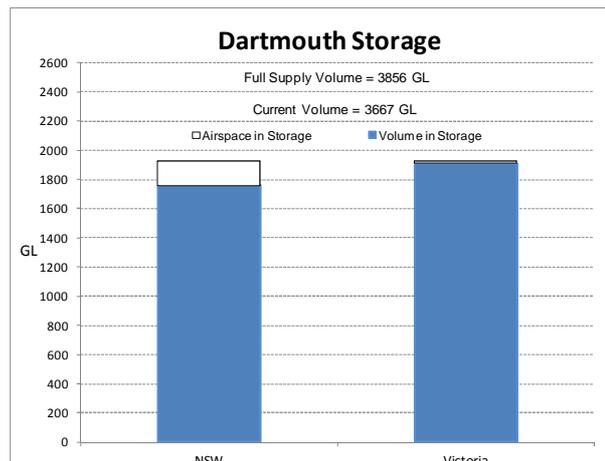
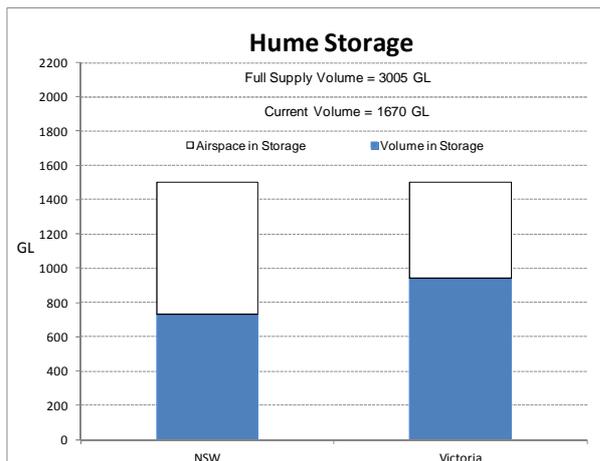
NSW Murray and Lower Darling water allocation outlook for 2013/14 water year

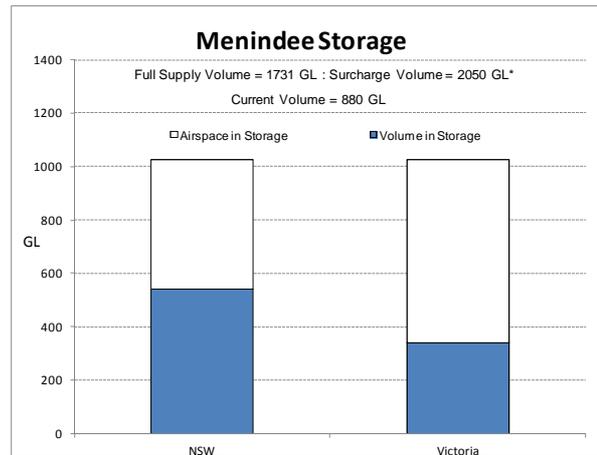
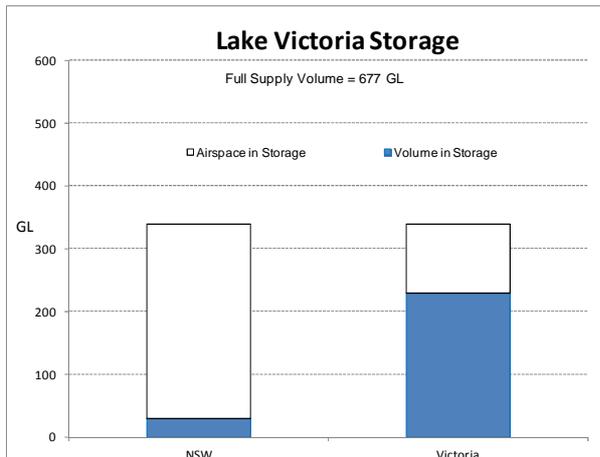
March 2013

Key information

- Water available in the major storages is well above average for this time of year, despite below average inflows since October 2012 and a season of near record water usage.
- Once the commencing allocation is made on 1 July 2013, regular assessments will be undertaken and allocation announcements made by the 15th of each month or next working day following, for the remainder of the water year until full allocations are reached.
- Indicative assessments may be made between the formal assessments.
- The rules for water sharing are outlined in the *NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated River Water Sharing Plan*. Carryover of water in accounts is limited to 50 percent of entitlement for general security licences only.
- Allocation trade with the Murrumbidgee Valley closed on 31 January 2012. Allocation trade within the Murray and Lower Darling Valleys will continue until the end of May 2013.
- Interstate trade of allocation from the NSW Murray and Lower Darling Valleys will cease on **30 April 2013**. This is necessary as late trades (May-June) into South Australia can reduce water availability to NSW general security users in the following year, under the rules of the Murray Darling Basin Agreement.
- All trade will resume on **1 July 2013**.

Storages - State Shares at end February





Courtesy of MDBA

Indicative allocations

- Full allocations can be expected for all **town water** and **domestic & stock** access licences and all **Lower Darling water users**, that is Lower Darling high and general security licence holders.
- Supplementary access licence holders will have full allocations with extractions allowed during periods of announced supplementary flow.
- In addition all **carryover** in general security accounts will be fully deliverable, up to a maximum 50 percent of entitlement.
- **NSW Murray High Security** access licences are expected to receive of 97 percent of entitlement.
- The Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) will be set aside, however the water in this account can be borrowed to improve general security allocations should the general security allocation and carry over be less than 30 percent. If borrowed, the B-MA will then be repaid from improvements before general security increases from 30 percent allocation.
- There will be no allocation to Murray Additional Environmental Allowance (AEA) at the end of this water year (2012/13), as high security allocations exceeded 97 percent this year. However, the AEA (6 GL) and Lower Darling Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) (30GL) will be set aside for potential use in 2013/14.
- At this stage it is estimated that general security carryover will be an average of 20-25 percent of entitlement, however this is highly dependent on weather conditions over the next few months and individual decisions by water users.
- If the estimates of carryover are correct, it is expected that the commencing NSW Murray **general security** allocation will be around 30 percent of entitlement.
- Sufficient **conveyance** water is set aside to deliver all announced allocations and carryover during the coming year.

Water Budget for 2013-14 - 'Worst-Case' Inflow Conditions

Total Resource Available		1660 GL
High Priority Commitments	480 GL	480 GL
(incl. Towns, Domestic & Stock, High Security, Conveyance)		
Environmental Water	180 GL	180 GL
Lower Darling	100 GL	100 GL
Balance Available for General Security plus Carryover	900 GL	900 GL

Chances of Improvement

The chances of better than worst-case inflows, therefore improved allocations, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions #	General Security plus Carryover	
	1 July 2013	1 Sept 2013
9 chances in 10 (quite dry) (90%)	56	60
3 chances in 4 (75%)	58	65
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	60	80

Multi-history modelling using all years

It should be noted that Murray Valley inflow conditions have been below the long-term average over summer, and February inflows were very low, and would have been exceeded 90 percent of the time.

More information

Bunty Driver **M** 0407403234

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