



Thursday, 15 August 2013

## **Increases to Murray and Murrumbidgee water allocations**

Acting NSW Water Commissioner, Bruce Cooper, today announced an increase to the general security water allocation for both the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys.

Rainfall over the past fortnight, particularly in the Murray catchment means that there is now sufficient water available to increase the NSW Murray general security allocation by 11 percent from 46 percent to 57 percent of entitlement.

The Murrumbidgee general security allocation will increase by 3 percent from 25 percent to 28 percent of entitlement.

Mr Cooper said rainfall in July and August, coupled with low irrigation demand, has seen supplementary access extended in both the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

The upper Murray storages, Hume and Dartmouth Dams, are now at 89 percent and 98 percent of capacity respectively.

However, the Murrumbidgee storages, Burrinjuck and Blowering Dams, currently hold 48 percent and 82 percent of capacity respectively which represents an increase of just 6 percent and 12 percent respectively since 1 July.

“A potential imbalance in the Murrumbidgee storages leading to possible deliverability constraints over summer is being closely monitored,” he said

“While current allocations are fully deliverable, further improvements may not be fully deliverable by the end of February,

“If this situation persists, Murrumbidgee general security licence holders will only be able to count on accessing a proportion of any future allocation improvements before the end of February.”

“In addition, approved trade into the Murrumbidgee Valley may not be fully deliverable before the end of February.”

Mr Cooper reminded water users that inter and intra-valley trade is currently available, including the continued relaxation of restriction to trade across the Barmah Choke, however trade within the Murrumbidgee valley from high security licences, closes on 1 September.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a high likelihood of at least median rainfall conditions in the period August to October.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations can be found on the NSW Office of Water’s website at - [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

**Ends**

**Media contact:** Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

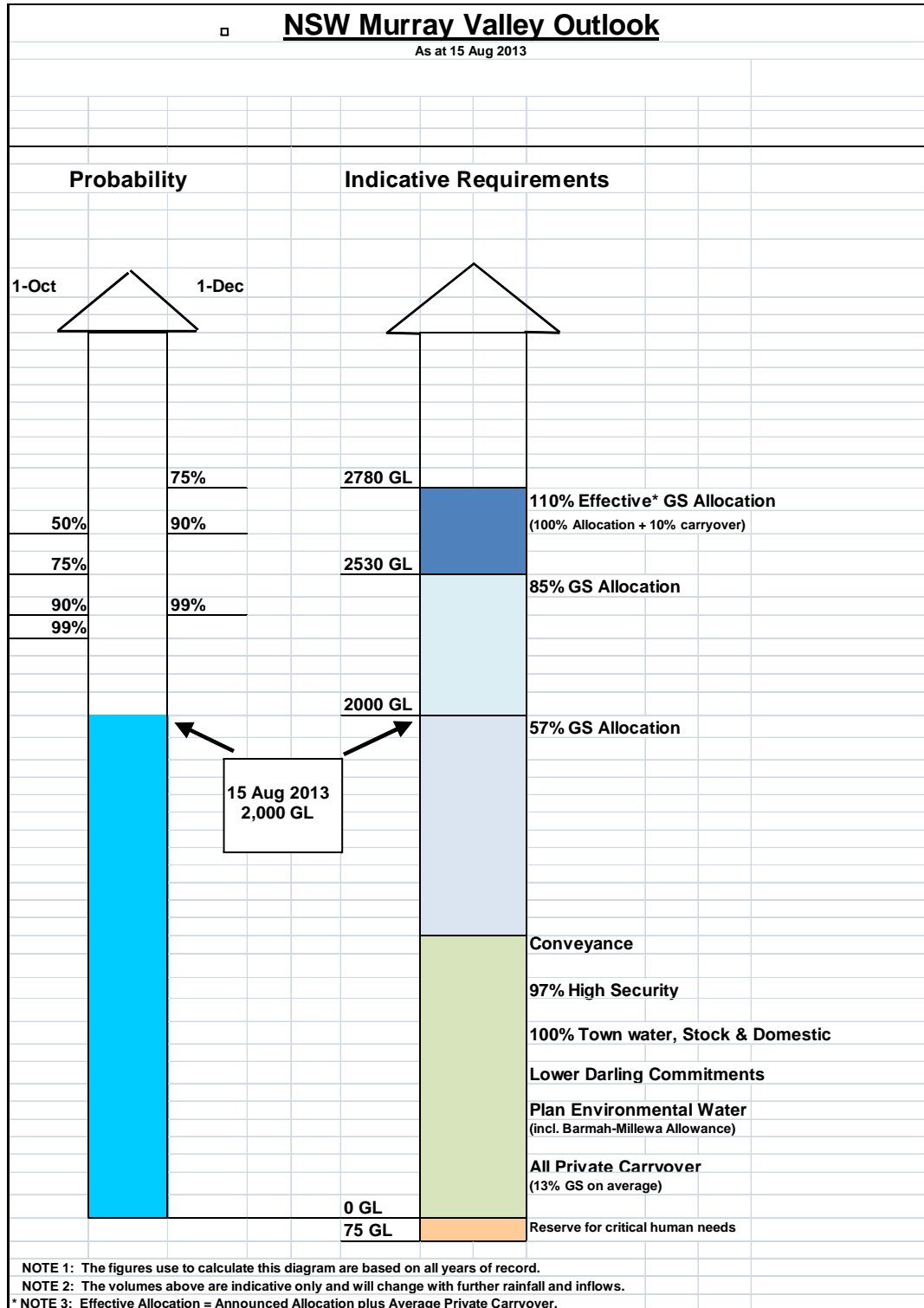
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**Data Sheet:**

The following outlook information is provided on this occasion to assist water users at this critical time in their preparations for the upcoming irrigation season.

In the Murray there is 75% chance of full general security allocations by December

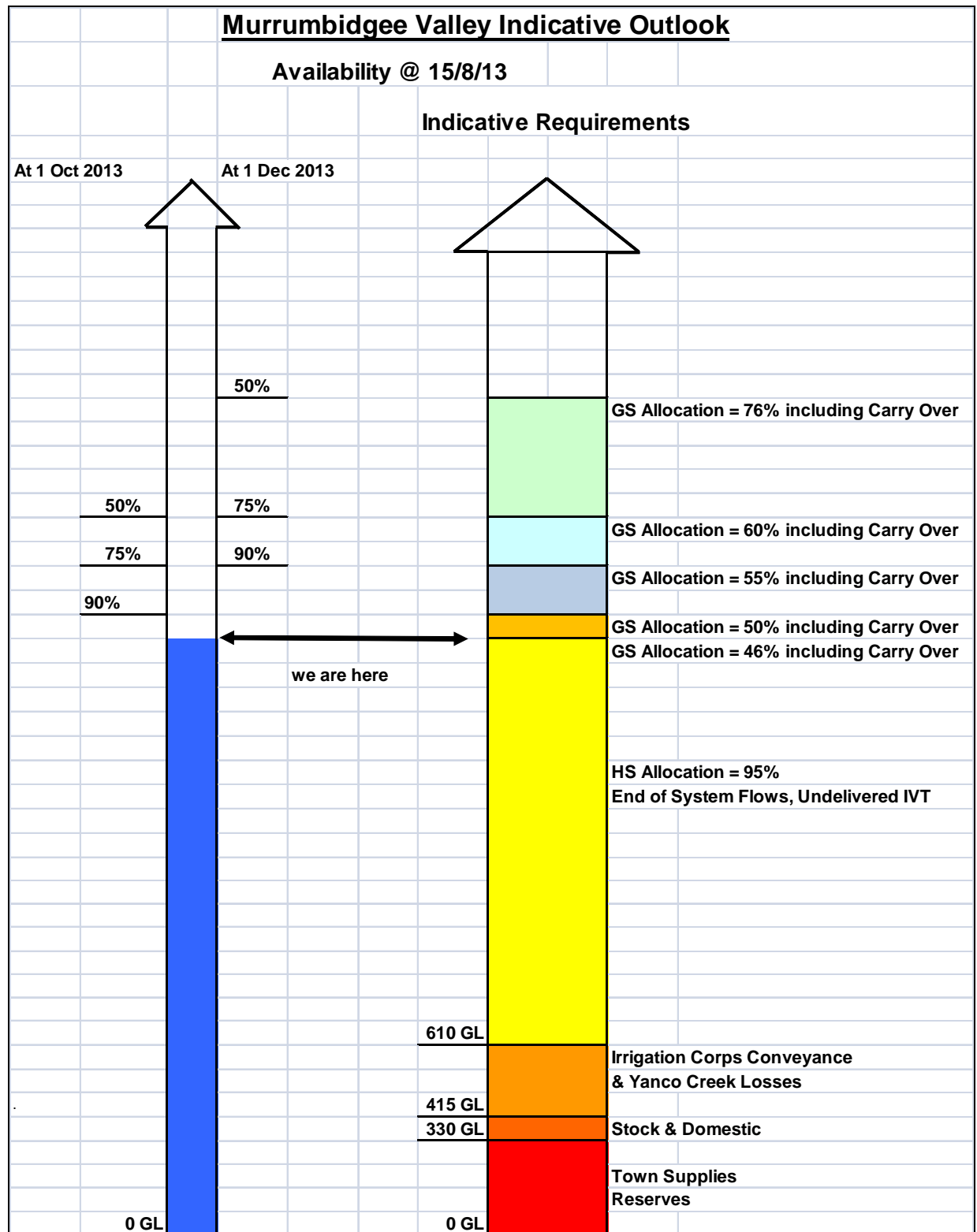


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In the Murrumbidgee Valley, there is a 75% chance of getting 60% (including 18% carryover) general security allocations by December



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