



Tuesday, 14 October 2014

Further improvement for NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee General security water allocations

Acting Deputy Director General, Water, Michael Bullen, today announced an increase to water allocations for general security users in the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys.

The NSW Murray general security allocation will increase by 5 percent to 39 percent of entitlement, while the Murrumbidgee general security allocation will increase by 3 percent to 40 percent of entitlement.

Mr Bullen said that this increase was the result of better than anticipated inflows in upper parts of both the Murray and Murrumbidgee Valleys.

The meteorological outlook continues to be for likely dry conditions this summer.

“Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 77 percent and 93 percent of capacity respectively but falling as irrigation water is delivered.

“In the Murrumbidgee valley, Burrinjuck and Blowering dams are also falling, currently holding 79 percent and 64 percent of capacity respectively.”

In addition, the restriction on allocation trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley has been lifted.

“A reduction in the Murrumbidgee inter-valley transfer account is underway which means that allocation trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee valley can now resume,” Mr Bullen said.

Allocation trade into the Murrumbidgee continues unaffected and the trade restriction across the Barmah Choke in the Murray valley is still relaxed.

Trade to and from the Lower Darling remains closed due to the limited resources in Menindee Lakes.

Media contact: Bunty Driver – 0407 403 234

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Chances of Improvement

The chances of inflows being above historical minimums, and therefore the likelihood of improved allocations, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 December General Security Allocations**		Forecast 1 February General Security Allocations**	
	NSW Murray	Murrumbidgee	NSW Murray	Murrumbidgee
Worst case	36%	37%	36%	37%
Current allocation	39%	40%	39%	40%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	52%	41%	64%	43%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	67%	43%	100%	46%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	100%	44%	100%	48%

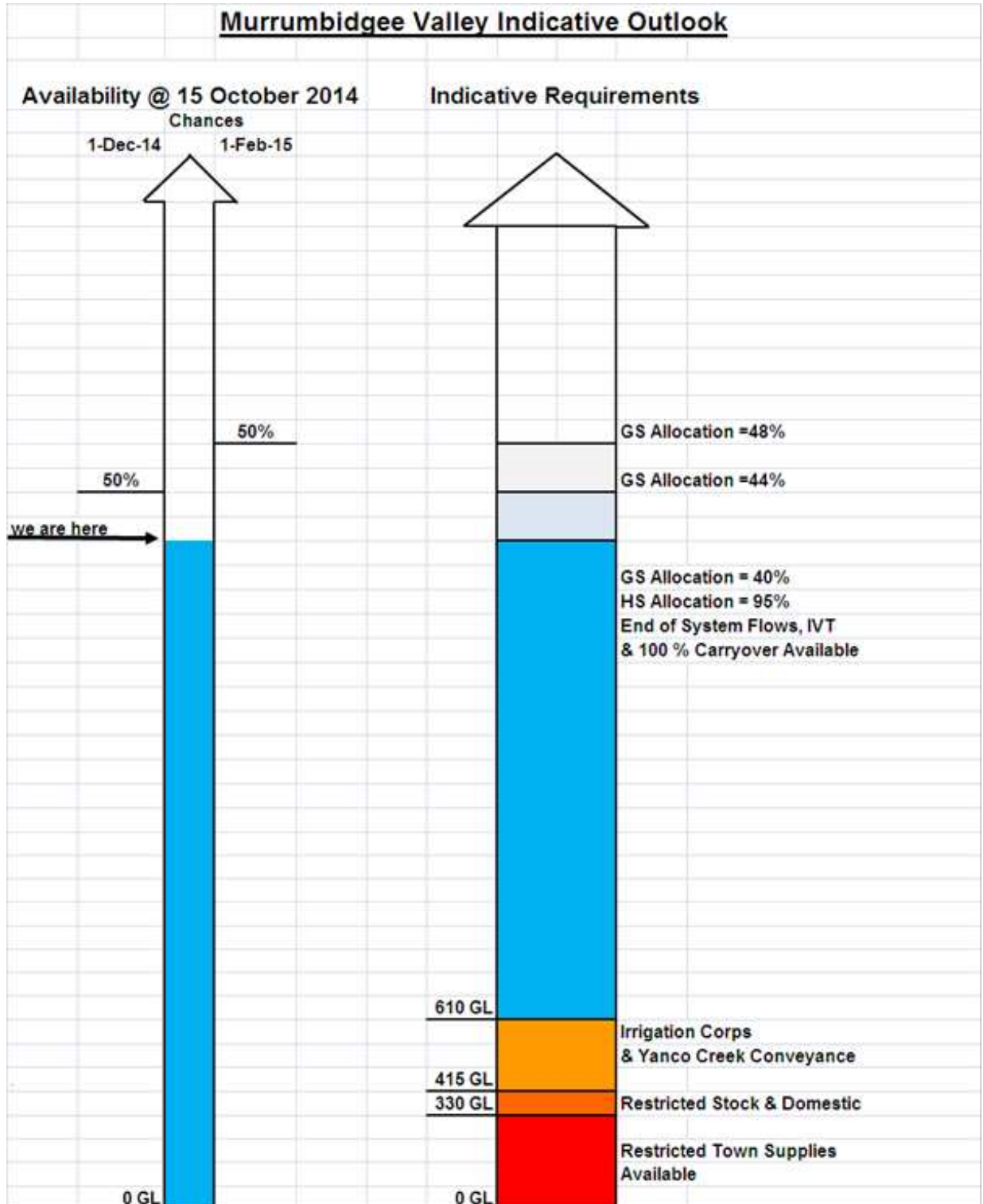
Using all years of inflow records. ** Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

Additional information on *Available Water Determinations* can be found on the NSW Office of Water's website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Ends

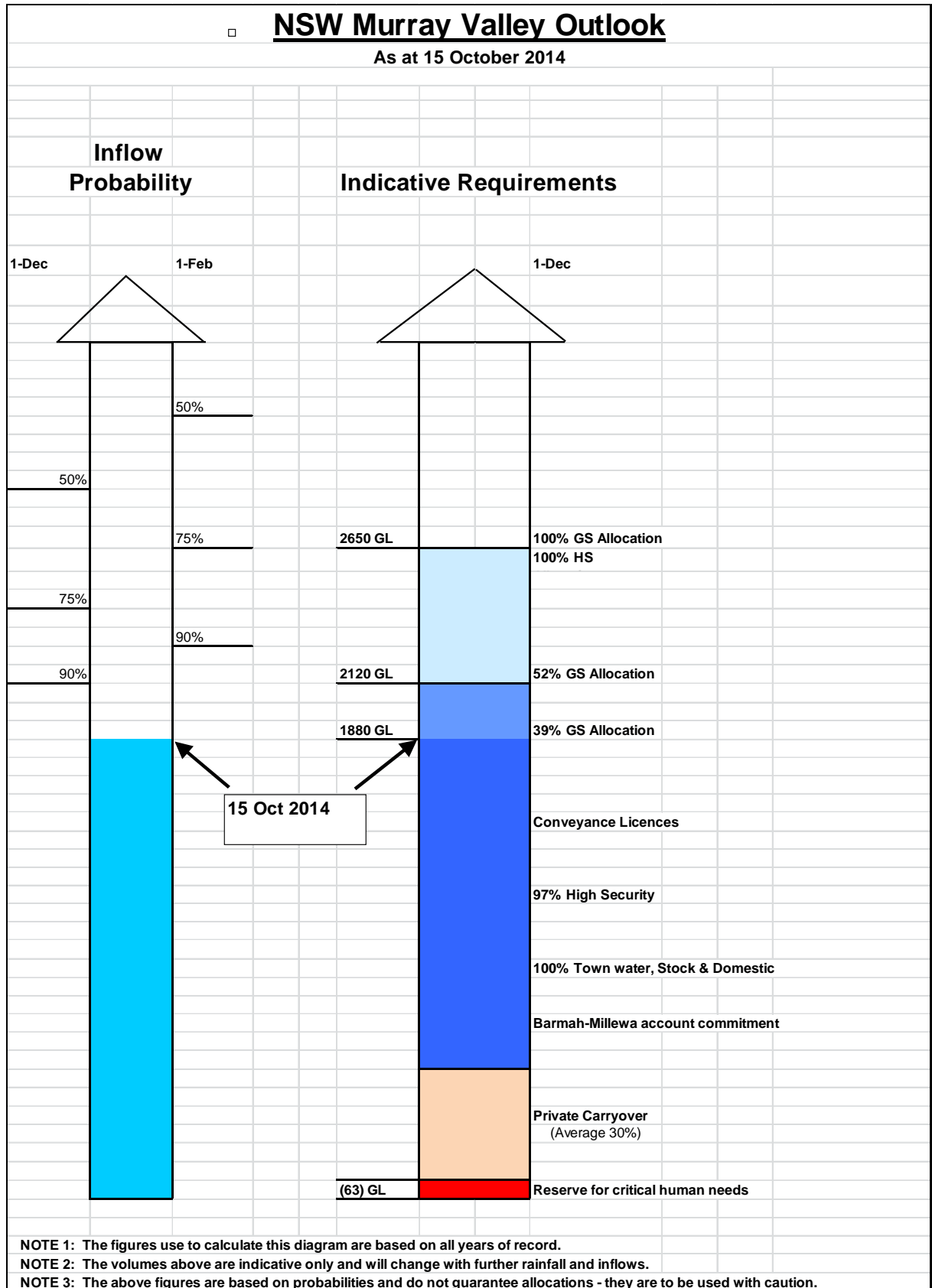
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