

17 November 2014

Some resource improvement in NSW Murray - but no allocation increase for Murrumbidgee general security

NSW Department of Primary Industries Acting Deputy Director General Water, Michael Bullen, today announced an increase to water allocations for general security water users in the NSW Murray.

However, continued dry conditions in the Murrumbidgee Valley meant that no further water could be allocated for general security users in the Murrumbidgee Valley at this time.

“The NSW Murray increase came from better than anticipated inflows in the upper catchment including improvement in the Murray side of the Snowy Scheme,” said Mr Bullen.

“The NSW Murray general security allocation will increase by 6 percent to 45 percent of entitlement, but the Murrumbidgee general security allocation remains unchanged at 40 percent of entitlement.”

“Hume and Dartmouth storages are now at 67 percent and 90 percent of capacity respectively, but falling as irrigation water is delivered.”

“In the Murrumbidgee Valley, Burrinjuck and Blowering dams are also falling, currently holding 74 percent and 50 percent of capacity respectively. The allocations for the Murrumbidgee also have to take into account the carry forward volumes from last year.”

Mr Bullen continued, saying allocation trade **within** and **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley can continue, but trade **out** remains closed.

“Also, the trade restriction across the Barmah Choke is now operating, meaning that trade downstream is only allowed to the extent there has been upstream trade – there can be no **net** trade downstream across the choke,” Mr Bullen said.

The next water allocation announcement and water availability outlook will be made by the NSW Office of Water on 1 December 2014.

Chances of improvement

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

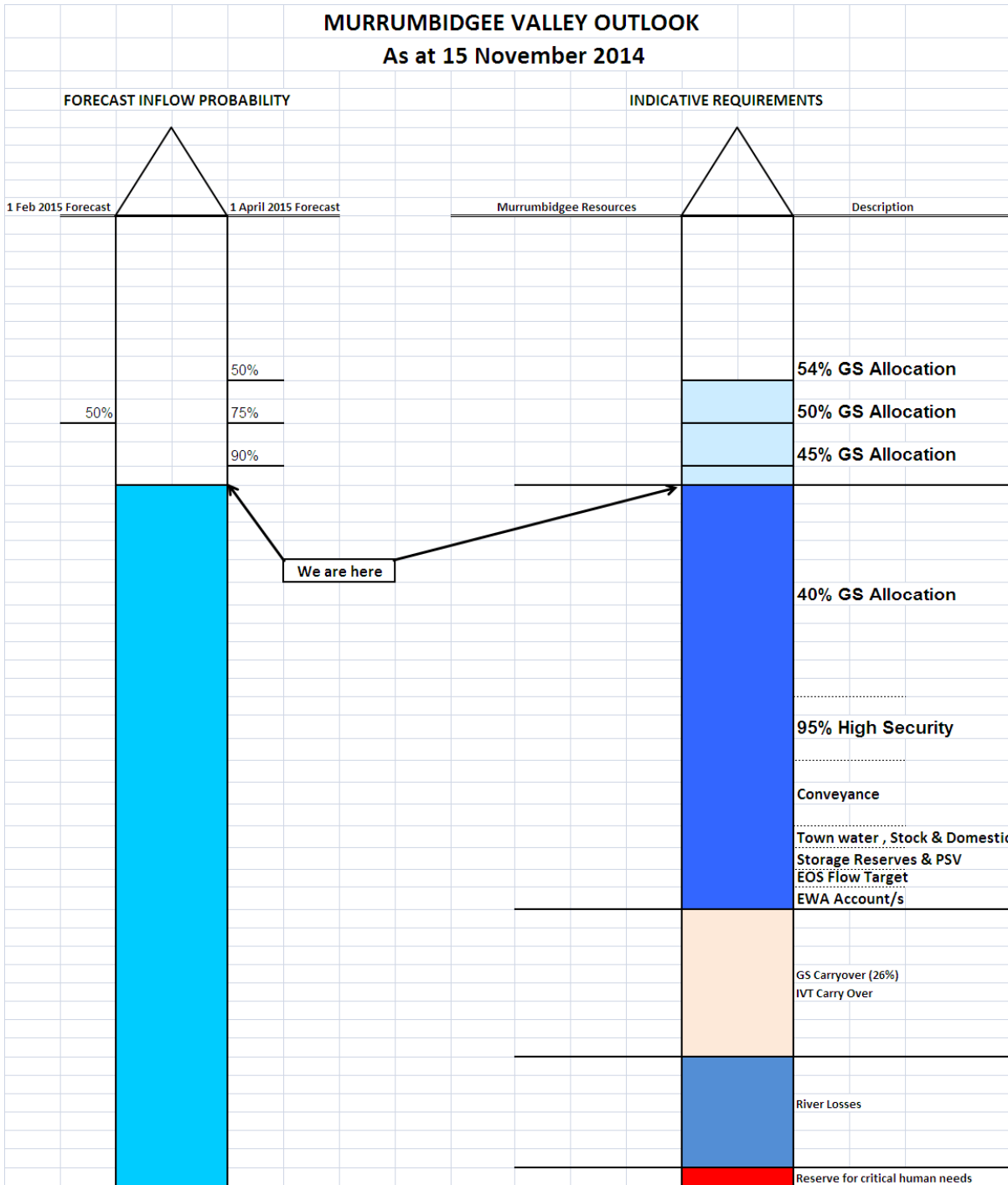
Potential Inflow Conditions #	Forecast 1 February General Security Allocations**		Forecast 1 April General Security Allocations**	
	NSW Murray	Murrumbidgee	NSW Murray	Murrumbidgee
Worst case	43%	37%	43%	37%
Current allocation	45%	40%	45%	40%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	61%	44%	68%	45%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	68%	48%	80%	50%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	100%	51%	100%	54%

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

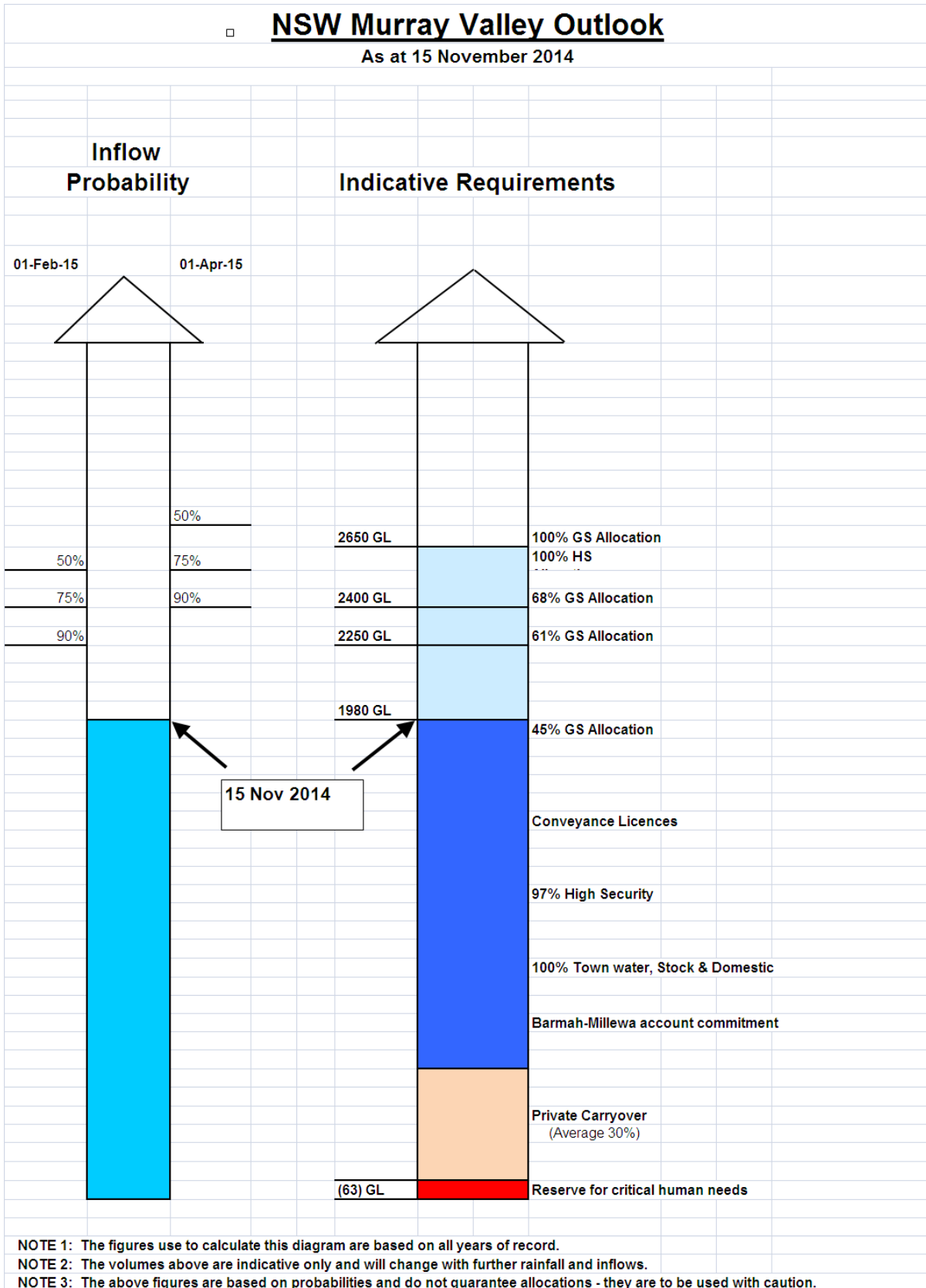
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