

Tuesday, 1 December 2015

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

NSW Murray general security allocation has **increased by 1 per cent** to 15 per cent of entitlement. There is no change to Lower Darling allocations.

The improvement for NSW Murray follows slightly better than expected inflows into upper Murray since the last assessment.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	15%	30%
Lower Darling	20%	0%	Restricted access

Upper Murray Storage levels (at 30 November)

- Dartmouth Dam is 57 per cent full, holding 2,190,000 megalitres (ML)
- Hume Dam is 45 per cent full, holding 1,353,000 ML

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for December to February indicates average rainfall is likely across most of the region, with roughly equal chances of a wetter or drier summer. The temperature outlook ranges from likely average in the east of the catchment to potentially cooler than average temperatures in the western areas.

Current climate influences include a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific, a decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

Trading

Trade across the Barmah choke is restricted to **no net trade downstream**; however there is currently capacity for downstream trade (by virtue of currently greater upstream trade).

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

Next Announcements

Conditions are being constantly monitored and any significant changes in water availability or outlook will be promptly announced, otherwise:

- The next allocation-only update for the NSW Murray will be on 15 December, followed by 15 January 2016 (no 1 January allocation announcement).
- Additional detailed information relating to probabilities, scheduled for 15 December, has been brought forward at the request of water users.

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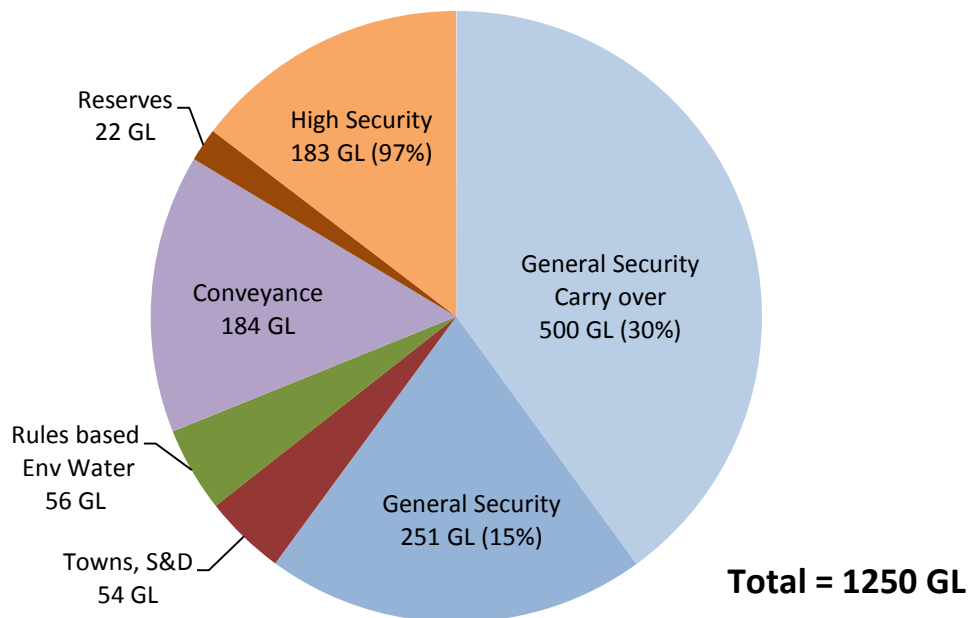
- Water availability forecasts for the start of the next water year (1 July 2016) will be provided on 15 February and 16 May 2016.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 December) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	1,250
less	
Carryover	500
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	56
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54 (100%)
Reserves ⁽²⁾	22
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	184
Announced High Security	183 (97%)
Announced General Security	251 (15%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2015-16 NSW Murray - 1 December 2015



Notes

- (1) Primarily rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. In the Murray this includes Adaptive

Environmental Allowance (AEA), the Barmah Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (which is currently 100 per cent borrowed) and Wakool system requirements. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.

- (2) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans; used for emergency purposes and critical needs.
- (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.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment – Comparison with this time last year

Item	1 Dec 2014 (GL)	1 Dec 2015 (GL)	Comments
NSW share of total resources	1,980	1,250	Inflows in the last 12 months rate very dry
less			
Carryover	498	500	similar carryover
Environmental	238	56	(borrowed B-M water)
Towns, Stock, Domestic	59	54	similar to last year
Conveyance	223	184	less allocated water
High Security	183	183	same
Critical Human Need (CHN) reserve*	27	22	similar to last year
General Security	752 (45%)	251 (15%)	one third of last year's

* CHN reserve target 61 GL.

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved inflows conditions and increased allocations are as follows:

NSW MURRAY Probability of Inflows [#]	Forecast 1 March General Security Allocations ^{**}
Current allocation (99% inflows)	15%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%) ^{##}	18%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	20%
1 chance in 2 (average) (50%)	25%
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	30%

[#] Using all years of inflow records.

^{**} Licence holders can add individual carryover to the relevant percentage.

^{##} We are currently tracking in this (very dry) vicinity

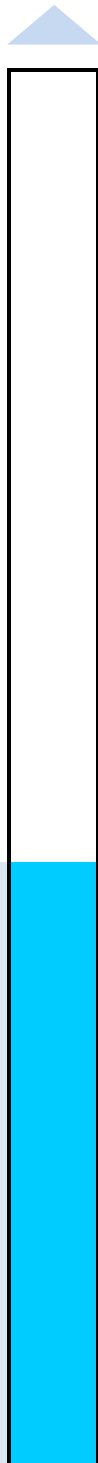
NSW Murray Valley Outlook

As at 1 December 2015

Probability of improvement

Indicative requirements

1-Mar



25% (wet)

50% (average)

75% (dry)

90% (very dry)

1595 GL

1420 GL

1335 GL

1250 GL



30% GS Allocation

25% GS Allocation

20% GS Allocation

15% General Security

Barmah-Millewa account (0%, all borrowed)

Private Carryover (average of 30%)

421 GL

Conveyance

237 GL

97% High Security

100% Town water, Stock & Domestic

1 December 2015

* The figure is based on probabilities and does not guarantee allocations, volumes are indicative only.