



1 February 2016

NSW Murray and Lower Darling:

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

There is **no increase** in NSW Murray regulated river general security allocation. Despite some patchy rainfall, generally dry and hot conditions have resulted in very low system inflows consistent with those assumed in previous resource assessments.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	19%	30%
Lower Darling	75%	0%	Restricted access

Upper Murray Storage levels (at 28 January 2016)

- Dartmouth Dam is currently 46 per cent full, holding 1,805,000 megalitres (ML)
- Hume Dam is 37 per cent full, holding 1,124,000 ML

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook for February to April indicates above average rainfall conditions are likely across most of the region, with chances increasing from east to west across the catchment. Cooler than average temperatures are also expected.

The northern Australian wet season to date has provided limited inflow to Basin catchments.

The current outlook reflects a combination of influences - a strong El Niño now in decline, record-warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm localised sea surface temperatures, particularly around Tasmania.

Trading

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke is restricted to 'no net trade downstream'; however there is currently capacity for downstream trade (by virtue of upstream trades).

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

Next Announcements

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

- The next allocation update for the NSW Murray will be on 15 February 2016. This will include water availability forecasts for the start of the next water year (1 July 2016).

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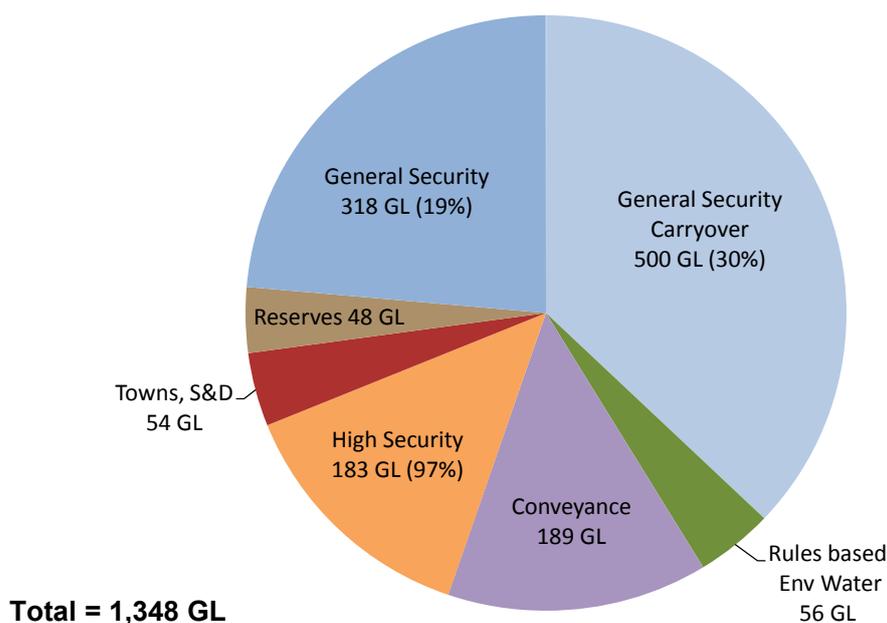
www.water.nsw.gov.au

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 February) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	1,348
less	
Carryover	500
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽¹⁾	56
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54 (100%)
Reserves ⁽²⁾	48
Conveyance ⁽³⁾	189
Announced High Security	183 (97%)
Announced General Security	318 (19%)

*See notes below.

Resource Distribution 2015-16 NSW Murray - 1 February 2016



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 Additional Environmental Allowance (AEA) (6 GL), the Barmah Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (which is currently 100 per cent borrowed) and Wakool system requirements (50 GL). 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.