

1 March 2016

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is **no increase** in NSW Murray regulated river general security allocation at this time. There has been very little rainfall across the southern Basin in recent weeks, resulting in very low system inflows consistent with those assumed in previous resource assessments.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	23%	30%
Lower Darling	75%	0%	Restricted access

Upper Murray Storage levels (at 29 February 2016)

- Dartmouth Dam is currently 43 per cent full, holding 1,711,000 megalitres (ML)
- Hume Dam is 32 per cent full, holding 989,000 ML

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) seasonal outlook in the region for autumn (March to May) indicates generally hot and dry conditions in March with greater chance of wetter conditions and average temperatures in April.

January rainfall in the upper Darling Basin has combined with recent inflows from Culgoa River, increasing the likelihood that a very small amount of water may reach the Menindee Lakes. These conditions will continue to be monitored and forecasts updated. As the northern wet season draws to a close in March and April, BoM's current outlook suggests that it is likely to end much drier than average.

The current outlook continues to reflect a combination of a weakening El Niño, very warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm sea surface temperatures near Australia.

Trade

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 the upstream trade volume).

Trade is permitted within the Lower Darling water source, but inter-valley trade (IVT) is closed due to the water shortage.

Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee Valley recently closed when the IVT account balance upper limit was reached. It was opened between the 12th and 23rd February 2016 under new procedures announced by DPI Water on the 9th of February.

Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at www.watnsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/Murrumbidgee to keep informed of the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance, status of trade, and to become familiar with new procedures.

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Next announcements

The next allocation update for the Murrumbidgee Valley will be on **15 March 2016**. The announcement will also include an update of the water availability outlook for 2016-17.

Improving water availability information

DPI Water has made some changes to our website to improve the way in which information on water allocations and water availability is accessed by water users.

Part of the new look website is to bring the water allocation and availability information into one central location - the [Water Availability Hub](#).

Here you will be able to find:

- Current water allocations
- Water Allocation Statements
- Water availability outlooks for major river valleys
- Available Water Determination Orders

To make it even easier to keep informed about the latest water allocations and availability outlooks, DPI Water has developed a new on-line notification service - this will deliver alerts of new announcements direct to your email inbox.

To access this feature, simply go to the [Water Availability Hub](#), and click on the link to subscribe. You can choose to receive updates from across NSW, or if you prefer, single out a specific valley.

As usual all water allocation and water availability announcements will be uploaded to the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au - and can be accessed via the homepage. However, the best way to ensure you don't miss out on water availability news and information to take a few minutes and subscribe to our on-line service.

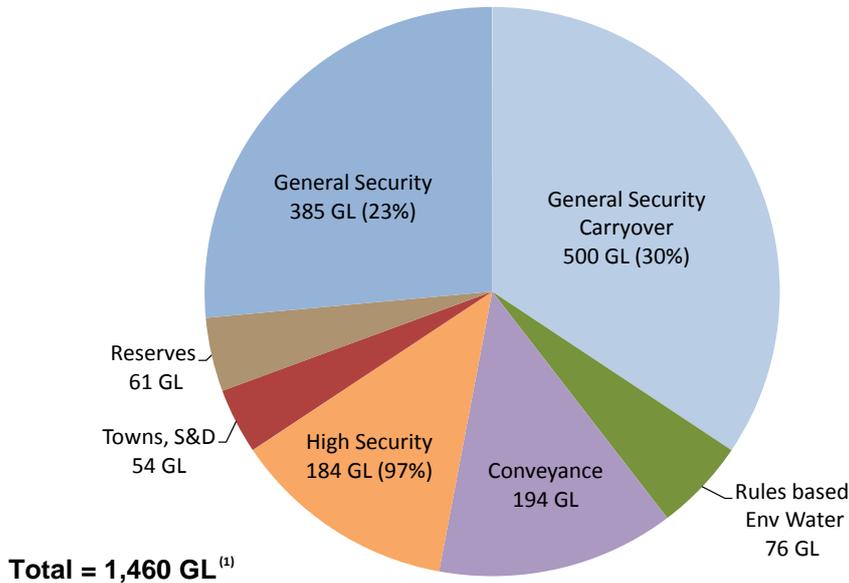
Water availability and allocations announcements for the NSW Murray and Murrumbidgee valleys will continue to be made available to users via the website at 5.30am on 1st and 15th of each month. While water availability and allocations statements for other valleys across NSW will be made available on the DPI Water website as necessary.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 March) for 2015-16	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource	1,460 ⁽¹⁾
less	
Carryover	500
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽²⁾	76
Towns, Stock, Domestic	54 (100%)
Reserves ⁽³⁾	61
Conveyance ⁽⁴⁾	194
Announced High Security	184 (97%)
Announced General Security	385 (23%)

**See notes below.*

Resource Distribution 2015-16 NSW Murray - 1 March 2016



Notes:

- (1) Includes 6 GL of uncommitted water.
- (2) Primarily rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. In the NSW 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 (70 GL). Excludes ‘licence-based’ environmental water.
- (3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans; used for emergency purposes and critical needs.
- (4) 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.