



1 February 2018

NSW Murray and Lower Darling

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is **no increase** in NSW Murray regulated river general security allocation at this time.

Rainfall in January has been limited, with very high temperatures contributing to high evaporation. This has resulted in very low system inflows, consistent with those assumed in previous resource assessments.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murray	97%	49%	44%
Lower Darling	100%	100%	

Upper Murray storage levels (as at 31 January 2018)

- Dartmouth Dam is 89 per cent full – steady – holding 3,435,000 megalitres (ML).
- Hume Dam is 62 per cent full – falling – holding 1,862,000 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook indicates that average rainfall conditions are likely in the valley over the three months February to April. However, February has a better than even chance of exceeding average rainfall conditions, especially in the upper catchments. Daytime temperatures are forecast to be cooler than average for much of the region and overnight temperatures are expected to be near average.

A weak La Niña continues in the Pacific Ocean. Models suggest that the event, which typically starts to break down at this time of the year, is likely to end during autumn. La Niña typically brings above average rainfall to eastern Australia during summer; however, the current event is forecast to be weak and short-lived, therefore having less influence on rainfall. La Niña events can also increase the likelihood of prolonged warm spells for southeast Australia.

Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to '**no net trade downstream**'. Downstream trade will open to the extent of any upstream trade volume.

The trade restriction helps to protect existing downstream entitlement holders from an increased risk of delivery shortfall caused by the limited physical capacity of the Barmah choke.

Water users are encouraged to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website at - www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/water-markets-trade/interstate-water-trade/barmah-choke-trade-balance - for information about the trade balance and status of trade.

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The Menindee Lakes system is below 480 GL, the threshold at which the Lower Darling becomes administratively separated from the Murray. Temporary trade with the Murray is therefore closed. Trade typically remains closed until the system recovers to above 640GL. Trade within the Lower Darling water source remains unaffected.

Trade **out** and **within** the Murrumbidgee Valley is open, but trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is closed. Water users are encouraged to monitor the WaterNSW website at - www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/trading/murrumbidgee - for information about the Murrumbidgee inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance and status of trade.

Next announcements

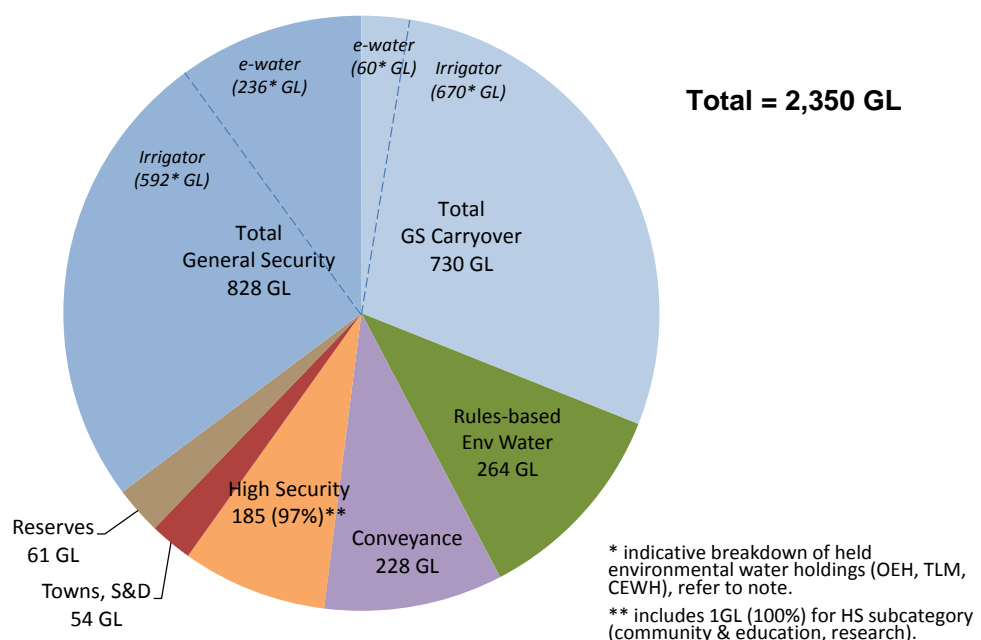
The next allocation update for the NSW Murray regulated river valley will be issued on **Thursday 15 February 2018**.

NSW Murray Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 February) for 2017-18	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,350
less	
Carryover ^{(2), (7)}	730
Rules based Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	264
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	54 (100%)
Announced High Security subcategory (education, research) ⁽⁴⁾	1 (100%)
Announced High Security ⁽⁴⁾	184 (97%)
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	228
Reserves ⁽⁶⁾	61
Announced General Security ⁽⁷⁾	828 (49%)

*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution 2017-18
NSW Murray - 1 Feb 2018**



Notes:

- (1) Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as assessed and accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement at the time of the assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus assumed drought inflows for the rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR), as well as estimated usage to date. NSW is in Special Accounting with South Australia (SA) but this currently has no material impact on NSW allocations. Special accounting is triggered when NSW is forecast unable to meet the required reserve of 1,250 GL by the end of the water year to supply SA with its entitlement in the following water year. Details can be found in the MDB Agreement Clauses 123-129.

Note that the current trial providing a water balance diagram (distribution of supply and commitments in bar chart format) is currently provided on a mid-monthly basis, as the data is based on monthly modelling. These interim first-of-the-month assessments only incorporate observed changes in inflows and normally reflect little change. Therefore the water balance diagram values will next be updated and published in mid-February 2018.
- (2) Carryover – NSW Murray general security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50 per cent of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 110 per cent of entitlement, which can consist of both allocation and carryover.
- (3) Primarily rules-based planned environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. In the NSW Murray this includes the Murray Additional Allowance (MAA) (about 6 GL), Wakool system requirements (up to 70 GL), and the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) (188 GL). Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW).
- (4) The *Water Sharing Plan for the New South Wales Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016* has subcategories of high security licenses in the Murray Water Source. High security subcategory licences under *Part 7 Division 2 Clause 46(2)* that are present in the Murray include community and education, research, and town water supply. At the commencement of each water year, these licences are to receive 100% allocation, while remaining high security licences are to receive 97% allocation. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the high security town water supply allocation volume has been grouped as "Towns, S&D".
- (5) 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 plan and is a function of current high and general security allocation.
- (6) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans; set aside for emergency purposes and critical needs.
- (7) Held environmental water (HEW) – As a trial, reporting of held environmental water administered by environmental water holders is being reported here, with the associated portions of general security allocation and carryover also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage or trade), and estimated to be 236 GL of GS, 24 GL of HS, 29 GL of conveyance allocation and 60 GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH), The Living Murray (TLM) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). For more details on environmental holdings please refer to individual Agency websites.