

15 July 2022

# Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

There is a **3% increase to general security water allocations in the Murrumbidgee regulated river water source**. This brings the total cumulative allocation to general security in the Murrumbidgee to 38% of entitlement for this water year.

Due to prevailing wet conditions, unregulated flows have continued into this water year and water users are able to access supplementary and uncontrolled flow provisions, subject to their licence conditions and approved periods of access. Supplementary access details can be found at: [waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au](http://waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au)

With full storages, airspace is not available to capture new resources and is therefore limiting the resource improvement despite substantial inflows. Further resource improvement for allocations will likely be driven by regulated usage creating airspace in storages and higher than minimum inflows being captured.

Information on **Intervalley Trade (IVT) balance spill** is provided below in this statement. Details will also be provided in the 15 August 2022 statement.

2022-23	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrumbidgee	95%	38%	28%^

*^ Carryover is based on current best estimates while water user accounts for 2021/22 are reconciled. Final carryover numbers will be confirmed in August. Nonetheless, major changes to these estimates are not expected.*

## Storage levels (as at 14 July 2022)

- Blowering Dam is 98% full – stable – holding about 1,605,000 megalitres (ML).
- Burrinjuck Dam is 88% full – stable – holding about 910,000 ML.

## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Day time temperatures are likely to be around average for majority of the catchment, while overnight temperatures are likely to be above average across the catchment.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook is on La Niña WATCH, meaning ENSO is currently neutral but may develop into La Niña conditions. Forecasts indicate that a negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) will develop in the coming months and persist for much of this calendar year. A negative IOD increases the chances of above average winter-spring rainfall for much of Australia.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

## Trade

Trade **out** of the Murrumbidgee is **closed**, while trade **into** the Murrumbidgee Valley is **open** (as of 14 July 2022). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for daily information about the IVT account balance, the status of trade, and other information. The IVT account balance at the end of the previous water year has carried forward into this water year. The normal operating range for the Murrumbidgee IVT account is between 0 gegalitres (GL) and 100 GL.

## IVT in 2022/23

When water physically spills from Murrumbidgee storages (including pre-releases for airspace operations), a decision must be made to spill or retain any IVT balance. The NSW Murray total general security water availability is currently 95% (comprised of 49% allocation and 46% carryover), which is significantly higher than the Murrumbidgee total general security water availability of 66% (comprised of 38% allocation and 28% carryover). **Therefore, the IVT balance will be spilt in August to help boost Murrumbidgee allocations.**

**The date and volume of IVT spill will be provided in the 15 August 2022 statement** and water users and markets will be given at least 10 days notice before the IVT account is adjusted. Adjustment of the IVT account will likely lead to a change in trade status and water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for information on the trade status. Further information will be provided in the 15 August 2022 statement.

Spilling of the IVT account will likely result in an allocation boost of 3-5% to Murrumbidgee general security entitlement holders, however, the exact impact on allocation improvement can only be confirmed when a resource assessment is undertaken after spilling of the IVT account.

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement will be published on **Monday 1 August 2022**. It will be a short statement, updating any improvements in resource and allocations.

The next comprehensive statement, including the likely improvement in general security allocations under various inflow scenarios, will be published on Monday 15 August 2022.

**Please note: commencing with the Monday 1 August 2022 statement, all future Murrumbidgee statements will be published online at 2:30pm on the day of the publication.**

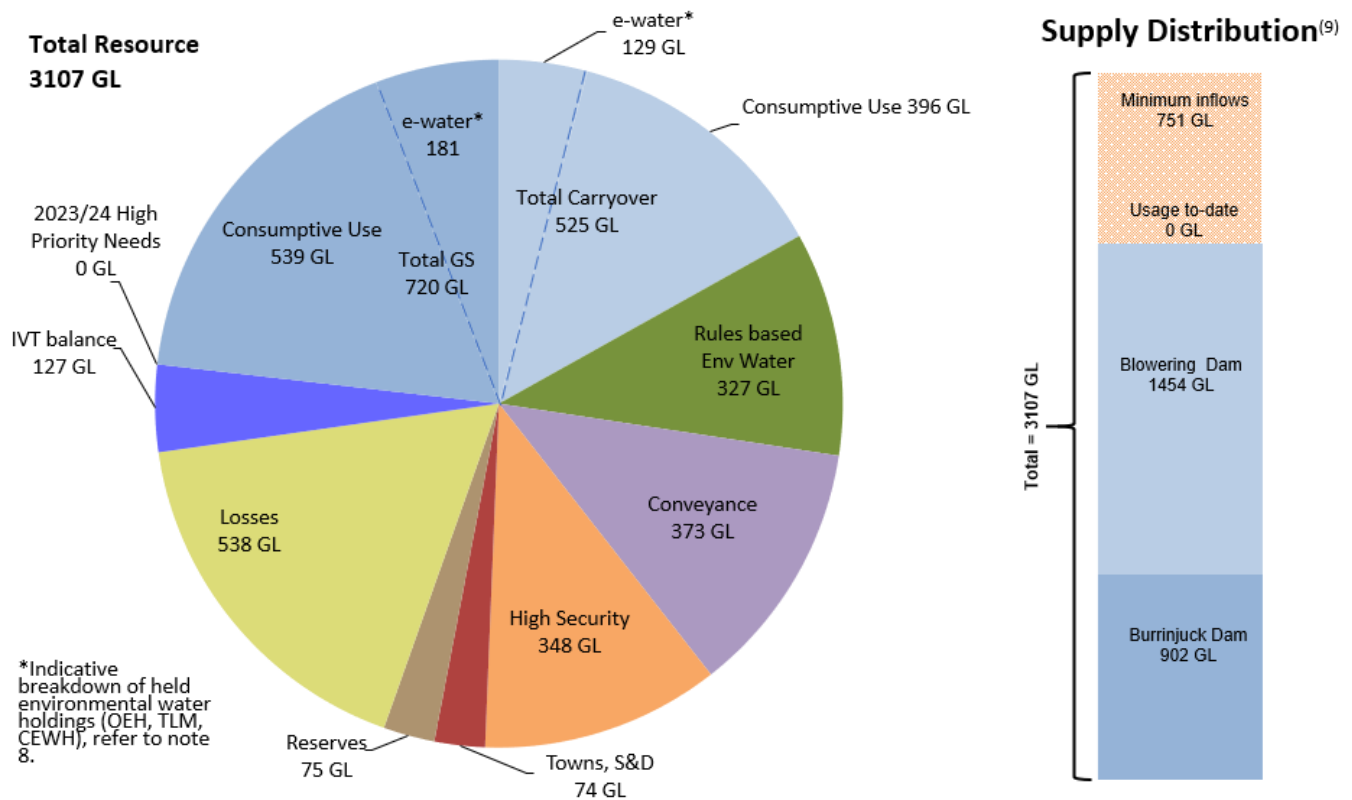
## Murrumbidgee resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution* (15 July) for 2022-23	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	3,107
<i>less</i>	
Carryover <sup>(8)</sup>	525
Rules based Environmental Water <sup>(2)</sup>	327
Towns, Stock, Domestic (100%)	74

Reserves <sup>(3)</sup>	75
Conveyance <sup>(4)</sup>	373
Announced High Security (95%)	348
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operational) <sup>(5)</sup>	538
Murrumbidgee IVT account (carryover on 1 July) <sup>(6)</sup>	127
Announced General Security (38%) <sup>(8)</sup>	720
Year 2 (2023-24) high priority needs <sup>(7)</sup>	0

\*See notes below

### Murrumbidgee resource distribution 2022-23 – 15 July 2022



\*See notes below

#### Data sheet notes

- 1) Total available resource – total active storage volume (Blowering & Burrinjuck Dams) at the day of assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus minimum inflows for rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro’s assured Required Annual Release (RAR) (including any flex (pre-release) from the prior year), as well as estimated usage to date. Snowy Hydro’s net Jounama Release for this year (2022-23) is estimated to be about 340 GL (includes montane release).
- 2) Rules-based environmental water – water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for riverine environments. Includes end-of-system flow requirements (currently 205 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 100 GL, EWA2 = 22 GL, EWA3 = 0 GL). Excludes ‘licence-based’ environmental water also known as held environmental water (HEW). This total volume typically reduces as water is used during the year.
- 3) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25 GL per dam as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 = 25 GL, PSV2 = nil).
- 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 high and general security allocations. Conveyance licences in the Murrumbidgee valley can also carryover 30% of their entitlement.
- 5) Losses – the best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet demands for the remainder of the water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is updated monthly.
  - 6) IVT account carryover value into 2022-23. Does not necessarily reflect the current IVT balance.
  - 7) 2023-2024 high priority needs on 1 July 2023 - volume set aside to cover high priority needs on 1 July 2023, for 'Year 2', including potential carryover.
  - 8) Held environmental water (HEW) – licenced water administered by environmental water holders is 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 the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 181 GL of GS, 15 GL of HS, 59 GL of conveyance allocation and 129 GL of GS carryover. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Planning and Environment, The Living Murray and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.
  - 9) Supply Distribution – the distribution of supply includes volumes at the time of the assessment for the following categories: active volumes in the dams, indicative usage to-date (may be estimates prior to reconciliation with hydrographic updates) and assumed minimum future inflows (includes Snowy Hydro’s guaranteed inflows for the water year, and late season inflows).

### Comparison with this time last year

Item		Mid Jul 2021 (GL)	Mid Jul 2022 (GL)	Comments
Storage Volume (GL)	Burrinjuck	985	907	(includes dead storage)
	Blowering	1,507	1,608	(includes dead storage but does not account for Blowering Airspace requirements)
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,492</b>	<b>2,515</b>	Similar
Losses (transmission, evaporation, operations)		444	538	Higher losses anticipated in 2022 under dry conditions
1 July IVT carryover balance		92	127	Higher IVT in 2022
GS Allocation		50%	38%	Lower in 2022 due to various factors including higher commitments (IVT, EWA and losses)
Average GS Carryover		26%	28%	Similar

### Chances of improvement

The chances of improved general security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the following table under a variety of conditions. The forecast is based on all available historical data, which is appropriate given the seasonal outlook, and gives a better outlook than using just the driest years on record (dry tercile). To be clear, the analysis considers historical data and does not explicitly consider the likely wet conditions in the seasonal rainfall forecast.

It is important to note that these estimates are indicative improvements only and are not guaranteed allocations. Estimates may change based on weather conditions, water user behaviour, water management decisions and other operational matters. This means water users should use this information with caution and at their own risk.

## Forecast general security allocations (%)

(Any carryover water can be added to these indicative allocations)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Sep 2022	1 Nov 2022
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	38%*	38%*
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	38%*	38%*
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	38%*	46%*
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	40%*	53%*
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	41%*	58%*

Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.

Note 2: Forecast assumes 28% general security carryover on average.

Note 3: Physical spills limit resource improvements as inflows are unable to be captured. Actual resource improvements will be highly dependent on the pattern of inflows and demands experienced over the coming months. With storages full, and future inflows at high risk of partial spill, there is high uncertainty in the numbers provided above.

Note 4: In the Murrumbidgee valley, general security (GS) account limit is 100% and carryover limit is 30%.

**\*Does not incorporate potential improvement from IVT account spilling, expected to be around 3 – 5%.**

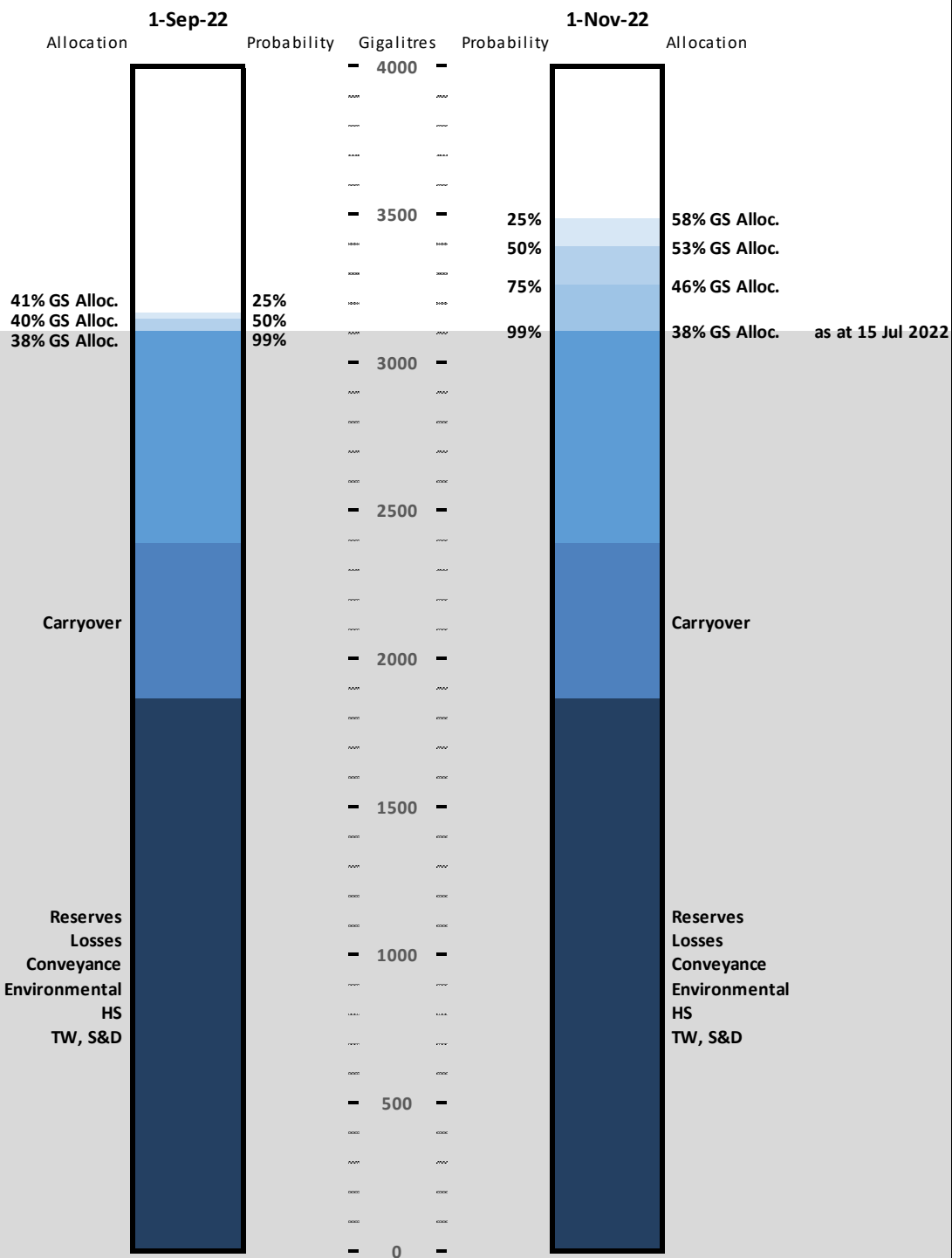
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## Murrumbidgee Valley Outlook

as at 15 July 2022



This figure provides indicative improvements in general security allocations for two forecast snapshots, 1 September 2022 and 1 November 2022. The allocation improvements are indicative only, and do not constitute guaranteed allocations. As of 15 July 2022, General Security allocation is at 38 per cent, and under 99% inflow conditions, will remain the same for the rest of the water year.