



Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

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Current water availability

Rainfall across the catchment over the past four weeks has varied from 167.2 millimetres (mm) at Thredbo Top Station, to 14.9 mm at Balranald. 41 mm of rainfall was recorded at Griffith.

Inflows into the Murrumbidgee Valley's storages are better now than at the same time last year, however resources are still very much below average.

The following table shows Murrumbidgee Valley storage levels as at 12 October 2008.

Storage @ 12 October 2008	Volume (GL)	Percent of capacity	Change in Volume 11 September to 12 October 2008 (GL)	Volume at this time last year.
Burrinjuck Dam	508	49	473	402
Blowering Dam	779	47	810	479
Total	1287			

What this means

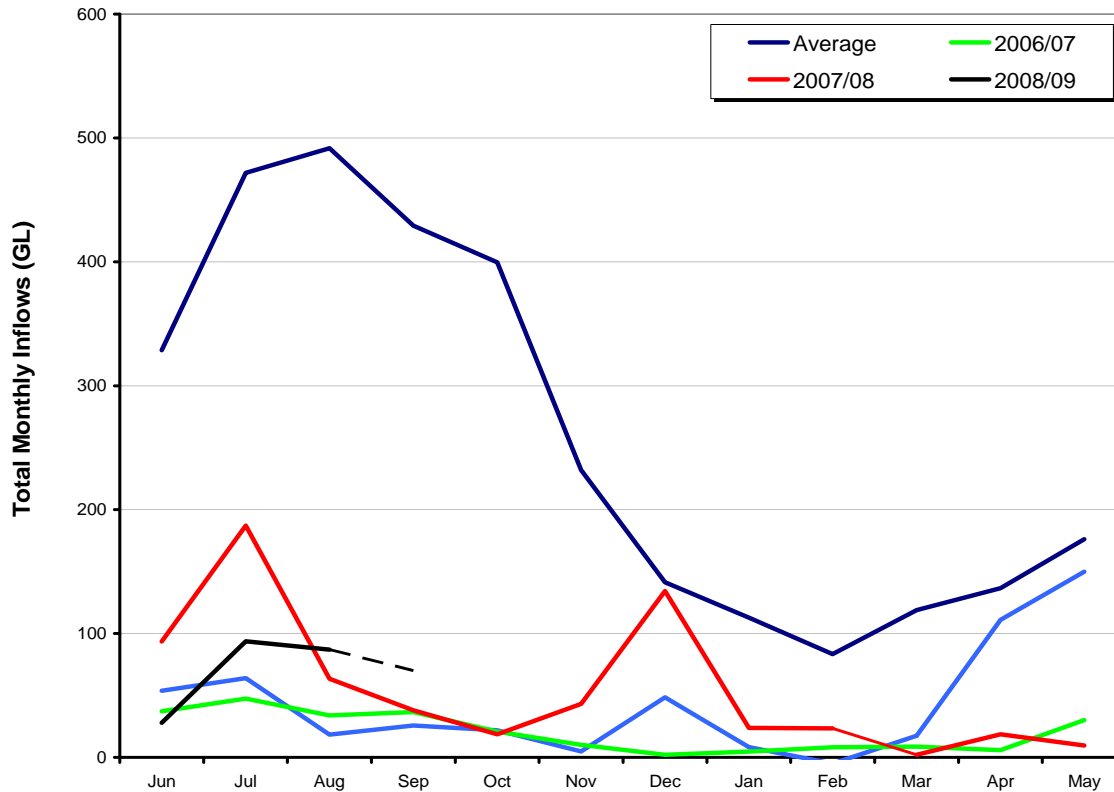
Improvements to Snowy water reserves in early September, coupled with tributary inflows, allowed for high security allocations to be increased to 95 per cent and an initial general security allocation of 5 per cent to be announced on 1 October.

As a further result of improvements in the Snowy River system following rainfall in late September, general security allocations have been increased by a further 4 per cent to 9 per cent of entitlement, with 7 percent available now and the remaining 2 percent deliverable after February.

Town water supply and stock and domestic allocations have also been increased from 80 per cent to 95 per cent of entitlement.

Sufficient water is being reserved to ensure that water can be delivered within the irrigation corporations; however consideration will need to be given to reserving water for critical human needs for 2009/10 in the coming months.

**Total Murrumbidgee Valley System Natural Inflows (excluding Snowy)
Selected Drought Years-v-Long term average**



This graph shows the long-term average system inflows comparing 2007/08 to recent drought years. The 'black line' indicates inflows so far this water year.

Carryover rules

When the plan is suspended, the carryover rules remain the same as listed in the plan.

However to encourage water conservation, any water up to 30 percent of entitlement that remains in accounts at the end of the 2008/09 water year will be re-credited in the 2009/10 water year.

Trade

Water users should be aware that while 9 per cent of general security entitlement is available for the full season, only 7 per cent is available for use or trade now.

Town water supply in 2008/09

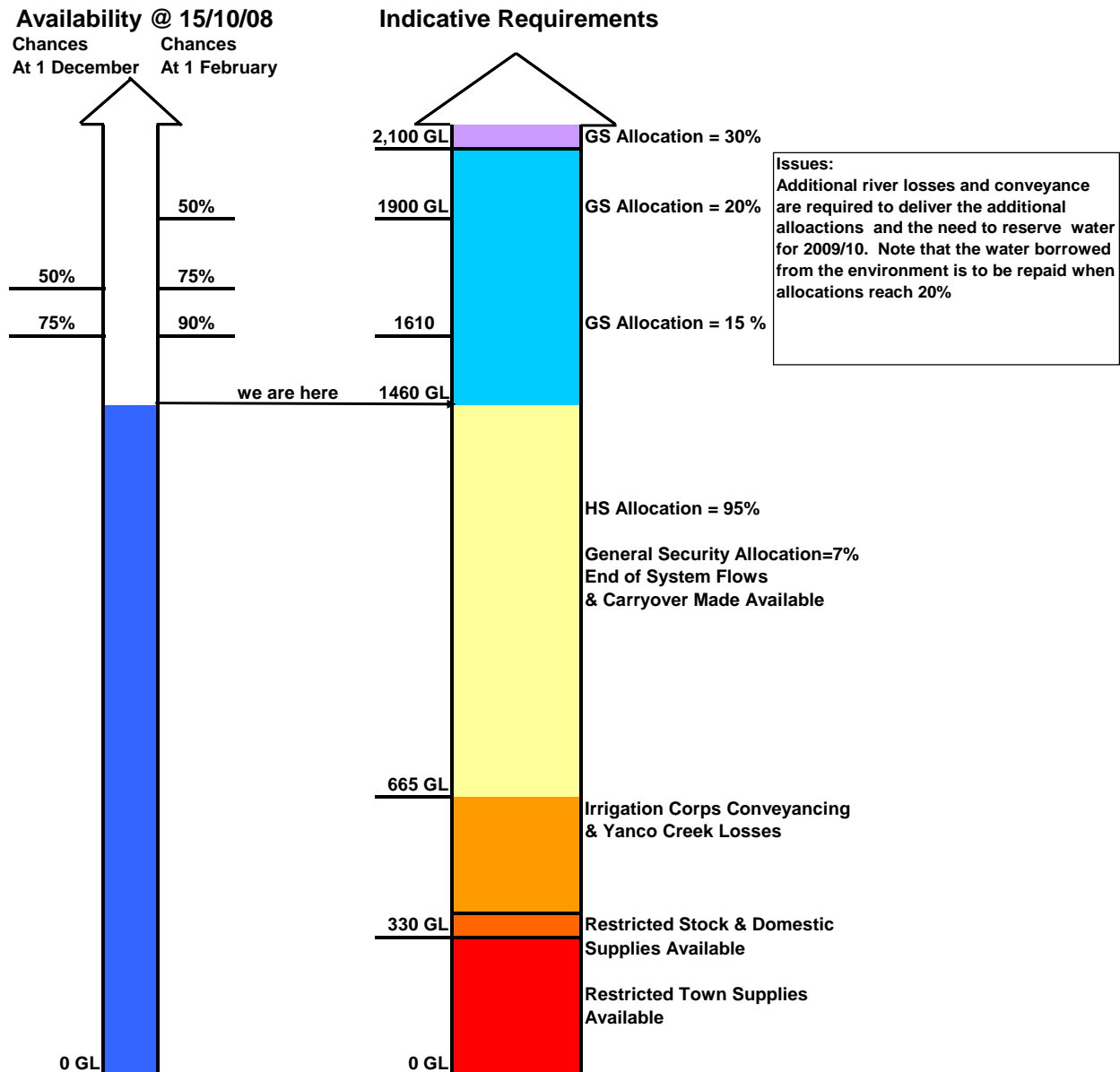
Town water supply has been increased to 95 per cent of entitlement. Water supply authorities are asked to remain as conservative as possible, as water to meet critical human needs for 2009/10 has not yet been reserved.

Compliance

The Department of Water and Energy's Drought Contingency Planning Program will only work if everyone adheres to the restrictions and is careful with **all** water use. To ensure that the system is run fairly, the community should report any suspected breaches to the Department's Compliance Unit via phone 1800 633 362 or by email to watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au. All reports are confidential.

Water availability outlook

Murrumbidgee Valley Indicative Outlook



Note: This advice only provides an indication of potential improvements and any planning decisions should also recognise the current conditions and meteorological predictions.

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