



## Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

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Issue 24 | 15 June 2009

### CURRENT WATER AVAILABILITY

There have been some promising rainfalls across the Murrumbidgee catchment during early June which has benefited dryland farming. These falls have not generated significant inflows to the major storages because of the very dry catchments. However; evaporation has reduced significantly due the onset of winter temperatures.

The seasonal outlook is that the chance of median rainfall from now until the end of July 2009 is slightly below average.

Good soaking rain has fallen over the catchment over the past three weeks. Thredbo Village received 98.7 millimetres (mm) of rain; 60 per cent of the average June rainfall, Gundagai received 41.7 mm; 70 per cent of average June rainfall, Griffith 58.2 mm; 170 per cent of the average June rainfall and Hay 68.9 mm; 190 per cent of average June rainfall respectively.

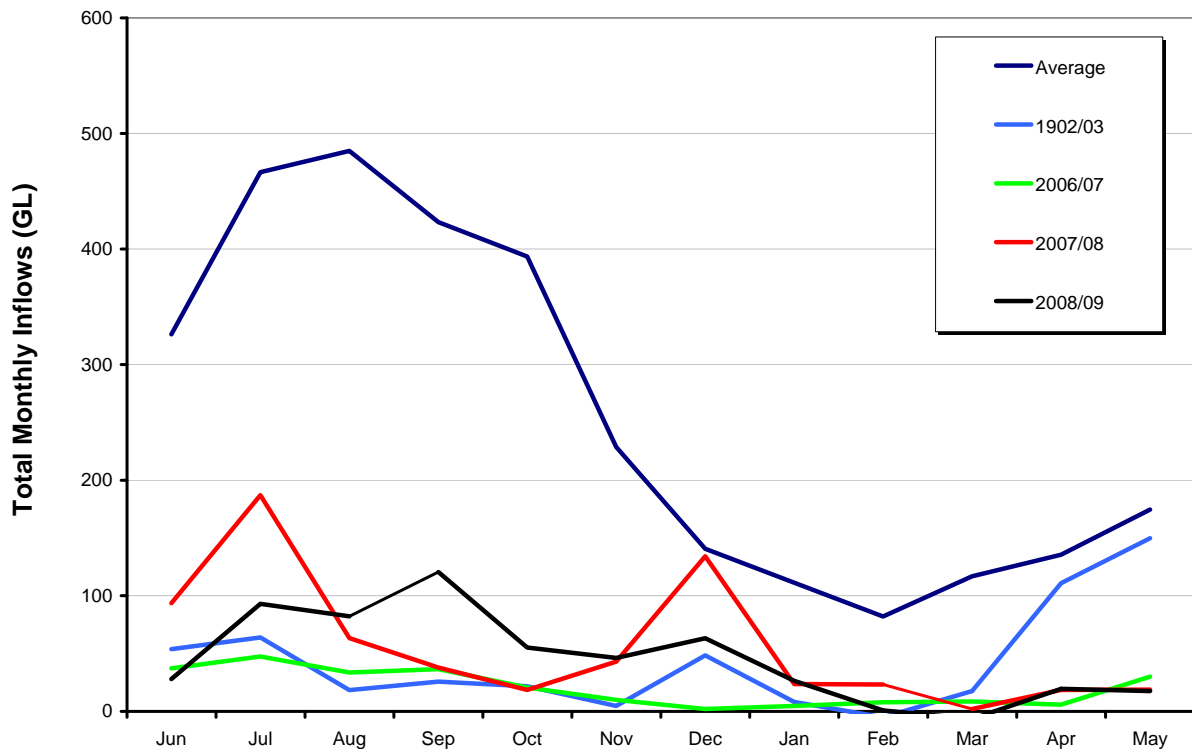
The following table shows Murrumbidgee Valley storage levels as at 11 June 2009.

<b>Storage @ 11 June 2009</b>	<b>Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Percent of capacity</b>	<b>Change in Volume 15 May to 11 June 2009 (GL)</b>	<b>Volume at this time last year.</b>
Burrinjuck Dam	381	37	-17	398
Blowering Dam	515	31	+21	494
<b>Total</b>	<b>896</b>			<b>892</b>

There is approximately the same volume in storage now as at this time last year.

## INFLOW GRAPH

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



## WHAT THIS MEANS

There is sufficient water reserved to provide for critical human needs and some domestic and stock needs in the Murrumbidgee Valley, but not to provide all of the conveyance water required on 1 July 2009.

Any initial shortfall in conveyance water will be sourced from carry-over.

This means that there will be insufficient water to guarantee the delivery of 100 per cent carry-over on 1 July 2009. It is expected that licence holders will have access to at least 60 per cent of carry-over; however, this may change prior to 1 July if there is significant rain. There is a very high probability that all the carry-over will be deliverable early in the new water year.

## CARRY-OVER RULES

While the Murrumbidgee Water Sharing Plan remains suspended, both High and General Security licences will be permitted to carry-over a maximum of 30 per cent of entitlement.

Accounts will be limited to 95 per cent (including carry-over + allocation) of entitlement for High Security entitlement holders, until the General Security allocation exceeds 95 per cent, after which allocations for both High Security and General Security entitlements may be increased to 100 per cent.

If water availability improves, any volume in accounts that would otherwise exceed 100 per cent of entitlement will be forfeited.

Town water supply and stock and domestic supply **cannot** be carried over.

All licence holders should be aware that if the water sharing plan is recommenced, then the rules in the plan will apply.

## **TOWN WATER SUPPLY**

Councils and town water supply authorities are reminded that the **drought is far from over** and that they should remain conservative with all water use. The Department is currently discussing the level of restrictions that will apply on 1 July 2009.

It is expected that water used in domestic situations in rural areas will be restricted to the same level as Shire restrictions. This will apply to water taken as basic landholder right and stock and domestic from surface and groundwater sources.

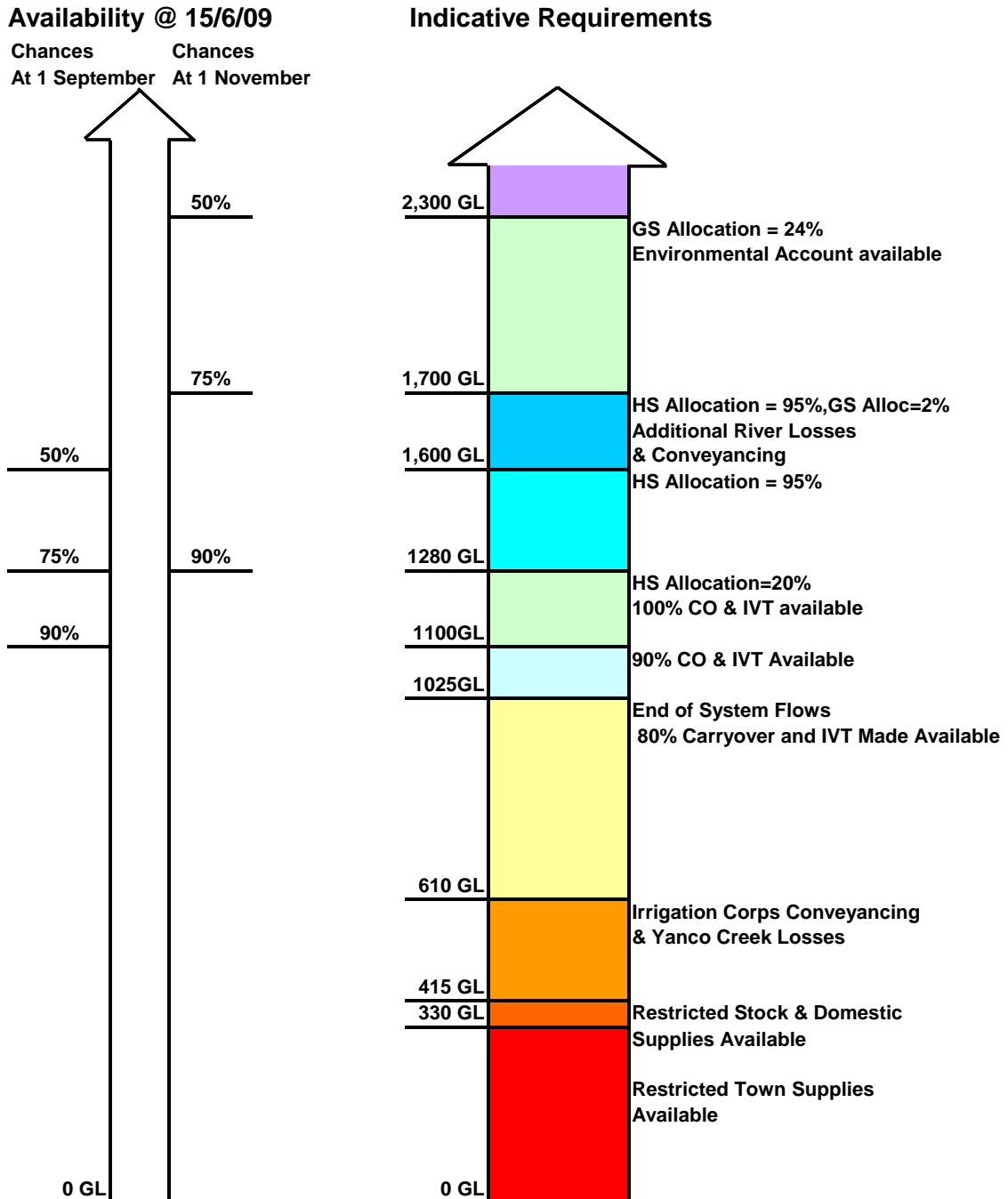
## **COMPLIANCE**

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](mailto:watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au). All reports are confidential.

## WATER AVAILABILITY OUTLOOK

The figures that have been used to calculate this diagram are based on dry tercile and are very conservative. They refer to water availability in **2009-10**.

The volumes on the 'rocket' are indicative only and may change dependant on the priority of access following stakeholder feedback.



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