



## Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

Issue 27 | 15 September 2009

### CURRENT WATER AVAILABILITY

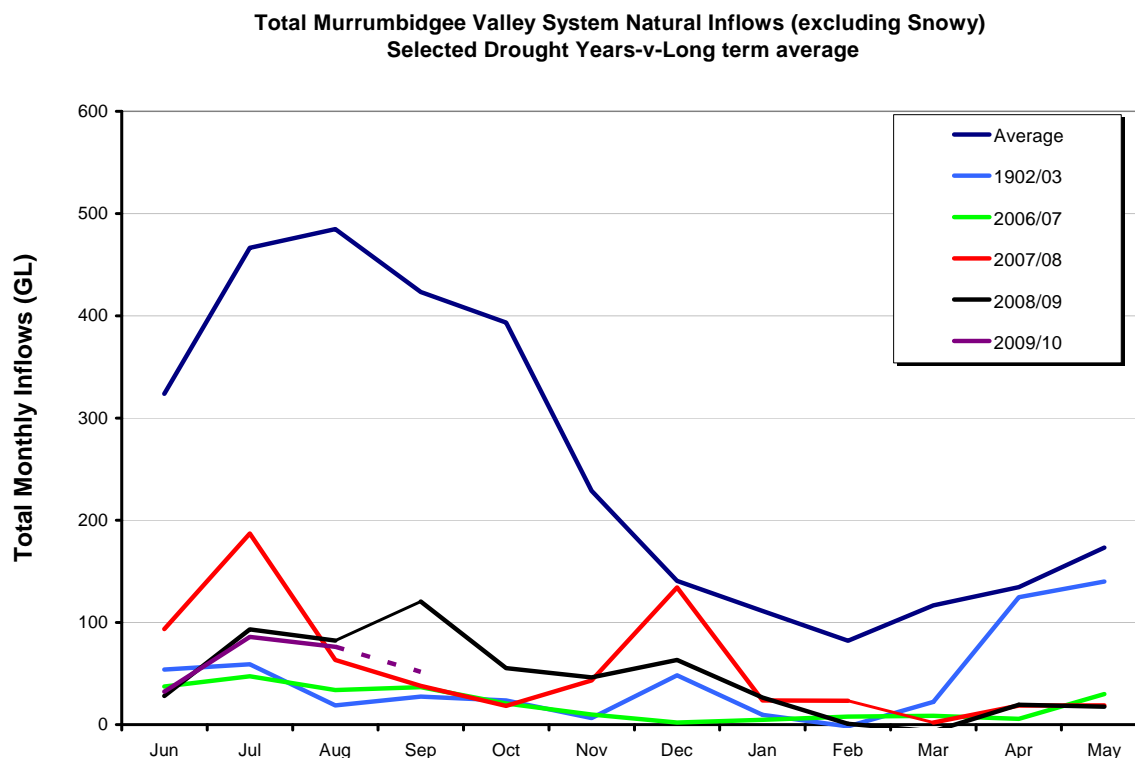
Rainfall across the catchment has generally been very poor, with the exception of the alpine regions of the Snowy Mountains with Thredbo Village receiving 269 millimetres (mm) of rain, 130 per cent of average September rainfall. Gundagai has received 39.8 mm; 60 per cent of average September rainfall, Griffith 33 mm; 40per cent of average September rainfall and Hay 31.5 mm; 30per cent of average September rainfall. As a result inflows have fallen away to very low levels, consistent with inflows at this time last year.

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

Storage @ 11 September 2009	Volume (GL)	Percent of capacity	Change in Volume 13 August to 11 September 2009 (GL)	Volume at this time last year.
Burrinjuck Dam	399	39	+5	477
Blowering Dam	654	39	-13	814
<b>Total</b>	<b>1053</b>		<b>-8</b>	<b>1291</b>



## INFLOW GRAPH



## WHAT THIS MEANS

There has been a slight improvement in available water largely as a result of the good rainfall in the Snowy Mountains resulting in increased diversions into the Murrumbidgee Valley.

This has enabled the allocation for High security and Stock and Domestic supply to be increased to 60 per cent of entitlement.

Unfortunately there is no water available yet to enable a general security allocation to be announced.

## TRADE

A ballot has been conducted by State Water Corporation on instruction from the NSW Office of Water. Of the total 70,000 megalitres available, 64,347 megalitres was traded out of the Murrumbidgee with the bulk being traded to the NSW Murray Valley.

Due the continuing drought, the moratorium on trades from the Murrumbidgee Valley to the Murray Valley will continue with consideration being given to further ballots if required, and if the circumstances allow additional water to be delivered to downstream users via the Murray River.

## TOWN WATER SUPPLY

Town water supply allocation will remain on 50 percent of entitlement. With high security allocations increased to 60 percent of entitlement, Councils may relax water restrictions to level 2a allowing a maximum of eight hours watering per week, including restricted lawn watering. This is consistent with the Murray and Murrumbidgee water restrictions policy.

## COMPLIANCE

The NSW Office of Water'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 NSW Office of Water'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.

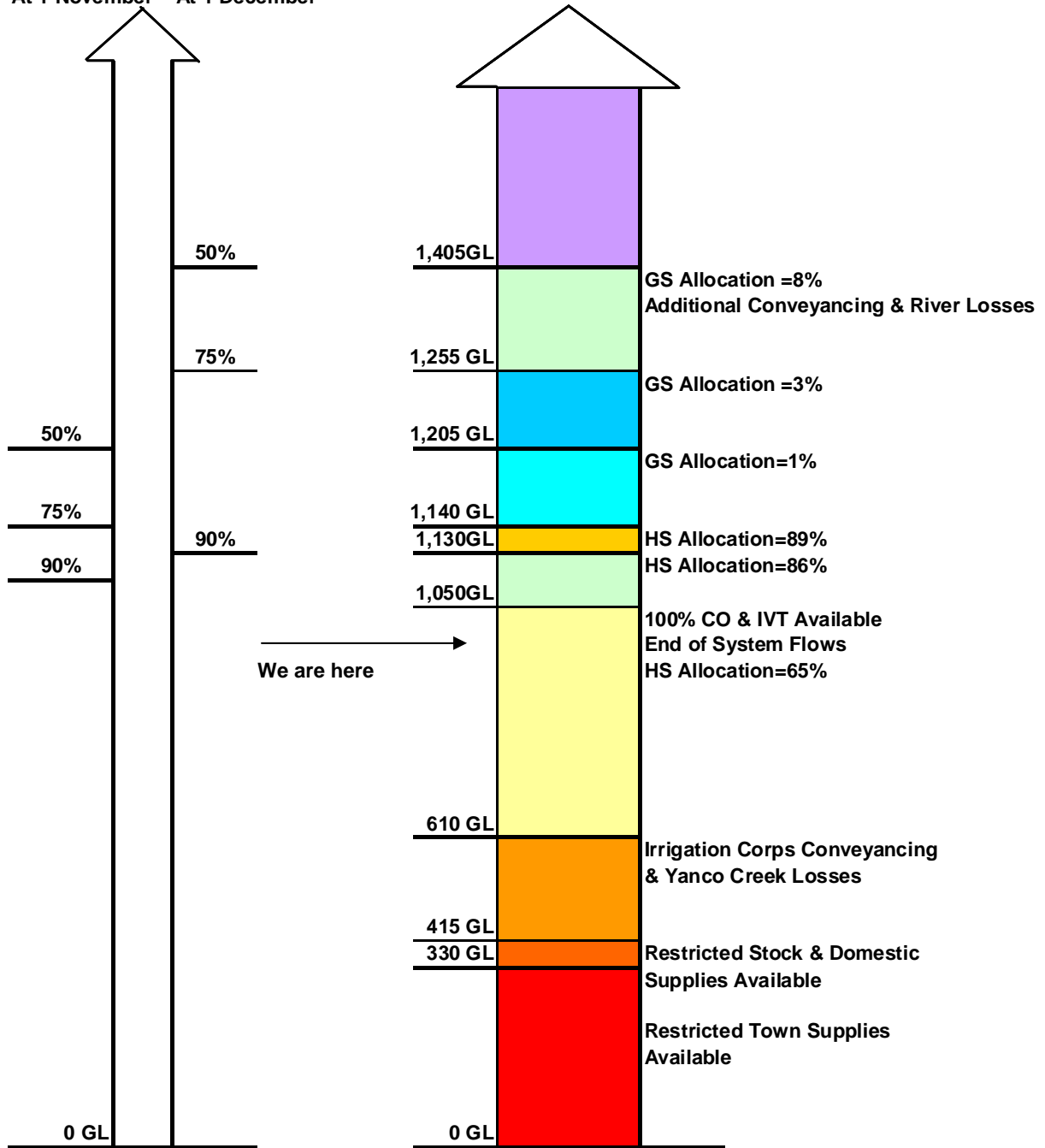
## WATER AVAILABILITY OUTLOOK

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.

## Murrumbidgee Valley Indicative Outlook

### Availability @ 15/9/09

Chances At 1 November      Chances At 1 December



These volumes are indicative only.

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