



NSW Government

Department of Water & Energy

Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

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Current water availability

There has been little rain fall across the Murrumbidgee Valley in the past four weeks.

Since the 17 September, Wagga Wagga has received 3.6 millimetres of rain, Griffith received 2.2 millimetres and Yass received 4.0 millimetres. The total inflow into the Murrumbidgee Valley system for September was 42 Gigalitres. This was significantly better than the recorded inflows for September 2006. The total inflows in the Murrumbidgee system for the period of July to September 2006 was 88 Gigalitres, compared to 219 Gigalitres in 2007.

Inflows into the Snowy Hydro storages have continued to be above inflows for the same period in 2006. The inflows into Blowering Dam are largely due to the releases from Snowy Hydro so far this year.

Murrumbidgee storage levels as at the 10 October 2007.

Storage @ 10 October 2007	Volume GL	Percent of capacity	Change in Volume 12 September to 15 October GL
Burrinjuck Dam	402	38.9	-22
Blowering Dam	479	28	-3

What this means

This improvement allowed for allocations for high security licences to be increased to 75 per cent, stock and domestic to 100 per cent and for town water supply to 70 per cent. These allocations, coupled with the re-crediting of the water suspended in 2006, will provide sufficient water for full permanent planting production in the Murrumbidgee Valley.

Water trading in 2007/08

All water in accounts maybe traded. This includes all inter-valley and interstate trades.

Water can be traded back into the Murrumbidgee as long as there is nett trade into the Murray.

The requirement to submit an application to apply to trade high security entitlements prior to 1 September has been suspended. This means licence holders can apply to trade after this date. The suspension of this trade rule will continue until the water sharing plan is reinstated, which cannot occur until there is a very significant improvement in resources.

Town water supply

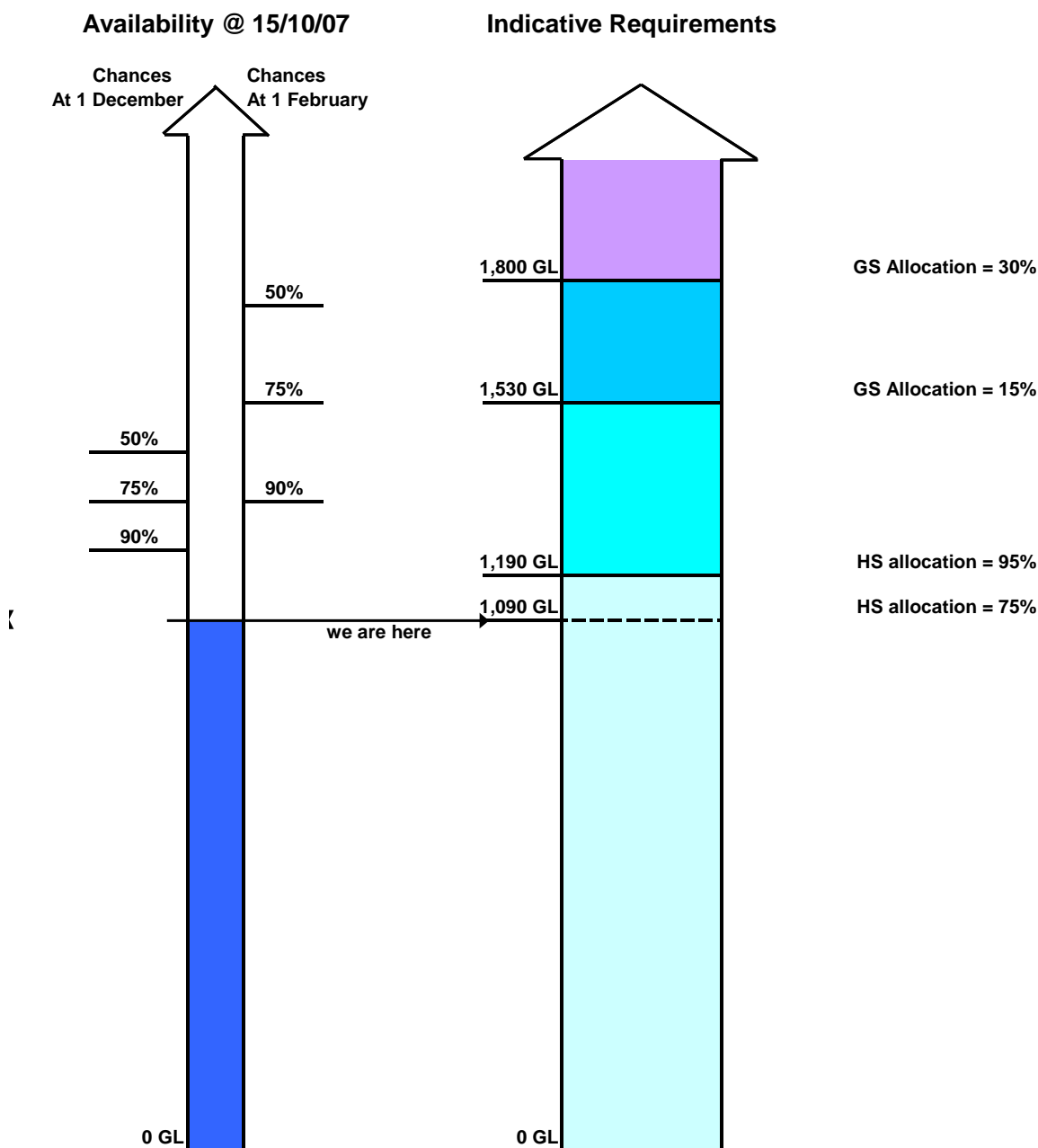
Allocations for town water supplies have been increased to 70 per cent of entitlement. While this increase has allowed a relaxation of the Level 4 restrictions, there is currently no water

available for next year and there remains the need to be conservative with all water use.

Water availability outlook

The following diagram shows the approximate probabilities of improvements in water availability occurring by 1 December 2007 and 1 February 2008. This diagram will change throughout the season as conditions change and other issues, such as reserving water for next year, need to be included.

Murrumbidgee Valley Indicative Outlook



Consideration now needs to be given to the provision of reserves for critical human needs for 2008/09 and the repayment of the water borrowed from environmental water accounts in 2006.

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