

Critical water planning for the Murray Valley

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Current water availability

With the exception of the upper parts of the catchment, rainfalls in the Murray Valley have been well below average. Flows have remained above minimums, but with the onset of hot weather, it is expected that inflows will now start to recede.

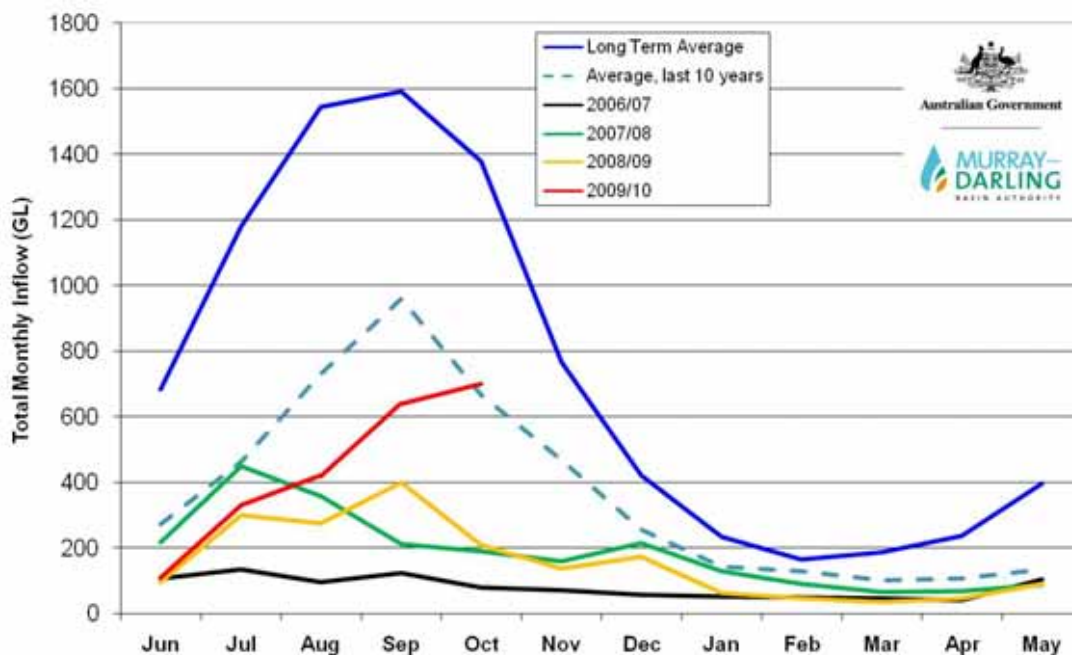
Rainfall summary

Location	From 13 to 31 October (mm)	From 1 to 12 November (mm)	Total (mm)	November average (mm)	% of November average
Thredbo Village	146.9	4.4	151.3	160.1	95
Albury	17.2	0	17.2	57.1	30
Deniliquin	11.8	0	11.8	29.7	40
Mildura	4.6	0.2	4.8	24.4	20

The following table shows Murray Valley storage levels as at 12 November 2009

Storage @ 12 November 2009	Volume (GL)	Percent of capacity	Change (GL) in Volume since 12 October	Volume at this time last year
Hume Dam	1176	39	+76	972
Dartmouth Dam	1200	31	+ 97	873
Menindee Lakes	182	10.5	- 27	297
Lake Victoria	357	53	+48	257
Total volume	2915			2399

Inflow graph



Forecasts indicate a significant reduction in November inflows

What this means

As a result of the hot weather and no rainfall in recent weeks, inflows have reduced significantly. Consequently there has been no improvement in water resource availability in the Murray Valley.

The NSW Office of Water will now begin to reserve water to meet critical human needs for the Murray Valley for 20010/11 by reserving a proportion of all inflows in the coming months.

Trade

A second trade ballot for the Murrumbidgee Valley has been announced. A total of 42 gigitalitres of water will be available to be traded by ballot from the Murrumbidgee to the Murray Valley. Applications will be accepted between Monday 16 November and 3:45 pm Thursday 3 December 2009.

Further information on the ballot is available on State Water's website at www.statewater.com.au

All other trades within the Murray Valley may occur under the same rules as for 2008/09 with trades continuing to be permitted from upstream to downstream of the Barmah Choke.

Trade is **not** permitted out of, or into the Lower Darling River Valley.

Carryover

While the Murray Lower Darling Water Sharing Plan remains suspended, carryover rules in the Murray Valley will remain as they were in 2008/09. The Murray Lower Darling Water Sharing Plan will only recommence when water resources improve enough to provide full high security allocations for the both the 2009/10 year and 2010/11.

This will also trigger the resumption of carryover rules outlined in the water sharing plan.

Until then, high and general security and conveyance licences will be allowed to carryover up to 100 percent of their entitlement. Water use; that is allocations plus carryover, for each licence in 2010/11 will be limited to 100 per cent unless additional water is purchased in that year.

Lower Darling River Management

Flows have now ceased in all reaches of the Barwon-Darling and the level of water in Lake Wetherell is falling due to releases and increasing evaporation.

Releases from Lake Wetherell will be maintained to ensure minimal flows throughout the lower Darling.

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 on 1800 633 362 or by email to watercompliance@dwe.nsw.gov.au. All reports are confidential.

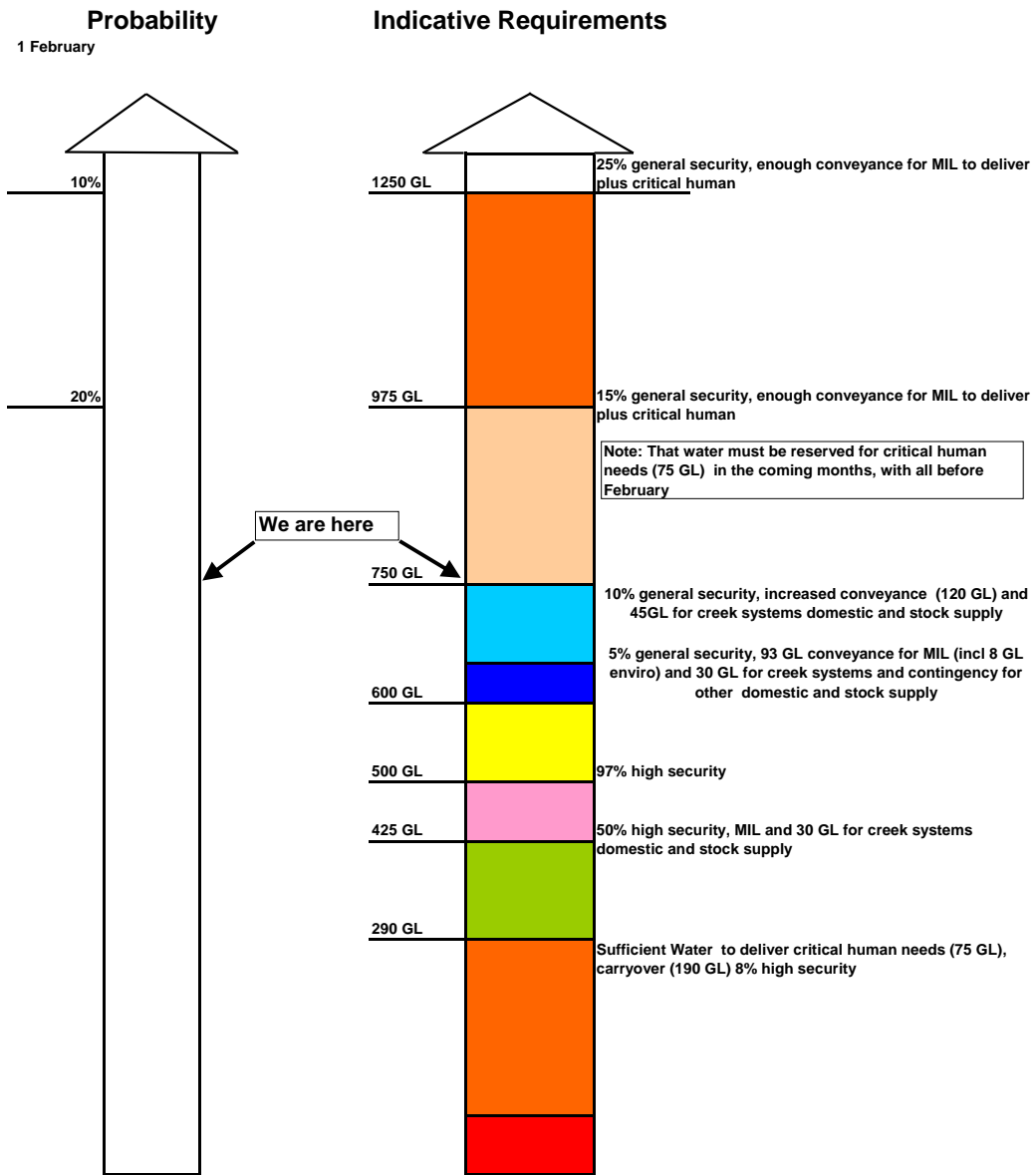
Water availability outlook

The figures that have been used to inform this diagram are based on dry tercile (driest 1/3 of years) and are very conservative.

The volumes on the “rocket” are indicative only and may change depending on the priority of access following stakeholder feedback and the reservation of water for 2010/11.

□ **NSW Murray Valley Outlook**

16-Nov-09



NOTE: The volumes above are indicative only, they may change depending on when improvements occur and if they are accompanied by heavy local rain. Management of improved allocations will be discussed with the Critical Water Advisory Committee.

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