



## Critical water planning for the Murrumbidgee Valley

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### Current water availability

There has been virtually no rainfall in parts of the Murrumbidgee Valley in the last month. From 15 April to 12 May, Wagga Wagga received 28.2 millimetres (mm) of rain, Gundagai 24.6 mm, Cooma 1.6 mm, Hay 25.8 mm and Griffith 1.4 mm.

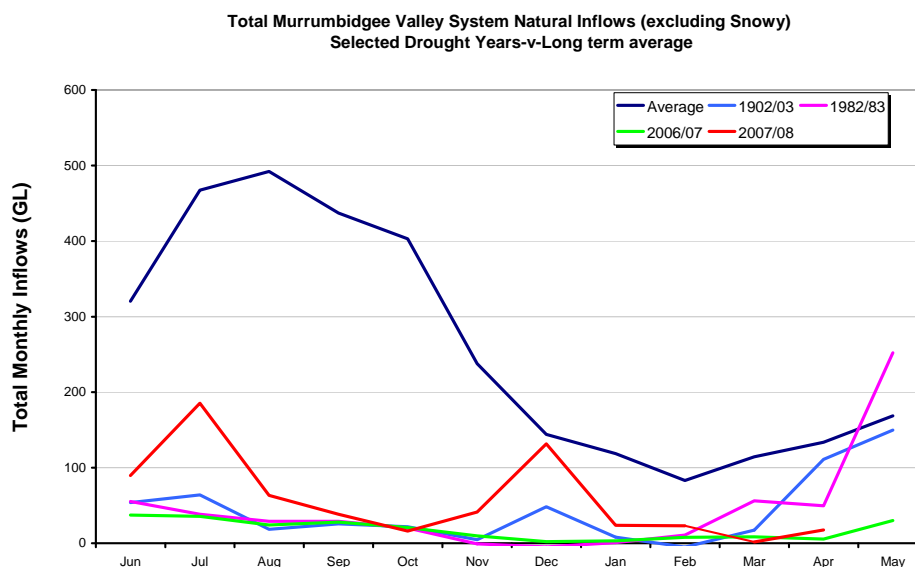
With the catchment extremely dry there has been virtually no runoff. Flows in rivers and streams throughout the Murray-Darling Basin are now extremely low or have stopped. Inflows into the Snowy River system storages also remain extremely low and are similar to the record low levels observed at this time last year.

The following table shows Murrumbidgee Valley storage levels as at 13 May 2008.

Storage @ 13 May 2008	Volume GL	Percent of capacity	Change in Volume 14 April 2008 to 13 May 2008 GL	Volume at this time last year.
Burrinjuck Dam	422	41	3	224 GI 24 %
Blowering Dam	443	36	+36	229 GI 14 %

The inflow into Blowering Dam is a result of Snowy Hydro release of 2008/09 water. While there is significantly more water in storage now than at this time last year, much of this is held in individual accounts as carryover, undelivered inter-valley transfers or is a pre release of Snowy Hydro 2008/09 commitments.

**This graph shows the long-term average system inflows comparing 2007/08 to recent drought years.**



## What this means

Provided conditions do not deteriorate further in the next few months, there will be sufficient water for:

1. restricted basic human needs;
2. domestic and stock supply, although supply in some tributaries may be intermittent; and
3. carryover of unused water from 2007/08.

At this stage only the minimum volume of conveyance water needed to deliver these supplies will be provided.

Water will be provided in all regulated sections of the Murrumbidgee Valley, however until resources improve flows in the Yanco creek system may be interrupted and flows may be at very low levels from time to time and users should be prepared for this.

## Water trading

**All trade** in the Murrumbidgee Valley **ceased** on 30 April 2008. Trading will recommence on 1 July 2008.

## Town water supply in 2008/09

Because water availability remains low, the allocation for town water supply on 1 July 2008 is likely to commence at 50 per cent of entitlement. Implementing water restrictions maybe given consideration if conditions deteriorate further.

## Compliance

The 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 of Water and Energy's Compliance Unit on 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

Probability	August 1	October 1
9 chances in 10	Small High Security allocation Improved flow in Yanco Creek	50 % High Security
3 chances in 4	20 % High Security	95 % High Security Small General Security allocation
1 chance in 2	70 % High Security	30% General Security

Note that 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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