

## Prepare for Dry – Resource Management

### What does the year ahead look like?

Current outlooks indicate possible water availability under a range of weather conditions, which allows water users to plan their own needs

Continued dry conditions will prevent usual operations in the Broken system for the entire season. GMW, as the system operator, will look to deliver carryover by modifying operations to maximise water availability.

All other regulated systems have enough available water to operate normally.

Outlooks are available at <https://nvrvm.net.au/outlooks/current-outlook>

### What is the Bureau of Meteorology saying?

The BoM expects below-average rainfall across south-eastern Australia is more likely in coming months. Conditions in the Pacific Ocean are neutral.

Model outlooks indicate a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is likely to drive Australia's weather for much of the rest of 2019. Typically, a positive IOD brings below average winter–spring rainfall and snow depths, above average temperatures for southern and central Australia, meaning the likelihood of a drier than average winter–spring remains.

### Which systems will have enough water available to run the system for the whole year?

The Goulburn, Murray, Campaspe, Loddon and Bullarook systems will run for the whole year. The Broken system is less certain and require inflows or changes to usual operational practice.

### What sort of rainfall year would we need to get 100 per cent allocations or return to average year allocations?

It is not possible to predict the amount of rainfall required to generate average inflows, especially after very dry conditions.

Following dry conditions, soil moisture needs to be replenished to reduce infiltration and increase runoff towards waterways and dams. As Resource Manager, GMW assesses scenarios based on inflows, not rainfall for this reason.

The Northern Resource Manager outlook for the 2019/20 season indicates that seasonal determinations may reach 100 per cent by February if inflow conditions are average, and by October with wet conditions. The full range of outlook scenarios presented are:

- Wet: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 10 years out of 100
- Above Average: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 30 years out of 100
- Average: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 50 years out of 100
- Below Average: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 70 years out of 100
- Dry: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 90 years out of 100
- Very Dry: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 95 years out of 100
- Extreme Dry: Inflow volumes to major storages that are greater in 99 years out of 100

The full range of outlooks for all systems are available at [www.nvrvm.net.au/outlooks/outlook-comparison](http://www.nvrvm.net.au/outlooks/outlook-comparison).

### How do the forecast allocations compare to recent years?

All northern Victorian regulated systems have received at least 100 per cent of high-reliability water shares in most seasons since the end of the millennium drought. The exception was 2015/16 and 2018/19 for the Broken system and 2015/16 in the Goulburn system.

## Why is carryover deliverability a problem on the Broken system, but not in the Murray and Goulburn?

The water currently stored in the dams of the Broken system is not enough to meet both system operations and deliver carryover under usual operating conditions. More inflows are needed to reduce the shortfall.

There is enough stored water in the Goulburn and Murray systems for system operations. The Campaspe and Loddon systems have enough reserves in storage.

## In the Broken system, will customers be able to access their carryover and/or purchased carryover water?

GMW will make every effort to allow water users to access their carryover for as long as possible.

Access will be available upfront to allow users to benefit from rain and catchment inflows. The duration of access will depend on inflows into Lake Nillahcootie and the tributaries downstream of the storage.

## Why is there no early reserve policy on the Broken, Campaspe, Loddon and Bullarook systems?

GMW reviewed the reserve policy on the Broken system in 2012 in consultation with the Regional Water Services Committee. The review indicated that a reserve policy should not be introduced for the Broken system because the water that could be set aside in reserve was not enough to support a 1% opening allocation in all years and would significantly reduce seasonal determinations.

The reserve rules for the Campaspe and Loddon systems were reviewed as part of the Northern Region Sustainable Water Strategy. Changes to reserve rules were not broadly supported by customers.

The review indicated an early reserve on the Campaspe system could be effective, but the cost of a reserve on seasonal determinations would be high.

On the Loddon system, modelling indicated that an early reserve policy would not be effective.

There is no early reserve policy for the Bullarook system as there is limited storage capacity and it is not possible to establish or improve reserves without significantly impacting seasonal determinations.

## What are GMW and Government agencies doing to assist customers?

The Victorian Government and GMW are working together and with other agencies to maximise water availability.

Customers are encouraged to contact GMW if they are experiencing financial difficulties or hardship as support and flexible payment arrangements are available for managing bills.

The Victorian Government have a range of support programs in place for those affected by drought and dry conditions. Further information on drought support measures is available on the Agriculture Victoria website:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/drought/dry-seasons-support>.

## Can users access some of the water held by environmental water holders to assist with system operations and/or allocations?

The environmental water holders make decisions on water use just like any other user.

Any limits on access to carryover will apply equally to environmental water holders as other users.

