

FACT SHEET

Low Reliability water and carryover in the Murray System

January 2022

Background

On 17 January 2022, the Northern Victorian Water Resource Manager increased the Murray low reliability allocation from 12 per cent to 72 percent. This resulted in much of the remaining water farmers had carried over against their low reliability water shares being transferred to spillable water accounts - like what happened for water that was carried over against high-reliability water shares earlier in the season.

Water entitlement holders are able to carryover water and store more water than their full water entitlement volume when there is space in the

storages. Currently the major storages providing water to the Murray see the Hume Dam being 99 % full and Dartmouth Dam is 91.77% full.

Since August, releases have been made from Hume to maintain the storage level close to 100% of capacity. These releases are classified as spills from spillable water accounts as the new inflows have not been able to stored due to carryover occupying more than entitlement volume. Releases have continued in January with recent rainfall meaning further deductions from spillable accounts is likely.

Carryover and Spill Volumes Explained

The Victorian Water Register provides detail on the volumes of water carried over at the start of the irrigation season in July 2021.

Total Volume of water carried over on Murray at July 1 2021			
Net carryover at July 1 2021	Private Entitlement Holders	Environment	Water Corporations
	423 GL	229 GL	32 GL
Total carried over on the Murray System : 684 GL at July 1 2021			
The amount of carryover water lost to spills			
Volume spilled from spillable accounts @ 17/1/22	Private Entitlement Holders	Environment	Water Corporations
	294 GL	175 GL	20 GL
Total volume lost in spills at 17 Jan 2022: 489 GL			
The amount of water remaining in spillable accounts			
Volume available in spillable accounts @ 17/1/22	Private Entitlement Holders	Environment	Water Corporations
	56 GL	10 GL	0 GL
Total volume available in spillable accounts: 66 GL			

The volume remaining in spillable water accounts depends on how much was carried over against low-reliability water shares. If there are further seasonal determination increases for low-reliability water shares in the Murray, more water will transfer into spillable water accounts.

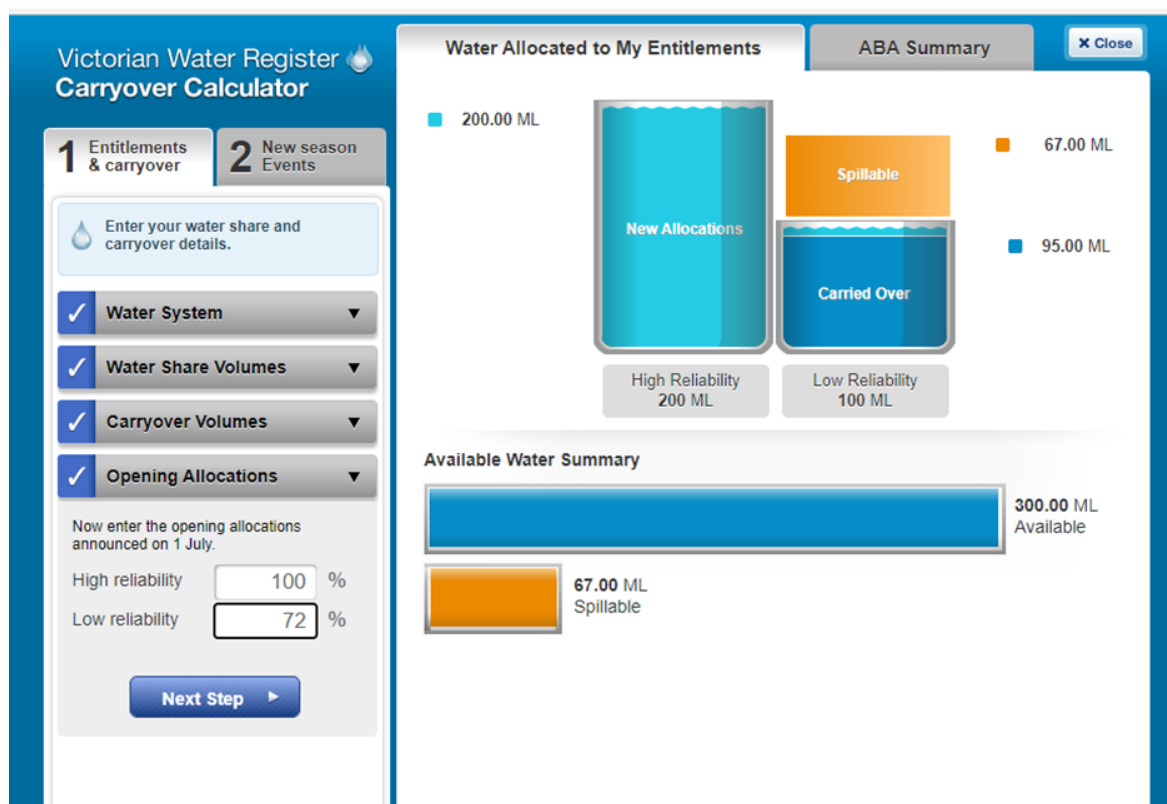
For farmers wanting to understand their position, please refer to the carryover calculator on the Victorian Water Register, <https://www.waterregister.vic.gov.au/water-entitlements/carryover/carryover-calculator>.

The example below shows a farm with 200 ML of high reliability water shares with a 100%

allocation and 100 ML of low reliability water shares with a 72 % allocation.

The farmer in this example carried over 100 ML against their low reliability at the start of the season. Five percent of carryover was lost due to evaporation bringing the carryover volume down to 95 ML.

In summary, 300 ML remains available to this farmer but 67 ML has been transferred into a spillable water account and as a result is subject to spill if Hume Dam spills occur this season.



Looking to the future

The VFF believe more work is required to allow spilled water to be captured by farmers where this can be done within Victoria's sustainable diversion limits. Additionally, this water is freely flowing to the environment and may not be counted as environmental water. The VFF will update members on this issue as more work is completed.

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