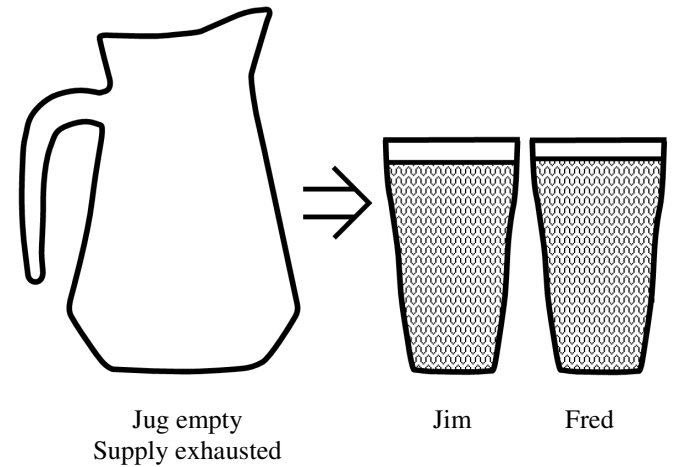
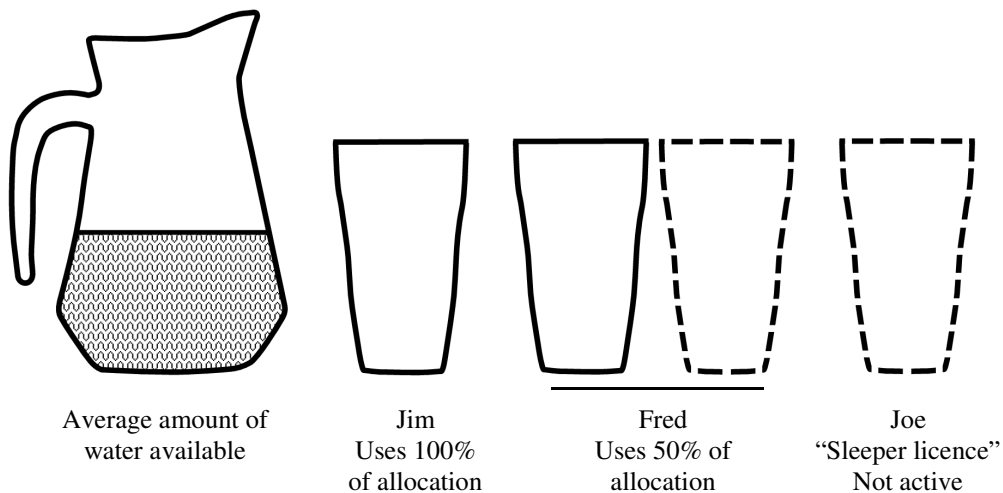


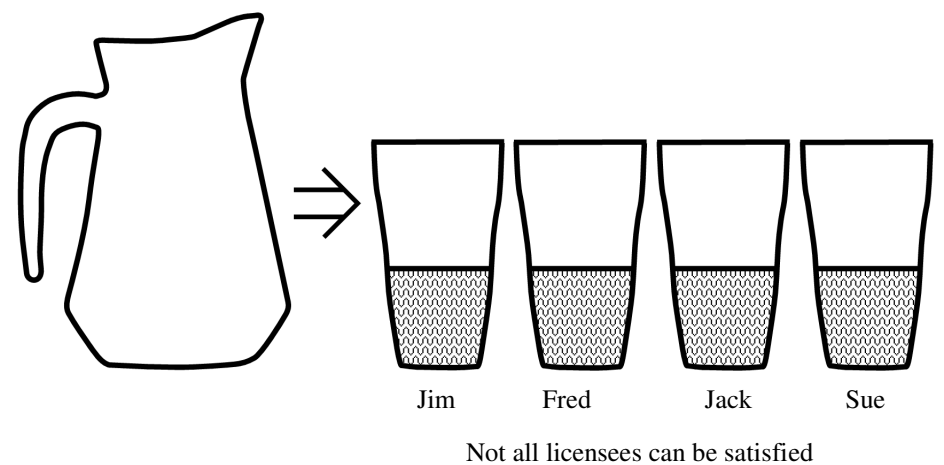
“DRY WATER”

There is an additional complication to over-allocation: Throughout the Murray Darling Basin, a tangible proportion of allocated water is not actually being used. This is called “Dry Water” and is either contained in “Sleeper Licences”, bought for investment but not active, or it is “slumbering” in unused portions of working licences.

Inadvertently, this has helped an over-stretched system. For example, the river in a normal year can just manage to supply the working needs of Jim and Fred.



Water trading allows Fred to sell his “slumbering” portion and Joe to sell his “Sleeper Licence”. This “Dry Water” can now be bought by other users and has the potential to become “active”. Should this happen, there is not enough water in the river to fully service the allocations of either Jim and Fred, nor new users Jack and Sue.



The Solution?

The Government must buy back all “Dry Water” to remove the potential for it to become “active”.

Only then can the issues of inefficiency and the remaining over-allocation of “Wet Water” be addressed, thus returning environmental flows to the river.

