

15 April 2025

# NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

## Water allocation update

All entitlements, including general security, received their maximum allocation by 17 February 2025. No further allocation is possible in this water year. The current GS account balance is about 748 gigalitres (GL).

All entitlements in the Lower Darling regulated river water source were fully allocated on 1 July 2024; hence, no further allocation is possible in this water year.

This statement confirms the current water year allocations and offers an outlook for the potential opening allocations for the 2025/26 water year on 1 July 2025. It includes simulation of likely increases in general security allocations under various inflow conditions by 1 September and 1 November 2025.

## Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for May to July 2025 indicates that rainfall is likely to be median to below median across the catchment, while daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average over this period.

For further details: [Overview – Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/Climate-Outlooks/Overview-Summary)

## NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (15 April) for 2024/25	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,807
<i>less</i>	
Carryover <sup>(2)</sup>	672
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	215
Domestic, Stock and Towns (100%) <sup>(4)</sup>	62
High Security (100%) <sup>(4)</sup>	190
Conveyance (100%)	330

Announced General Security (110%)	1175
Wakool Allowance <sup>(5)</sup>	40
Reserves for critical human needs <sup>(6)</sup>	61
2025/26 higher priority reserve <sup>(7)</sup>	45

*equals*

Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	17
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**Notes:**

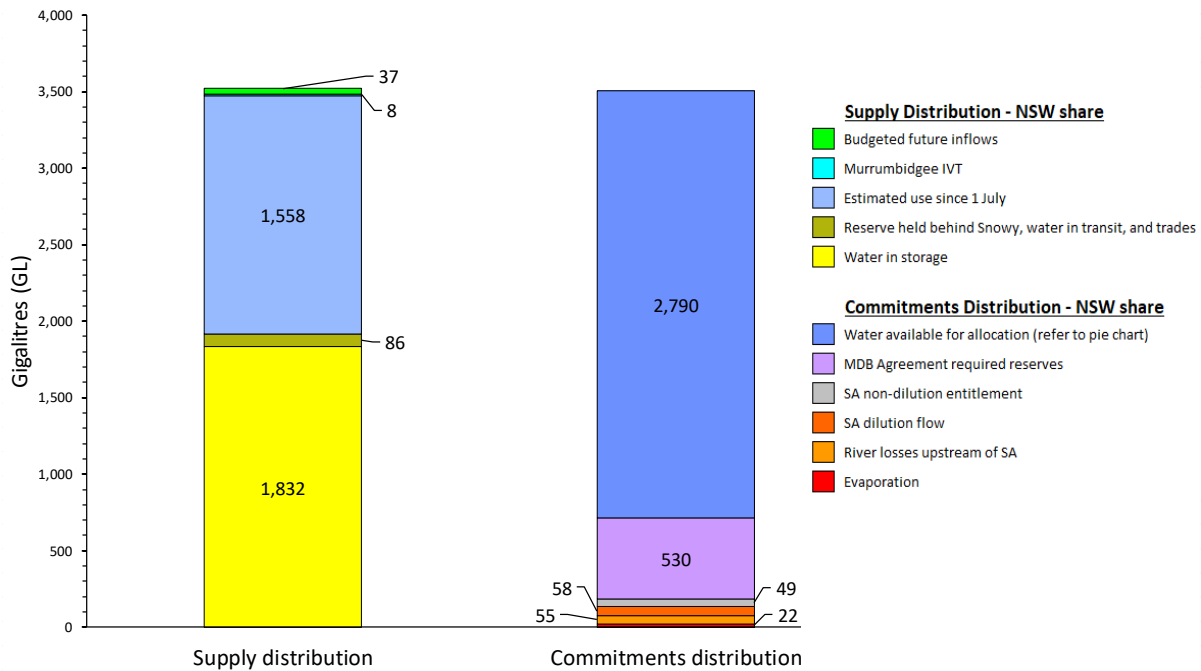
- (1) The NSW share of storage volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 31/03/25 under the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement; plus any usable flows in transit; plus budgeted 99%ile inflows till 31/5/25; plus expected regulated inflow from Snowy Hydro till 30/4/25, plus downstream usage to 31/03/25. For information, Snowy Hydro's M1 releases since 1/5/24 have been about 912 GL.
- (2) General Security accounts on 1/7/24 collectively carried over 40%. Individual GS water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50% of their entitlement. All carried over volumes have now been spilled with allocation reaching to its maximum 110%.
- (3) The volume includes 6 GL of Murray Additional Allowance (MAA), 169 GL of Barmah-Millewa Allowance, 40.5 GL of River Murray Increased Flows (RMIF). The total commitments to MAA, B-MA and RMIF will decrease over the water year as they are released from Hume for use.
- (4) High Security licences received 100% allocation. High Security subcategory licences received 100%. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the High Security town water supply allocation volume has been grouped under 'Domestic, Stock and Town'.
- (5) Wakool Allowance – a conveyance volume necessary for NSW to operate the Edward-Wakool system. On 17/02/2025, the current estimate has been reduced from the typical budgeted 70 GL to 40 GL.
- (6) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, up to 61 GL; set aside for critical human needs in accordance with Clause 11.03 of the Basin Plan.
- (7) Volume set aside for opening allocation to higher priority needs on 1/7/2025. The current estimate of the required reserve is 45 GL.
- (8) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small surplus which is improving the resources for next water year.

**Storage volumes**

31 March 2025	Full capacity (GL)	Storage volume (GL/%)	NSW share* (GL/%)
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	3,031 (79%)	1,325 (34%)
Hume Dam	2,982	778 (26%)	380 (13%)
Lake Victoria	677	183 (27%)	18 (3%)
Menindee Lakes System	1731	582 (34%)	109 (6%)
Total			1832 GL

\*NSW can store up to 50% of full capacity

**NSW Murray and Lower Darling water balance – 15 April 2025**



**Notes:**

- Water in storage: Volumes in the storages (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as of 31/03/2025.
- Reserve held behind Snowy, water in transit and trades: include snowy scheme contributions, drought reserve held in snowy, water in transit, and trades.
- Estimated use since 1 July: Estimated NSW Murray use till 31/03/2025 and Wakool loss.
- Budgeted inflows: NSW’s budget of future inflows into the River Murray System based on assumed extremely dry future conditions. This includes Snowy Hydro’s guaranteed inflows for the water year and Murrumbidgee end of system flows.
- IVT: Total tributary system water bought by Murray system users that is yet to be delivered. IVT balance is 8 GL as of 31/03/2025.
- Evaporation: Water set aside for evaporation for the remainder of the year. Generally, reduces as the year progresses.
- River losses upstream of SA: Water budgeted for transmission losses from the River Murray system upstream of the South Australian border for the remainder of the year. Generally, reduces as the water year progresses.
- SA non-dilution entitlement: Water to supply South Australia’s entitlement flow, as required under the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement. Generally, reduces as water year progresses.
- SA dilution flow: Water to provide South Australia’s dilution and conveyance component of flow, as required under the MDB Agreement. Reduces as the year progresses. Note, may include the Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) when triggered.
- MDB Agreement required reserves: Includes conveyance reserve and minimum reserve to be set aside for use in the next water year, as required by the MDB Agreement in clause 102D and 103, respectively.
- Water available for allocation: NSW’s bulk share of the resource; of which 28 GL stored in Menindee for Lower Darling and active environmental water; an additional volume of 44 GL is added from BMA usage and Wakool loss saving. Accordingly, 2807 GL can be considered for NSW Murray resource assessment. The distribution of 2807 GL is shown in the table earlier.

**Held environmental water (HEW)**

Held Environmental Water entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, The Living Murray and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. These figures represent the total volume of water credited to accounts (not including usage). The volume allocated this water year to General Security HEW is 347 GL, to High Security HEW is 26 GL,

to Conveyance HEW is 50 GL. The volume carried over from last water year by General Security is 104 GL. Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

## Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to ‘no net trade downstream’. Downstream trade opens to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade. Water users are advised to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website ([Barmah Choke trade rule | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)) for information about the trade balance and status of trade across the Barmah choke.

Temporary trade between the Lower Darling and the Murray is open and will likely remain open until the system next falls below 480 GL. Trade within the Lower Darling regulated river water source also remains open.

Trade out of Murrumbidgee and trade into the Murrumbidgee are open (as of 15 April 2025). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for daily information about the IVT account balance, the status of trade, and other important information. The Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated between limits of 0 GL and 100 GL however the balance can move rapidly. The information presented in this statement is current at the time of writing.

## Allocations in 2024/25

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the NSW Murray River Water Source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25
1-Jul	Domestic, Stock & Towns	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	0.97 ML/unit share	0.97 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Conveyance	0.6359 ML/unit share	0.6359 ML/unit share
1-Jul	General Security	0.35 ML/unit share	0.35 ML/unit share
15-Jul	Conveyance	0.0272 ML/unit share	0.6631 ML/unit share
15-Jul	General Security	0.07 ML/unit share	0.42 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Conveyance	0.0078 ML/unit share	0.6709 ML/unit share
15-Aug	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.44 ML/unit share
15-Nov	Conveyance	0.0116 ML/unit share	0.6825 ML/unit share
15-Nov	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.47 ML/unit share
16-Dec	Conveyance	0.0233 ML/unit share	0.7058 ML/unit share
16-Dec	General Security	0.06 ML/unit share	0.53 ML/unit share
15-Jan	Conveyance	0.0194 ML/unit share	0.7252 ML/unit share

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25
15-Jan	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.58 ML/unit share
3-Feb	Conveyance	0.0212 ML/unit share	0.7464 ML/unit share
3-Feb	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.62 ML/unit share
17-Feb	High Security	0.03 ML/unit share	1 ML/unit share*
17-Feb	Conveyance	0.2536 ML/unit share	1.0000 ML/unit share*
17-Feb	General Security	0.48 ML/unit share	1.10 ML/unit share*

\*Maximum allowable

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the Lower Darling River Water Source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic, Stock & Towns	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1 ML/unit share*	1 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	1 ML/unit share*	1 ML/unit share*	100%*

\* Maximum allowable

## Outlook for 2025-26

A water availability outlook for the start of the next water year (1 July 2025) is provided below. The outlook is indicative only, not guaranteed, and should be used with caution, particularly when projecting many months ahead. Nevertheless, it aims to help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

### Indicative allocations on 1 July 2025 for the 2025/26 water-year – Lower Darling

- The Menindee Lakes System is around 30% full, holding some 615 GL as of 14 April 2025.
- The Menindee resource is currently shared with other states, under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement, as the system is holding more than 480 GL.
- Maximum (100%) allocation can be expected for all entitlements; towns, domestic and stock access licences, high security and general security entitlements in 2025/26 based on current forecast.
- Maximum allocations for supplementary access licences can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.

### Indicative allocations on 1 July 2025 for the 2025/26 water-year – NSW Murray

- Maximum (100%) allocation can be expected for towns, domestic and stock access licences, and sub-category high security entitlements.

- Allocation to high security (excluding sub-categories) will likely be 97% of entitlement.
- Conveyance is expected to be allocated in accordance with the plan rules.
- Current average general security balance is 45%, individual balances may vary. Individuals can carryover their closing balances up to 50% of their entitlements. The allocated volume has already been stored behind the dam and secure.
- Current assessment is predicting either **no or very low opening allocation** for general security water users. The allocation will be subject to inflow and losses to 30/6/25 and any forfeiture of allocated water on 1/7/25.
- The current Barmah-Millewa Environmental Water Allowance (BMEWA) account balance is approximately 132 GL. In accordance with the water sharing plan, the balance will be fully borrowed on 1 July 2025 to support the general security allocation, with resource improvements providing payback before general security allocations can exceed 30%.
- Full allocations for supplementary access licence holders can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.

### Chances of improvement

The potential improvements in NSW Murray General Security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below under a range of conditions from wet to extreme dry. We simulate inflow variation only without regards for corresponding variation in losses or water usage behaviour. The simulation is based on all available historical data and a design water use pattern with no consideration of current weather conditions.

#### Simulated general security allocations (%)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Sep 2025	1 Nov 2025
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	0%	1%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	0%	7%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	4%	14%
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	12%	34%

Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.

Note 2: Statistical values reflect NSW share of inflows, not whole of system inflows.

Note 3: Forecast incorporates Murrumbidgee regulated end of system flows.

Note 4: Any carryover water is to be added to these indicative allocations with individual account balances not exceeding 110%.

## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for these water sources is available at the following link:

[Resource assessment process | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

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## Further information

All entitlements at these water sources have reached their maximum annual allocation. Routine fortnightly water allocation statement will cease. The next statement for these water sources will be published to update resource status on **Thursday, 2:30 pm, 15 May 2025**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [NSW Government Water](#)

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