

1 July 2025

# Opening Water Allocations 2025/26 – NSW Regulated Rivers

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## Water availability and allocation update

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water today announced opening water allocations for regulated river water users for the 2025/26 water year.

### Opening allocation 2025/26

Opening allocations (1 July) are mostly about ensuring licence categories that cannot carryover water in accounts from one water year to the next are provided with a new annual allocation. All critical environmental and human needs are secure for the 2025/26 water year. Resource assessments and allocations for others including general security water users will continue as usual with end-of-month (June) resource assessments undertaken and allocation statements provide in the first weeks of July.

- All local water utilities and domestic and stock licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- All regulated river high security licence holders have received their usual full opening allocation, including 97% in the NSW Murray, 95% in the Murrumbidgee, and 100% elsewhere.
- General security water users on all regulated coastal rivers, except the Bega-Brogo system, have received their maximum 100% allocation.
- In Inland regulated rivers, all water users on Upper Namoi and Lower Darling water sources also have received their maximum 100% allocation. General security water users have full access to carryover water in accordance with respective water sharing plan rules.
- All floodplain harvesting licences have received their full opening allocation.
- Full allocation is provided to supplementary access licence holders in all applicable water sources, except for those in the Lower Namoi water source. They receive a reduced allocation of 0.37 ML/unit share due to the exceedance of long-term extraction limits and the need to reduce take. Use of water in supplementary access accounts is only available during periods of announced supplementary flow.

Water allocation statements for major inland regulated river systems are published at least monthly, while those for coastal and other regulated river systems are released quarterly or if any significant resource improvements are being assessed. All statements are made available to the public on the department's website. The statements explain the latest information on the sharing of available resources. Valley-specific opening allocations are detailed in the table attached to this statement.

## Recap on last water year (2024/25)

Over the 2024/25 water year, New South Wales experienced highly varied rainfall. The year began with below-average to average rainfall across much of the state, particularly in central and southern regions, where dry conditions generally continued. This led to reduced inflows and a steady decline in major dam storage levels throughout the water year. Inland storage volume declined to 56% from 75% this time last year.

Despite the overall dry conditions, periods of widespread and intense rainfall, most notably in May 2025, affected inland and coastal regions, resulting in localised flooding and triggering supplementary flow events in some valleys.

The last water year started with all local water utility, domestic and stock and high security licence holders receiving full allocation. General security water users in all water sources on average had good account balances due to carryover from previous water years.

By the end of 2024/25, general security water users on all coastal rivers (except Bega-Brogo) had received their maximum allocation. However, some inland valleys received reduced or no allocations at all due to persistent dry conditions and limited inflows in their catchments.

Supplementary access licence holders received full allocations in all applicable river systems in 2024/25, except for those in the Lower Namoi water source, which received a reduced allocation of 0.42 ML/unit share in response to exceedance of long-term extraction limits.

All floodplain harvesting licence holders, where licences exist (Border Rivers, Gwydir, Macquarie, Barwon-Darling), received their maximum allocation for 2024/25.

On 3 June, Glennies Creek Dam began spilling, and Glenbawn Dam entered the flood mitigation zone. In accordance with the relevant water sharing plan rules, this event triggered the withdrawal of water from certain accounts. Refer to the [WaterNSW website](#) for more information on this event.

## Allocations in 2025/26 for Regulated River Valleys

### NSW Border Rivers regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security (A class) licence holders have received an allocation of 30% of their entitlement.
- General security (B class) licence holders have received no allocation. B Class can only receive allocation once A Class is full (100%).
- In the meantime, water remaining in general security (A class and B class) accounts has been carried forward in full. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.0 ML/share.
- Supplementary and floodplain harvesting licences received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Inflows up to 200 ML/day into Pindari Dam will be passed through during winter months in accordance with environmental flow rules in the water sharing plan.
- Allocations to general security access licences will be assessed and announced in routine water allocation statements during the 2025/26 water year.

### Gwydir regulated river

- All licence holders, except general security, have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Water held in general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and has been carried forward in full. The maximum volume allowed at any time is 1.5 ML/share.
- The estimated opening general security account balance totals 349 gigalitres (GL) or 69% of total share components. Of this, held environmental water comprises about 140 GL.
- The estimated Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) account balance is about 83 GL or an average of 184% of entitlement.
- Supplementary and floodplain harvesting licences received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Allocation to general security access licences will be assessed and announced at the next routine water allocation statement scheduled for publication on Monday 7 July 2025.

### Upper and Lower Namoi regulated rivers

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders in the Upper Namoi water source have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Water held in Lower Namoi general security accounts accrues on a continuous basis and has been carried forward in full. The maximum volume that may be held in Lower Namoi general security accounts at any time is 2 ML/share.
- The estimated opening Lower Namoi general security account balance totals 349 GL which is 142% of total share components.

- Supplementary access licence holders have received a reduced allocation of 0.37 ML/share as continuation of growth-in-use measures. Allocations will increase once floodplain harvesting licences are issued.
- Allocation to Lower Namoi general security access licences will be assessed and announced at the next routine water allocation statement scheduled for publication on Monday 7 July 2025.

### Peel regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders have received 100% allocation, with commensurate volume allocated to EWA accounts.
- No licence category in this water source can carry over water, therefore all remaining account balances on 30 June 2025 have been forfeited and replaced with opening allocations.
- As all licence categories have received their maximum allocation, water allocation statements will be published quarterly, as information updates only, during the 2025/26 water.

### Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- The opening balances of Cudgegong and Macquarie EWAs are estimated to be 9 GL and 57 GL respectively.
- Carryover evaporation reductions will occur in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- The water carried over into 2025/26 by general security water users on the Macquarie River is estimated to be about 433 GL or 71% of entitlement, and on the Cudgegong River about 21 GL or 114% of entitlement.
- Supplementary and floodplain harvesting licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Allocation to general security access licences will be assessed and announced at the next routine water allocation statement scheduled for publication on Thursday 10 July 2025.

### Lachlan regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Conveyance licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation commensurate with the opening balance in the relevant general security account.
- The Wyangala EWA and Brewster EWA are credited 10 GL each. The Water Quality Allowance (WQA) is credited 20 GL in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Carryover evaporation reductions were calculated each quarter by the operator and to be applied to relevant accounts after 30 June 2025 in accordance with the water sharing plan.

- The water carried into 2025/26 by general security water users is estimated to total 452 GL or about 76% of total share components and is fully deliverable.
- Allocation to general security accounts will be assessed and announced at the next routine water allocation statement scheduled for publication on Tuesday, 8 July 2025.

### **Belubula regulated river**

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Water held in general security accounts has been carried forward subject to the rules of the water sharing plan.
- Water carried into 2025/26 by general security licence holders is estimated to total 22.1 GL or 98% of total shares. Note that the maximum account limit is 110% of entitlement.
- Beyond carryover, there is currently insufficient resource in the regulated system for an opening allocation to general security licences.
- Supplementary access licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.

### **Murrumbidgee regulated river**

- The local water utility, domestic and stock sub-category high security water access licences, have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- High security licence holders have received their full (95%) opening allocation.
- Supplementary access licences (including Lowbidgee) receive their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security carryover is anticipated to be less than 18% of total shares. The carryover will be finalised once all the accounts are reconciled and published with regular statements.
- General security access licences are commencing the 2025/26 water year with a 4% allocation.
- Conveyance access licence holders have received an allocation in accordance with the water sharing plan and commensurate with the announced general security allocation.
- The Murrumbidgee inter valley trade (IVT) account balance on 30 June 2025 has been carried forward to 2025/26.
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Tuesday, 15 July 2025.

### **NSW Murray regulated river**

- The local water utility, domestic and stock and sub-category high security water access licences, have received their maximum (100%) allocations.
- High security licence holders have received their full (97%) opening allocation.
- General security carryover into the 2025/26 water year is anticipated to be less than 40% of total shares. The carryover will be finalised once all the accounts are reconciled and will be published with regular statements.
- General security licences have received a 1% opening allocation for the 2025/26 water year.

- Conveyance licences have received an allocation commensurate with the general security allocation.
- Supplementary access licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- With general security opening with an allocation less than 30%, the Barmah-Millewa EWA has been borrowed fully.
- The Murrumbidgee inter valley trade (IVT) account balance on 30 June 2025 has been carried forward to 2025/26.
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Tuesday 15 July 2025.

### Lower Darling regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders, as well as general security and supplementary access licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Given the maximum account limit for general security licences is 100%, all carryover in accounts will be spilled.
- The Menindee Lakes System is currently about 1,201 GL or around 69% full.
- The Menindee resource remains shared with other states, under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement, until total storage next falls below 480 GL.
- Water trade to and from the regulated Lower Darling water source is open. Trade within the Lower Darling water source is also permitted.
- Please refer to the regular water allocation statement of NSW Murray for updates of Lower Darling throughout 2025/26.

### Bega and Brogo regulated rivers

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security access licences have received a 40% allocation, plus these licence holders can access uncontrolled flows when available to augment their allocation, up to a maximum 100% of entitlement. Note that the small storage capacity of Brogo Dam cannot support a high general security allocation at the start of the water year even when the storage is full.
- General security entitlements in this water source cannot carry over water from one water year to the next. The remaining account balances from 2024/25 have been forfeited on 30 June 2025.
- Supplementary access licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation.

### Hunter regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- The EWA has been credited with its maximum 20 GL volume.
- General security licence holders have also received their maximum (100%) allocation.

- Unused water in applicable licence categories has been carried forward into the 2025/26 water year, subject to allowable limits and maximum account balance rules in the water sharing plan.
- Supplementary access licences have received full opening allocation of 100%. This may increase to their maximum 200% during the water year subject to the high flow tally.
- As all licence categories have received their maximum allocation, water allocation statements will be published quarterly, as information updates only, during the 2025/26 water year.

### **Paterson regulated river**

- All higher priority licence holders as well as general security, and supplementary access licences, have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- As all licence categories have received their maximum allocation, water allocation statements will be published quarterly, as information updates only, during the 2025/26 water year.

### **Richmond regulated river**

- All water higher priority licence holders as well as general security access licences, have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- No licence category in this water source can carry over water, therefore all remaining account balances on 30 June 2025 have been forfeited and replaced with opening allocations.
- As all licence categories have received their maximum allocation, water allocation statements will be published quarterly, as information updates only, during the 2025/26 water year.



## Tabulation of 1 July 2025 Regulated River Water Allocations

Water Source	Categories	Amount
BEGA AND BROGO REGULATED RIVERS WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.4 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
BELUBULA REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
NSW BORDER RIVERS REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING (REGULATED RIVER)	1 ML/share
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY A)	0.3 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY B)	0 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
GWYDIR REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
	FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING (REGULATED RIVER)	1 ML/share



Water Source	Categories	Amount
HUNTER REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	MAJOR UTILITY [POWER GENERATION]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
LACHLAN REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY [DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
LOWER NAMOI REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	0.37 ML/share
LOWER DARLING REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
MACQUARIE AND CUDGEGONG REGULATED RIVERS WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %

Water Source	Categories	Amount	
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY [DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER]	100	%
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
	FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING (REGULATED RIVER)	1	ML/share
MURRUMBIDGEE REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.8585	ML/share
	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.6274	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.04	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.04	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.95	ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER (LOWBIDGEE)	1	ML/share
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [ABORIGINAL CULTURAL]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [ENVIRONMENTAL]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER]	100	%
NEW SOUTH WALES MURRAY REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY [DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.5039	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.01	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.97	ML/share

Water Source	Categories	Amount
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
PATERSON REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
PEEL REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100 %
RICHMOND REGULATED WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
UPPER NAMOI REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share

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## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for major water sources are available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation statement – The water allocation statements of all water sources for current water year can be accessed at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – We developed a dashboard to enhance the transparency and accessibility of up-to-date information on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water sharing plan - The water sharing plan for all water sources are available at the following link: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/plans-and-strategies/water-sharing-plans/status>

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## Further information

Routine water allocation statements for all regulated river water sources are published fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly, depending on specific requirements.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive water allocation statements and email updates from Water Group of the department.

You can also follow the department on X: [@NSWDCCEEW\\_Water](#)

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget at: [Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water | NSW Government](#)