

15 July 2025

NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

Water allocation update

There is no allocation increment to general security (GS) licences in the NSW Murray regulated river water source. The GS account balance is about 531 gigalitres (GL). General security allocation this year to date has been 1%, incorporating the average carryover of 31%, the total water available in 2025/26 to date has been 32%.

All higher priority licences, including local water utility, domestic and stock and high security (subcategories) have received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2025. Likewise supplementary licence holders received their maximum (100%) allocation. High security licence holders (with no subcategory) received the required 97% opening allocation. General security licence holders received an opening allocation of 1% of entitlement.

A nominal resource deficit has been identified in this assessment; however, it is expected to be resolved with any improvement in inflows and delivery efficiency over the coming months.

All entitlements in the Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source were fully allocated on 1 July 2025; hence, no further allocation is possible in this water year.

Current allocation (NSW Murray)

15 July 2025	Allocation increment	Account balance
General Security	0%	531 GL

Summary of the last water year (2024/25)

All higher-priority licences, including local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security entitlements received their full opening allocations at the start of 2024/25 water year. As the water year progressed, high security entitlements reached their maximum (100%) allocation in February. Supplementary access licence holders commenced 2024/25 with their maximum (100%) allocations.

The Murray Additional Environmental Allowance (MAA), with an allocated volume of 6 GL, was fully used in the 2024/25 water year. At the end of 2024/25, the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA) closing balance was 132 GL, and the River Murray Increased Flows (RMIF) closing balance was 40.5 GL.

GS users began the water year with an average account balance of 75% of entitlement. This was made up of a strong opening allocation of 35% and an average carryover of 40%, compared to the

50% maximum permitted carryover by water sharing plan rules. Over the water year, 7 additional allocation increments were made to GS licences, resulting in a maximum allocation of 110% by 17 February 2025. By the end of the water year, the average general security account balance had decreased to 33% of entitlement (551 GL), reflecting moderate usage of around 73% of entitlement (1,224 GL).

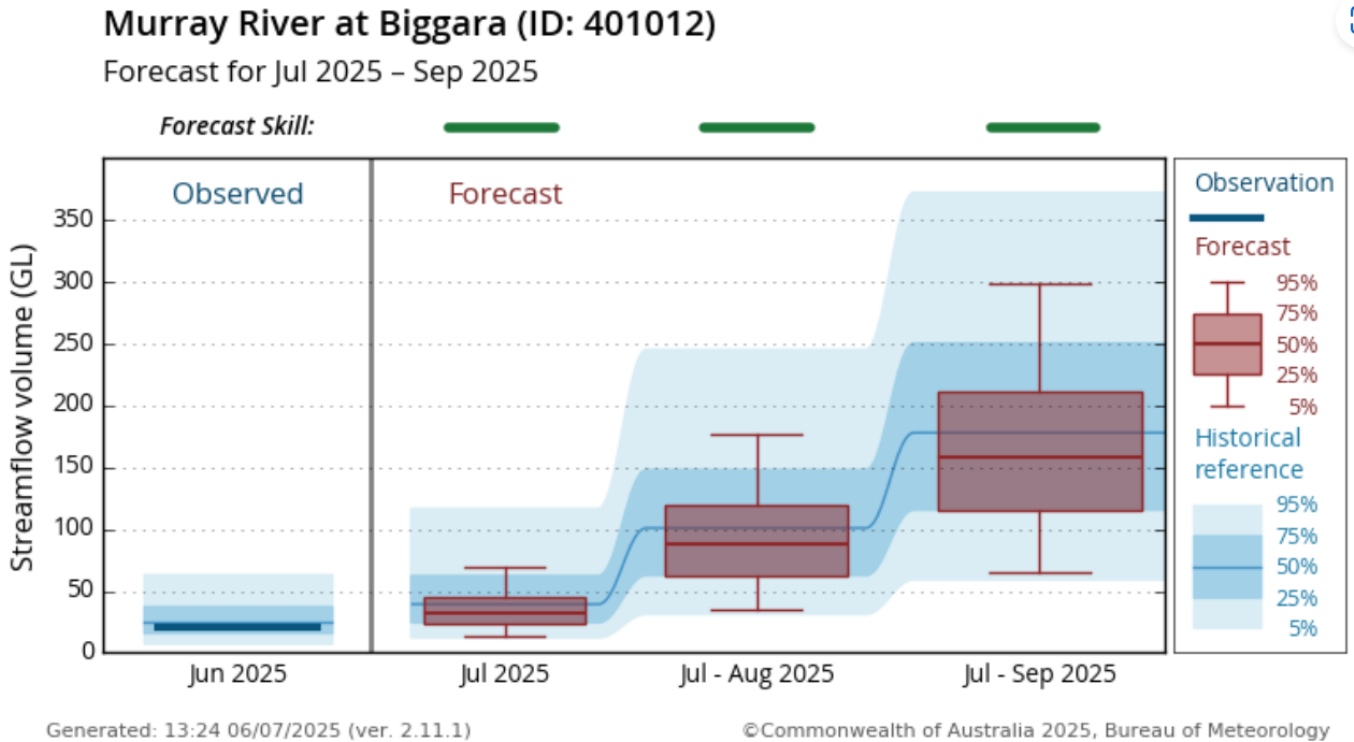
In 2024/25, no announcements were made for supplementary access licences, and no usage was recorded.

All entitlements in the Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source received their full allocation at the start of the water year on 1 July 2024. Lower Darling Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) received maximum (30 GL) credit on 1/07/2024.

During the 2024/25 water year, the Murray catchment experienced mostly below-average rainfall. While good system inflows were recorded in first half of the water year, these declined significantly during the second half. The major storages in the catchment include, Dartmouth Dam and Hume Dam, started the water year at a combined average capacity of 82%. However, storage levels gradually declined over the water year due to system usage and reduced inflows later in the year. By the end of the water year, combined storage had dropped to 53%, with Hume Dam falling from 69% to 33%, and Dartmouth Dam from 95% to 68%.

Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Murray River at Biggara, upstream of the Hume Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam in the coming months. All the forecast quantiles, except one, are below the historical flows from July to September 2025, which indicates dry condition during this period. The graph for July to September 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology](#)



NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

The statement is now presenting the data showing the current balances. This is a shift from earlier format of annual reporting. The new format displays current commitments and against current resource availability in a more transparent manner. Note that the allocation methodology has not changed.

Resource distribution (15/07/2025 to 30/06/2026)		Volume (GL)
Available resource for allocation		1,061
Storage volumes NSW share ⁽¹⁾		1,967
Future resources ⁽²⁾		946
less SA commitments and overhead ⁽³⁾		(1,852)
less		
Planned environmental water ⁽⁴⁾		46
Domestic, stock and towns balance ⁽⁵⁾		61
High security balance ⁽⁵⁾		182
Conveyance balance ⁽⁵⁾		166
General security balance ⁽⁶⁾		531
Wakool allowance ⁽⁷⁾		44
Reserves for critical human needs ⁽⁸⁾		61

2026/27 higher priority reserve ⁽⁹⁾

0

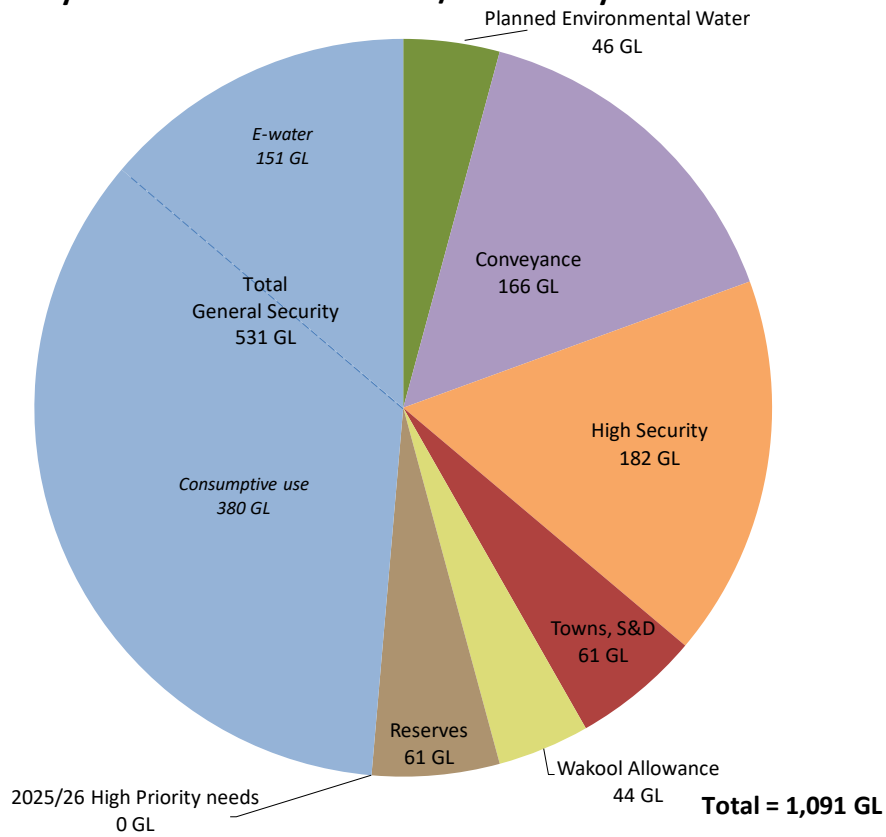
*equals*Surplus (or deficit) ⁽¹⁰⁾

(30)

Notes:

- (1) The NSW share of storage volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 30/06/25.
- (2) Budgeted minimum inflows (07/1914 to 05/1915); plus any usable flows in transit; plus expected regulated inflow from Snowy Hydro till 30/4/26; plus drought reserve held in Snowy.
- (3) Evaporation and transmission loss; plus SA's entitlements & dilution flow; plus conveyance reserve.
- (4) The volume includes 6 GL of Murray Additional Allowance (MAA), 0 GL of Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA), 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. The closing balance of B-MA was 132 GL on 30/06/25 which has been fully borrowed now.
- (5) Account balance remaining in higher priorities licence categories.
- (6) General Security accounts balance as of 14/07/25. This includes carried over volume from last water year, plus any new allocation, minus usage to date. For information, about 517 GL (31%) was carried over on 1/07/25.
- (7) Wakool allowance – a conveyance volume necessary for NSW to operate the Edward-Wakool system. The annual budget to deliver the potential maximum allocation to the water users in the system is 70 GL.
- (8) 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.
- (9) Volume set aside for opening allocation to higher priority needs on 1/7/2026. The reserve will be built from 12/2025 onward.
- (10) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small deficit which will be monitored closely.

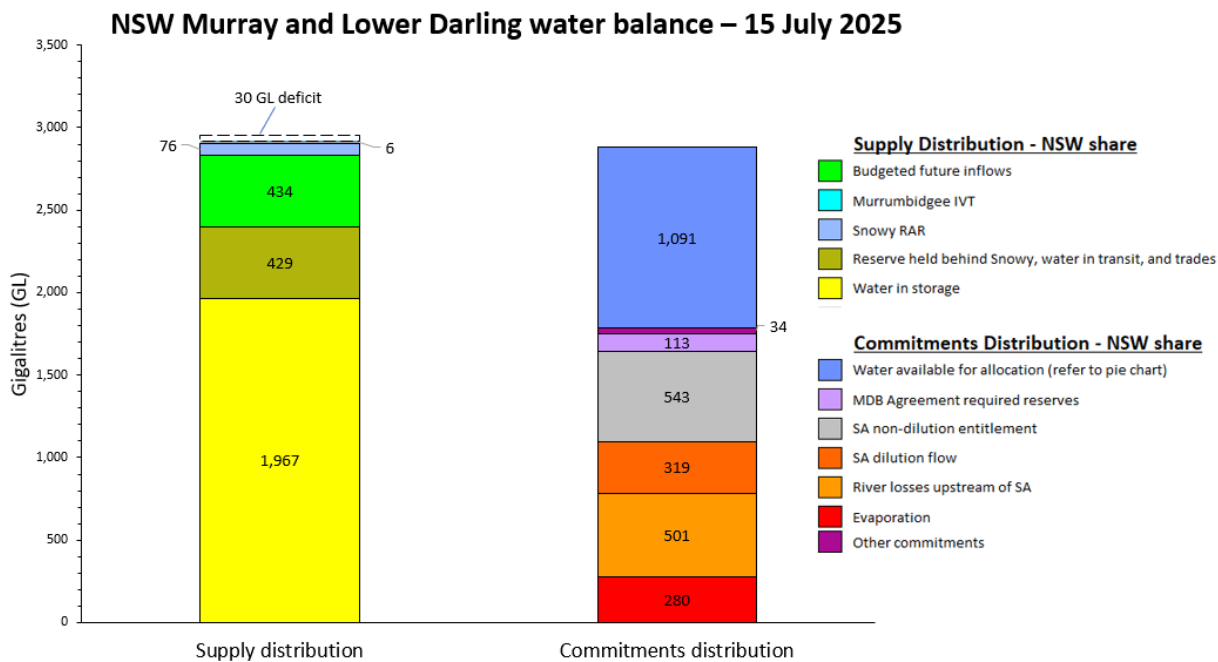
NSW Murray resource distribution 2025/26 – 15 July 2025



Storage volumes

30 June 2025	Full capacity (GL)	Storage volume (GL/%)	NSW share* (GL/%)
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,428 (63%)	856 (22%)
Hume Dam	2,982	1,163 (39%)	568 (19%)
Lake Victoria	677	395 (58%)	140 (21%)
Menindee Lakes System	1,731	1,295 (75%)	403 (23%)
Total			1,967 GL

*NSW can store up to 50% of full capacity



Notes:

- Water in storage:** Volumes in the storages (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as of 30/06/2025.
- Reserve held behind Snowy, water in transit and trades:** include snowy scheme contributions, drought reserve held in snowy, water in transit, and trades.
- 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 6 GL as of 30/06/2025.
- 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 that can be assigned to NSW Murray entitlement holders based on the Water Sharing Plan. Allocation of this volume is provided in the above table and pie chart.

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 7 GL, to high security HEW is 25 GL, to conveyance HEW is 26 GL. The volume carried over from last water year by general security is 144 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 is open and trade into the Murrumbidgee is closed (as of 14 July 2025). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (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.

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved NSW Murray general security allocations after 1 July 2025, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below under a variety of conditions. 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. We have discontinued reporting wet (25%) condition that is subject to wide uncertainties such as storage spills, account limits, loss savings etc.

Simulated general security allocations (%)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Sep 2025	1 Nov 2025
Pre 2004 minimum	1%	1%
Exceedance: 9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	1%	7%
Exceedance: 3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	10%	20%
Exceedance: 1 chance in 2 (median) (50%)	18%	32%

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%.

Allocations in 2025/26

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2025/26 for the NSW Murray River Water Source

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025/26
1-Jul	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	HIGH SECURITY	0.97 ML/unit share	0.97 ML/unit share
1-Jul	CONVEYANCE	0.5039 ML/unit share	0.5039 ML/unit share
1-Jul	GENERAL SECURITY	0.01 ML/unit share	0.01 ML/unit share

*Maximum allowable

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2025/26 for the Lower Darling River Water Source

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025/26	Account balance
1-Jul	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	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

Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for these water sources are available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation statement - The water allocation statement for all water sources can be accessed at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – We developed a dashboard 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 these water sources is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016](#)

Further information

The next statement for these water sources will be published to update resource status on Friday, 2:30 pm, 1 August 2025.

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

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