

1 August 2025

# NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

## Water allocation update

General security (GS) licences in the NSW Murray Regulated Rivers Water Source have received an allocation increase of 1% of their entitlement, and conveyance entitlements have also received their commensurate allocation increases.

The 1% increase in this assessment brings the cumulative general security allocation for the 2025–26 water year to 2%. When combined with the average carryover of 31%, the total water availability to date stands at 33%.

The recent improvement in water availability is primarily due to significant inflows into the storages. This assessment incorporates dam volumes as of the end of June, inflows received to date and forecast recessions. The next resource assessment is expected to provide a more comprehensive picture, capturing the full extent of resource improvements resulting from the recent wet conditions.

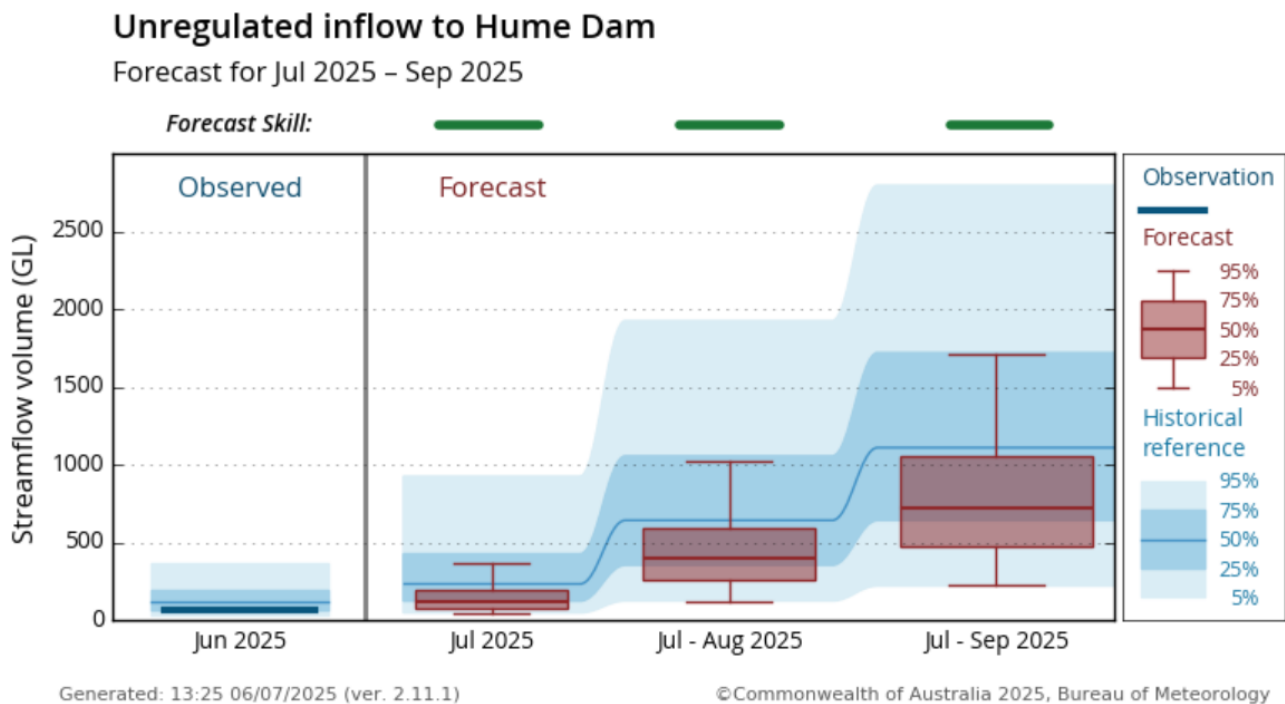
All entitlements in the Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source were fully allocated on 1 July 2025; hence, no further allocation is possible in this water year.

## Current allocation (NSW Murray)

| 1 August 2025    | Allocation increment | Account balance |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| General Security | 1%                   | 559 GL          |

## Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated inflow to Hume Dam (see the figure below). Though preliminary, this may suggest the potential inflows into dam in the coming month. All the forecast quantiles, except one, are below the historical flows from July to September 2025, suggesting a higher likelihood of dry conditions 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](#)



## Storage volumes

| 30 June 2025          | Full capacity (GL) | Current 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

## 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 (1/8/2025 to 30/6/2026)   | Volume (GL) |
|---|-------------|
| Available resource for allocation               | 1,118       |
| Storage volumes NSW share <sup>(1)</sup>        | 1,967       |
| Future resources <sup>(2)</sup>                 | 1,036       |
| less SA commitments and overhead <sup>(3)</sup> | (1,885)     |
| less  |             |

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| Planned environmental water <sup>(4)</sup>                     | 46  |
| Domestic and stock, local water utility balance <sup>(5)</sup> | 60  |
| High security balance <sup>(5)</sup>                           | 178 |
| Conveyance balance <sup>(5)</sup>                              | 168 |
| General security balance <sup>(6)</sup>                        | 559 |
| Wakool allowance <sup>(7)</sup>                                | 46  |
| Reserves for critical human needs <sup>(8)</sup>               | 61  |
| 2026/27 higher priority reserve <sup>(9)</sup>                 | 0   |

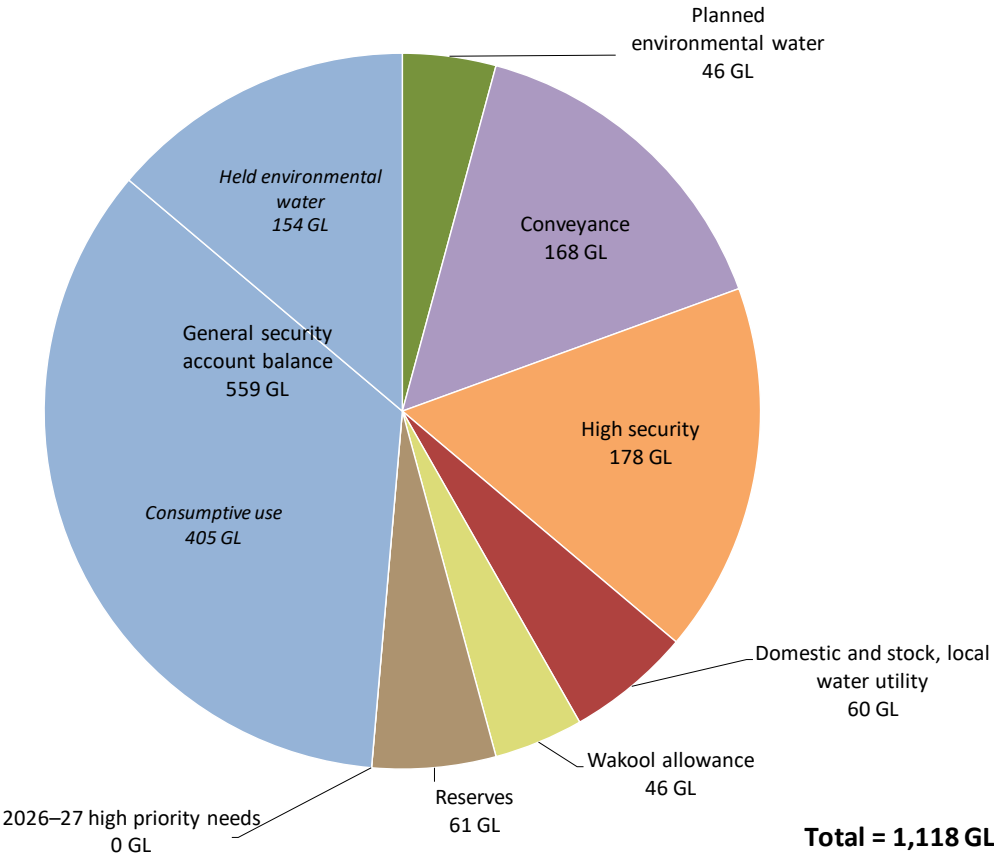
*equals*

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(10)</sup> | 0 |
|--------------------------------------|---|

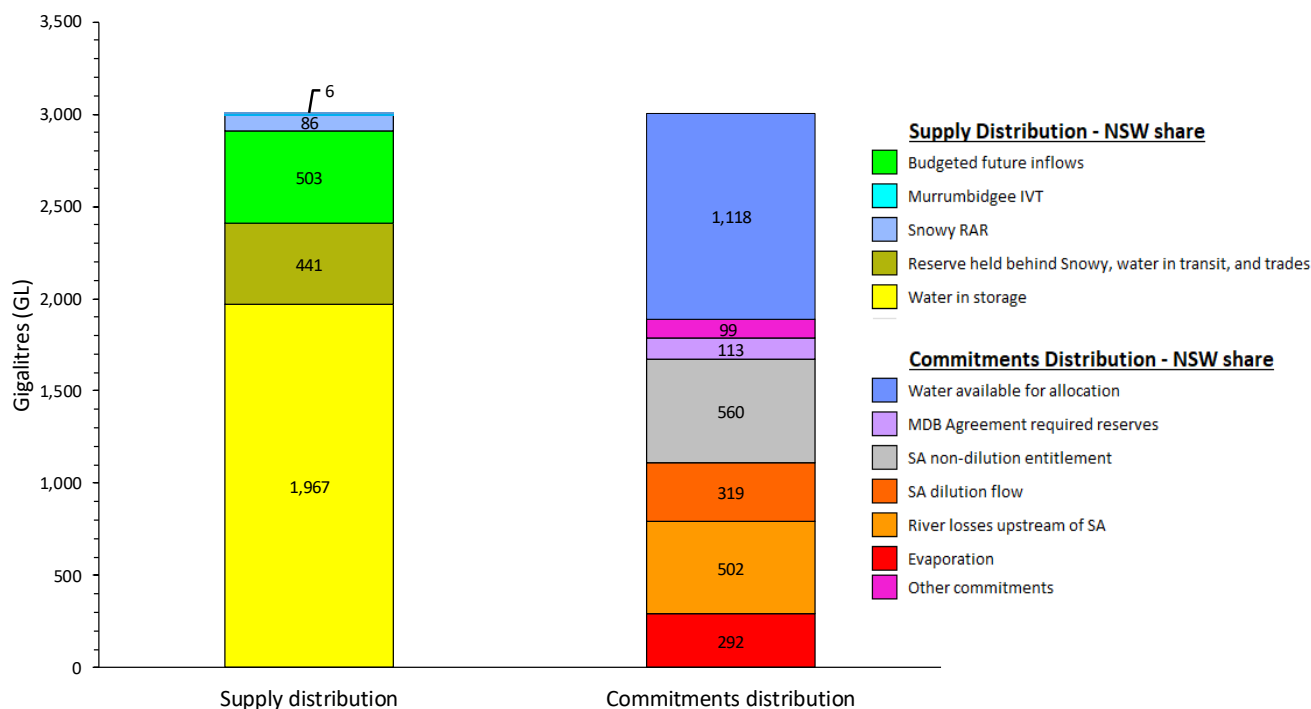
**Notes:**

- (1) The NSW share of storage volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 30/6/25.
- (2) Budgeted minimum inflows (08/1914 to 05/1915); plus inflows received in July and forecast recessions; 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; plus Menindee commitments.
- (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 30/6/25 which has been fully borrowed now.
- (5) Account balance remaining in higher priorities licence categories.
- (6) General security accounts balance as of 30/7/25. This includes carried over volume from last water year, plus any new allocation, minus usage to date. For information, about 524 GL (31%) was carried over on 1/7/25.
- (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.

**Resource distribution as of 1 August 2025**  
**NSW Murray Regulated River Water Source**



## NSW Murray and Lower Darling water balance - 1 August 2025



### Notes:

- Water in storage:** Volumes in the storages (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as of 30/6/2025.
- 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 plus new inflow to the dam including recession.
- IVT:** Total tributary system water bought by Murray system users that is yet to be delivered. IVT balance is 6 GL as of 30/6/2025.
- 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.
- Other commitments:** includes Menindee commitments plus other trade adjustments.
- 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. The figures in the below table are approximate. For detailed information, please refer to the individual agency websites.

| Licence category | Share component (GL) | 2025–26 volume (GL)* | Account balance (GL) |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| General security | 503                  | 154                  | 154                  |
| High security    | 26                   | 25                   | 25                   |
| Conveyance       | 50                   | 25                   | 25                   |

\* Water allocated in 2025–26 plus water carried over on 1/7/25

## 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 31 July 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 2025–26

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2025–26 for the NSW Murray Regulated 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   |
| 1-Aug | Conveyance          | 0.0039 ML/unit share | 0.5078 ML/unit share |
| 1-Aug | General security    | 0.01 ML/unit share   | 0.02 ML/unit share   |

\*Maximum allowable

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2025–26 for the Lower Darling Regulated 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       | 1 ML/unit share* | 1 ML/unit share* |
| 1-Jul | General security    | 1 ML/unit share* | 1 ML/unit share* |

\* Maximum allowable

## Water sharing plan rules (NSW Murray)

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- Domestic and stock, local water utility, and high security sub-category access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of their share component at the start of the water year. These licences cannot carry over unused balances into the next water year.
- High security (HS) access licences are to receive full allocation of 97% at the start of the water year and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year. If general security licences are allocated 97% or more, high security must be increased to 100% of their entitlement.
- Conveyance access licences receive an allocation of 50% after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year. These licences are allocated incrementally based on GS allocations.
- General security access licences are to receive allocations after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated, and the conveyance licences have received their 50% allocation. GS accounts can carry over up to 50% of entitlement into the next water year and have a limit of 110% of entitlement.
- Planned environmental water allowances include the Barmah-Millewa Allowance, the Murray Additional Allowance, the River Murray Increased Flows.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance cannot be carried over into the next water year.

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## 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](#)

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## Further information

The next water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on Friday 15 August 2025 at 2:30 pm.

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

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