15 October 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 current balance of general security water holders is 824 GL or an average of 49% of their entitlement. Note that individual balances may be higher or lower than this percentage subject to their water use decisions.

September inflows to the River Murray System were below average, indicating drier conditions across the catchment.

This assessment is based on NSW's share of storage volumes as of the end of September and observed inflows up to 8 October 2025. It also includes a conservative projection of inflows for the rest of October, tapering from observed rates towards minimum inflows, and assumes minimum inflows from November to the end of the water year.

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 October 2025	Allocation increment	Account balance
General security	0%	824 GL

Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal flow forecast for the unregulated inflow into Hume Dam has been unavailable since the 6 July 2025 forecast update. In lieu of this, the seasonal flow forecast for the Murray River at Biggara, located upstream and in close proximity to Hume Dam, has been referenced to provide indicative inflow conditions (see the figure below).

Though preliminary, this may suggest the potential inflows into Hume Dam in the coming months. The median forecast streamflow sits below the historical median, and forecast range is considerably lower than the historical range, suggesting that low to near-median inflows are likely between October and December 2025.

The graph for October to December 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology

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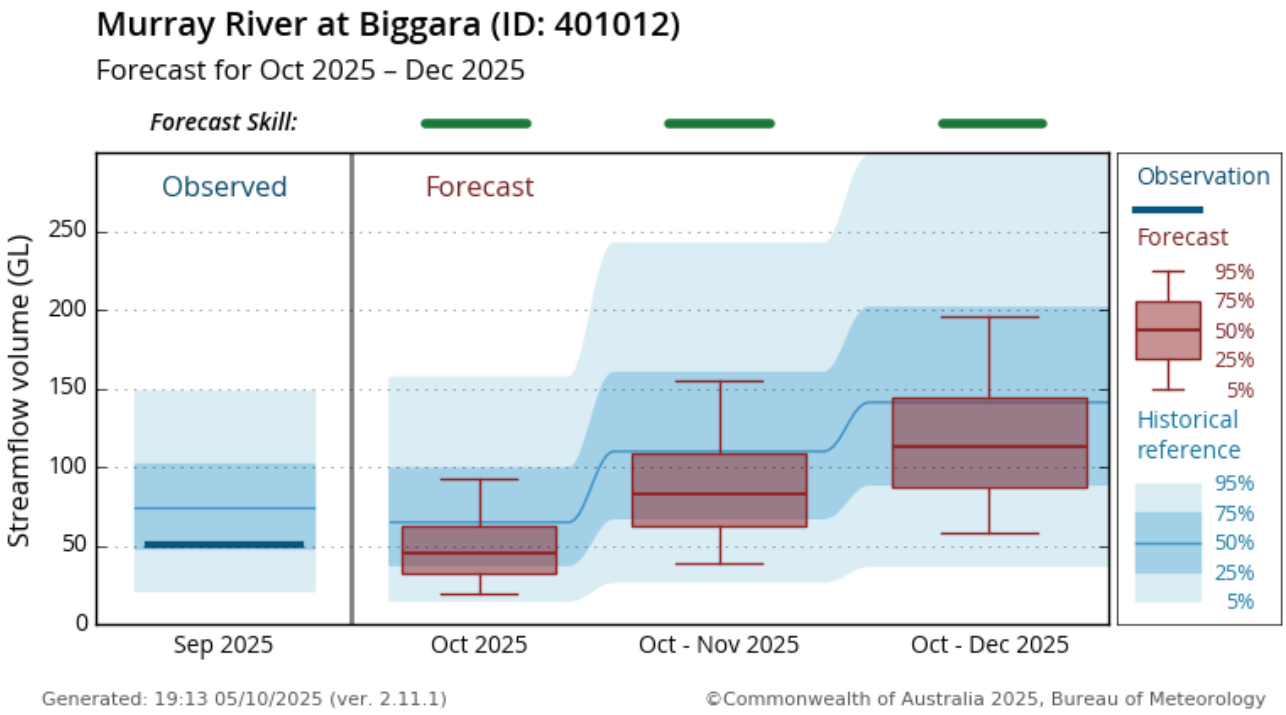


Storage volumes

30 September 2025	Full capacity (GL)	Storage GL (%)	NSW share GL (%)
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,577 (67%)	955 (25%)
Hume Dam	2,982	1,700 (57%)	819 (27%)
Lake Victoria	677	519 (77%)	214 (32%)
Menindee Lakes	1,731	1,483 (86%)	368 (21%)
Total			2,356 GL

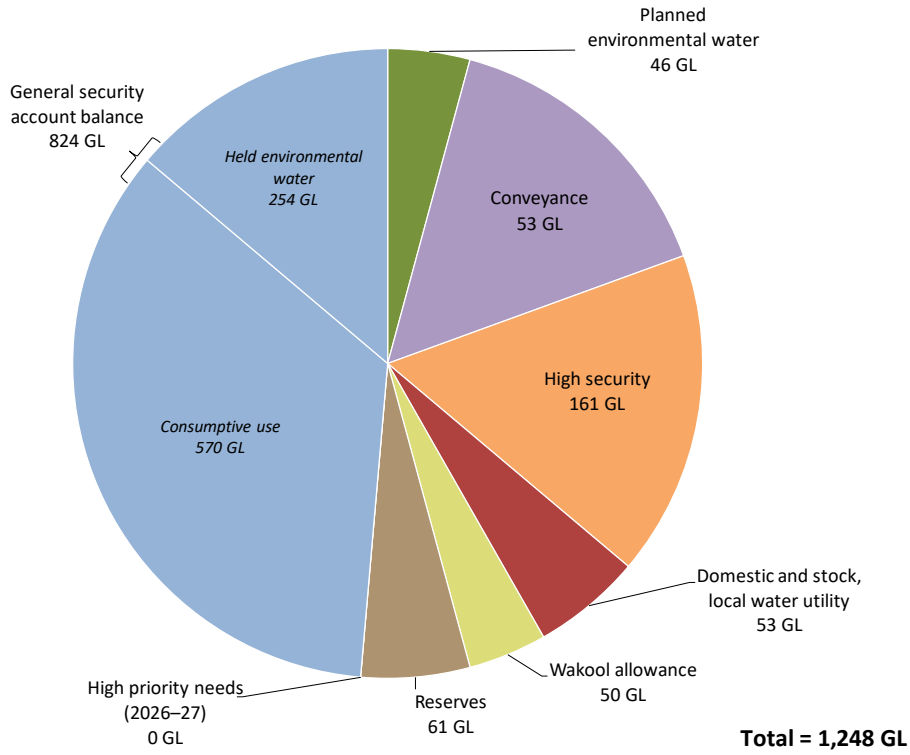
NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (15 October 2025 to 30 June 2026)	Volume (GL)
Available resource for allocation	1,250
Storage volumes NSW share [1]	2,356
Future resources [2]	776
less SA commitments and overhead [3]	(1,882)
less	
Planned environmental water [4]	46
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance [5]	53
High security balance [5]	161
Conveyance balance [5]	53
General security balance [6]	824
Wakool allowance [7]	50
Reserves for critical human needs [8]	61
2026–27 higher priority reserve [9]	0
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) [10]	2

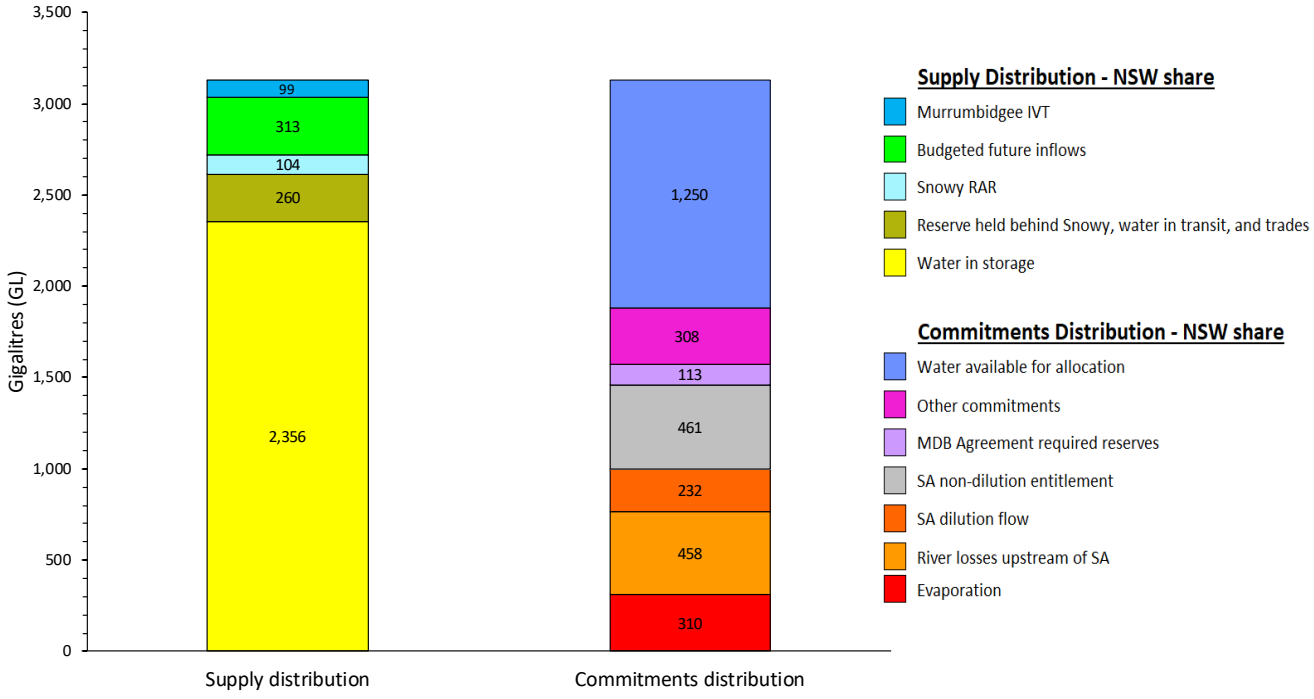
Notes:

(1) The NSW share of storage volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 30/09/2025.
(2) Budgeted minimum inflows (11/2002 to 05/2003); plus estimated inflow recessions; plus any usable flows in transit; plus water from inter valley trade; plus expected regulated inflow from Snowy Hydro till 30/4/2026; plus drought reserve held in Snowy.
(3) Evaporation and transmission loss; plus SA's entitlements & dilution flow; plus conveyance reserve; plus Menindee commitments; plus NS Active Environmental Water.
(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 balance of B-MA is 162 GL as of 01/10/2025 which has been fully borrowed and will be paid back from future inflows after GS allocations reach 30%.
(5) Account balance remaining in higher priorities and conveyance licence categories.
(6) General security accounts balance as of 10/10/2025. 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 1/7/2025.
(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 surplus which will be rolled over the next assessment.

NSW Murray Regulated River Water Source



NSW Murray and Lower Darling water balance - 15 October 2025



Notes:

- Water in storage: Volumes in the storages (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as of 30/09/2025.
- 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 is based on minimum inflow observed pre-2004. The future inflow also includes Snowy Hydro's guaranteed inflows for the remaining water year, plus Murrumbidgee end of system flows, plus any inflow recession known to date.
- Inter-valley trade (IVT): Total tributary system water bought by Murray system users that is yet to be delivered. IVT balance is 99 GL as of 30/09/2025.
- 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 in clause 88. 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 in clause 88A. 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 usage and 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)
High security	31	29	29
Conveyance	50	29	26
General security	521	267*	254

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

Inter-valley trade (IVT)

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 currently **closed** and **trade into the Murrumbidgee** is **open** (as of 14 October 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. 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 December 2025	1 February 2025
Pre 2004 minimum	18%	18%
Very dry (90% Exceedance)	20%	30%
Dry (75% Exceedance)	25%	45%
Median (50% Exceedance)	35%	65%

Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.
Note 2: Any water carried over from last year is to be added to these indicative allocations with individual accounts not exceeding 110%.
Note 3: The Barmah-Millewa payback obligations and the accumulation of next year's reserves constrain future increases in water allocations
Note 4: The last three months of system inflows have been low and are tracking at an exceedance probability of 80%, relative to the pre-2004 historical record of combined inflows to Hume, Dartmouth and Kiewa. Note this exceedance probability may not be an indication of future exceedances.

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

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26
15-Aug	Conveyance	0.0039 ML/unit share	0.5117 ML/unit share
15-Aug	General security	0.01 ML/unit share	0.03 ML/unit share
1-Sep	Conveyance	0.0078 ML/unit share	0.5195 ML/unit share
1-Sep	General security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.05 ML/unit share
15-Sep	Conveyance	0.0193 ML/unit share	0.5388 ML/unit share
15-Sep	General security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.10 ML/unit share
1-Oct	Conveyance	0.0311 ML/unit share	0.5699 ML/unit share
1-Oct	General security	0.08 ML/unit share	0.18 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

River Murray weekly report (8 October 2025)

- Water from the Darling system is being used to meet current demands while preserving Lakes Wetherell and Pamamaroo to maximise future availability for River Murray and Baaka/lower Darling users.
- Minimum flow targets are being met along the River Murray, with higher base flows maintained to support environmental water holders.
- The Menindee Lakes system is currently at 87% capacity. According to WaterNSW's 10 October update, an additional 100–150 GL of inflows is expected by the end of November.
- Additional Dilution Flow to South Australia remains triggered from 1 September 2025.
- WaterNSW has maintained blue-green algae (BGA) amber alerts for Lake Hume, with several amber and green alerts persisting along the Murray from Albury to the South Australian border, and throughout the Edward–Wakool system. A red alert remains in place for the Great Darling Anabranch (Silver City Highway), while Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla, as well as the lower Darling–Baaka (Tapio), are now on green alert.

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 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.

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 water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on **Monday 3 November 2025 at 2:30 pm.**

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