

1 July 2026

Opening Water Allocations 2026–27 Regulated River Water Sources

All critical environmental and human needs are secure for the
2026–27 water year

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 2026–27 water year.

Opening allocations on 1 July ensure that licence categories without carryover provisions receive their new annual water allocations at the start of each water year. Water allocations to other categories, including most general security licences, will continue as usual after assessing end-of-month (June) water resources with statements published in the first weeks of July.

Key information

- 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 (GS) water users on all regulated coastal rivers, except the Bega-Brogo system, have received their maximum 100% allocation.
- GS water users in inland regulated rivers:
 - have full access to carryover water where applicable in accordance with their respective water sharing plan rules;
 - have received their maximum (100%) allocation in the Upper Namoi Water Source;
 - have received 75% opening allocation in the Peel Regulated River Water Source;
 - have received 30% opening allocation in the Lower Darling Water Source;
 - have received no opening allocation in the Murrumbidgee, NSW Murray, and NSW Border Rivers.

- Border Rivers is currently experiencing dry conditions. If inflow conditions don't improve, drought response measures may be needed ahead of the next irrigation season.
- All floodplain harvesting and supplementary access licence holders have received full opening allocations across all applicable water sources.
- A Section 324 Order is currently in place until 30 September 2026, restricting take by floodplain harvesting and supplementary licences in specified regulated river water sources in the northern basin, subject to conditions. However, the restrictions are temporarily lifted whenever the active storage levels in the upper lakes at Menindee are above 250 GL. Further details and the latest status can be found at: [Various water sources in the northern Murray–Darling Basin Order \(No.1\) 2026 | Water](#)

Recap on allocations last water year (2025–26)

The 2025–26 water year started with all local water utility, domestic and stock and high security licence holders receiving their full opening allocations. General security water users in all water sources on average had good opening account balances due to carryover from previous water years.

By the end of 2025–26, general security water users on all coastal rivers (except Bega-Brogo) had received their maximum allocation. However, some inland valleys received reduced allocations due to ongoing dry conditions and limited inflows. Users on Belubula River received no allocation in 2025–26.

Supplementary access licence holders received full opening allocations in all applicable river systems in 2025–26, except for those on the Lower Namoi water source, which received a reduced allocation of 0.37 ML/unit share in response to exceedance of long-term extraction limits.

All floodplain harvesting licence holders, where licences exist (Border Rivers, Gwydir, Macquarie, and Barwon-Darling), received their maximum allocation for 2025–26.

Routine statements

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 at the end of this statement.

Allocations in 2026–27 for regulated river valleys

NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security (A class) licence holders have received no opening allocation for 2026–27.
- 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 the winter months in accordance with environmental flow rules in the water sharing plan.
- Allocations to general security access licences will be assessed and announced if there is a significant improvement in resources during the 2026–27 water year.
- Border Rivers is currently experiencing dry conditions, and if these persist, drought response measures may be needed ahead of the next irrigation season.

Gwydir Regulated River Water Source

- 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 449 gigalitres (GL) or 88% of total share components.
- The estimated Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) account balance is about 64 GL or an average of 142% 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 Tuesday 7 July 2026.

Upper and Lower Namoi Regulated River Water Sources

- 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 the Lower Namoi general security accounts at any time is 2.0 ML/share.

- The estimated opening Lower Namoi general security account balance totals 339 GL which is 138% of total share components.
- Supplementary access licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation
- Allocation to Lower Namoi general security access licences will be assessed and announced at the next routine water allocation statement scheduled for publication on Tuesday 7 July 2026.

Peel Regulated River Water Source

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders have received 75% allocation, with commensurate volume credited to EWA accounts.
- No licence category in this water source can carry over water, therefore all remaining account balances on 30 June 2026 have been forfeited and replaced with opening allocations.
- Allocation to general security access licences will be assessed and announced if there is significant improvement in resources during the 2026–27 water year.

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- The opening balances of Cudgegong and Macquarie EWAs are estimated to be 7 GL and 41 GL respectively.
- Carryover evaporation reductions will occur in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- The water carried over into 2026–27 by general security water users on the Macquarie River is estimated to be about 250 GL or 41% of entitlement, and on the Cudgegong River about 13 GL or 68% 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 Friday 10 July 2026.

Lachlan Regulated River Water Source

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Conveyance licence holders have received an initial 75% opening allocation. The allocation will be finalised when the opening balance in the relevant general security account is reconciled.
- The Wyangala EWA and Brewster EWA are credited 10 GL each. However, Lake Brewster EWA will not be available for release until the lake has sufficient volume. 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 has been applied to relevant accounts by 30 June 2026, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

- The water carried into 2026–27 by general security water users is estimated to be 350 GL or about 59% of entitlement and is fully deliverable.
- Allocation to general security and conveyance licences will be assessed and announced at the next routine water allocation statement scheduled for publication on Wednesday 8 July 2026.

Belubula Regulated River Water Source

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Water carried into 2026–27 by general security licence holders is estimated to total 20.5 GL or 92% 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 Water Source

- The local water utility, domestic and stock, and sub-category high security water access licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- High security licence holders have received their full (95%) opening allocation.
- General security carryover is anticipated to be less than 15% of total shares. The carryover will be finalised once all the accounts are reconciled and published within regular statements.
- Conveyance access licence holders have received an allocation in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- General security access licences are commencing the 2026–27 water year with no opening allocation.
- Supplementary access licences (including Lowbidgee) receive their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Wednesday 15 July 2026.

NSW Murray Regulated River Water Source

- 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 2026–27 water year is anticipated to be less than 25% of total shares. The carryover will be finalised once all the accounts are reconciled and will be published within regular statements.
- Conveyance licences have received their full opening allocation of 50%.
- General security access licences are commencing the 2026–27 water year with no opening allocation.
- Supplementary access licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.

- Barmah-Millewa EWA has been borrowed fully as general security opening allocation is zero (less than 30%).
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Wednesday 15 July 2026.

Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source

- All higher priority licence holders, and supplementary access licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licences have received a 30% opening allocation, reflecting depleting storage levels in the Menindee Lakes system and low upper lakes volumes.
- The Menindee Lakes system is currently about 564 GL or around 33% full (16 June 2026). The Menindee resource remains shared with other states under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement until total storage next falls below 480 GL.
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Wednesday 15 July 2026.

Bega and Brogo Regulated Rivers Water Source

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security access licences have received a 40% allocation. 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 licence holders can also access uncontrolled flows when available to augment their allocation, up to a maximum 100% of entitlement.
- General security entitlements in this water source cannot carry over water from one water year to the next. The remaining account balances from 2025–26 have been forfeited on 30 June 2026.
- Supplementary access licences have received their maximum (100%) allocation.

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

- 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 2026–27 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 occasionally, as information updates only, during the 2026–27 water year.

Paterson Regulated River Water Source

- 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 occasionally, as information updates only, during the 2026–27 water year.

Richmond Regulated River Water Source

- All 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 2026 have been forfeited and replaced with opening allocations.
- As all licence categories have received their maximum allocation, water allocation statements will be published occasionally, as information updates only, during the 2026–27 water year.

Useful links



Allocation statements for all water sources are available at: [Water allocation statements | Water](#)



A series of guides that describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems are available at: [Resource assessment process | Water](#)



The dashboard on water availability and allocations for all water sources is available at: [Allocations dashboard | Water](#)



Water sharing plans for all water sources are available at: [Water sharing plans | Water](#)

Contact



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](#)



Contact information for water enquiries and other water-related matters can be found on the department's website: [Contact us - DCCEEW | Water](#)

Tabulation of 1 July 2026 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	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

Water Source	Categories	Amount	
	FLOODPLAIN HARVESTING (REGULATED RIVER)	1	ML/share
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)	0.75	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	1	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	%

Water Source	Categories	Amount	
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.3	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	%
	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)	0.6183	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0	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	%

Water Source	Categories	Amount	
	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)	0.5	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.97	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [ABORIGINAL CULTURAL]	100	%
	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)	0.75	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	%

Water Source	Categories	Amount	
	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