

1 September 2026

NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

NSW Murray general security increased by 3%

General security	2026–27 allocation	Account balance
NSW Murray	18%	41% (692 GL)
Lower Darling	30%	31% (25 GL)

Key information

- NSW Murray conveyance entitlements have also received an allocation increment commensurate to the general security (GS) allocation increase.
- There is no change to Lower Darling allocations. Lower Darling GS users received 30% allocation on 1 July 2026, and opportunities for further allocation are being monitored closely.
- Improvements in NSW Murray resources have continued following the recent inflow events. There are corresponding increases in overheads and external commitments which include increased losses, unregulated flows that cannot be captured and contributions to the minimum reserve for the next water year.
- From this assessment, the states agreed to increase the transmission loss budget due to the expected hot and dry summer ahead.
- Unregulated flow conditions downstream of Hume Dam are continuing, allowing uncontrolled flow and supplementary access events at several sections along the Murray River. The latest supplementary access information is available from the [WaterInsights](#) website.
- This assessment is based on NSW's share of storage volumes as of 31 July and observed inflows to 26 August then tapering towards minimum inflows to 31 August. The assessment budgets for minimum inflows arriving at headwater storages from September 2026 to May 2027. For Menindee, no inflows are considered for the rest of the 2026–27 water year.

Next statement

The next water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on
Tuesday 15 September 2026 at 2:30 pm.

NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 1 September 2026)	Volume (GL)
Available resource for allocation	1,276
Storage volumes NSW share ⁽¹⁾	2,094
Future resources ⁽²⁾	1,133
less overheads and commitments ⁽³⁾	(1,951)
<i>less</i>	
Planned environmental water ⁽⁴⁾	28
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance ⁽⁵⁾	58
High security balance ⁽⁵⁾	192
Conveyance balance ⁽⁵⁾	183
General security balance ⁽⁶⁾	692
Wakool allowance ⁽⁷⁾	47
Critical human water needs ⁽⁸⁾	61
Higher-priority reserve (2027–28) ⁽⁹⁾	0
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽¹⁰⁾	15

Notes:

- (1) The NSW share of active storage volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 31/7/2026.
- (2) Budgeted minimum inflows (08/1914 to 05/1915); plus inflow to date (1 to 26/8/2026); plus conservative estimates of inflow recessions (27 to 31/8/2026); plus any usable flows in transit; plus water from inter valley trade; plus expected regulated inflow from Snowy Hydro till 30/4/2027; plus drought reserve held in Snowy.
- (3) Budgeted evaporation and transmission loss; plus SA's entitlements & dilution flow; plus MDB agreement reserves; plus Menindee commitments; plus NS Active Environmental Water (2.9 GL, as of 31/7/2026). Includes portion of inflows that cannot be regulated.
- (4) The volume includes 6 GL of Murray Additional Allowance (MAA), 0 GL of Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA), 22 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 192 GL as of 31/7/2026 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. This includes carried over volume from last water year, plus any new allocation to date, plus any trade adjustments, minus usage to date. For information, about 383 GL (23%) was carried over on 1/7/2026.
- (7) Wakool allowance – a conveyance volume necessary for NSW to deliver to the users on the Edward-Wakool system. The annual budget to deliver the potential maximum allocation to the water users in the system is 70 GL.
- (8) The volume to be stored by NSW for critical human water needs as per Clause 11.03 of the Basin Plan.
- (9) Volume set aside for opening allocation to higher-priority needs on 1/7/2027. The reserve will be built from 12/2026.
- (10) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small surplus which will be rolled over to next month's assessment.

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 plan for these water sources is available at: [NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers Water Sources 2016](#)



Updates on operations and river conditions are available at: [River Murray weekly reports | Murray–Darling Basin Authority](#)

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