

15 September 2026

NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

NSW Murray general security increased by 10%

General security	2026–27 allocation	Account balance
NSW Murray	28%	53% (893 GL)
Lower Darling	30%	30% (24 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.
- Unregulated flow conditions 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 August and observed inflows to 8 September then tapering towards minimum inflows to 30 September. The assessment budgets for minimum inflows arriving at headwater storages from October 2026 to May 2027. For Menindee, no inflows are considered for the rest of the 2026–27 water year.
- Once the GS allocation increases to 30%, any new resource improvements will first be set aside to repay the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (BMA). The outstanding balance as of 1 September 2026 is 201 GL.

Next statement

The next water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on
Thursday 1 October 2026 at 2:30 pm.

NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

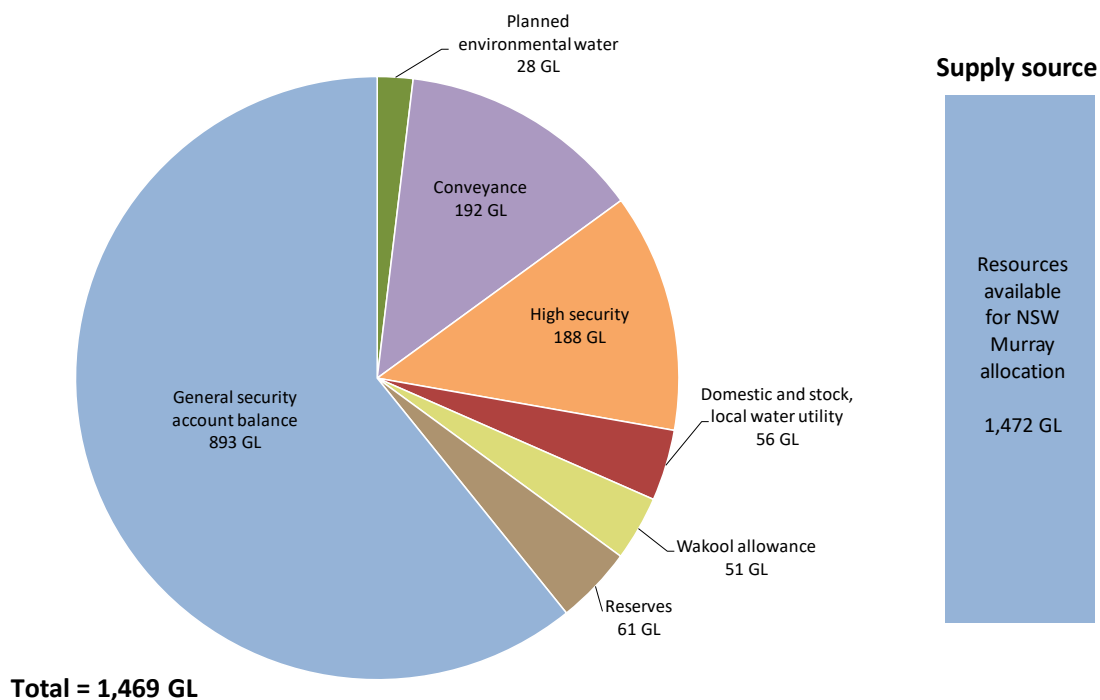
Resource distribution (as of 15 September 2026)	Volume (GL)
Available resource for allocation	1,472
Storage volumes NSW share ⁽¹⁾	2,478
Future resources ⁽²⁾	813
less overheads and commitments ⁽³⁾	(1,819)
<i>less</i>	
Planned environmental water ⁽⁴⁾	28
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance ⁽⁵⁾	56
High security balance ⁽⁵⁾	188
Conveyance balance ⁽⁵⁾	192
General security balance ⁽⁶⁾	893
Wakool allowance ⁽⁷⁾	51
Critical human water needs ⁽⁸⁾	61
Higher-priority reserve (2027–28) ⁽⁹⁾	0
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽¹⁰⁾	3

Notes:

- (1) The NSW share of active storage volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 31/8/2026.
- (2) Budgeted minimum inflows (09/1914 to 05/1915); plus inflow to date (1 to 8/9/2026); plus conservative estimates of inflow recessions (9 to 30/9/2026); 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 (0 GL, as of 31/8/2026). Includes portion of inflows that cannot be regulated and revised transmission loss budget of about additional 25 GL from NSW.
- (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 201 GL as of 1/9/2026 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.

Resource distribution as of 15 September 2026

NSW Murray Regulated River Water Source

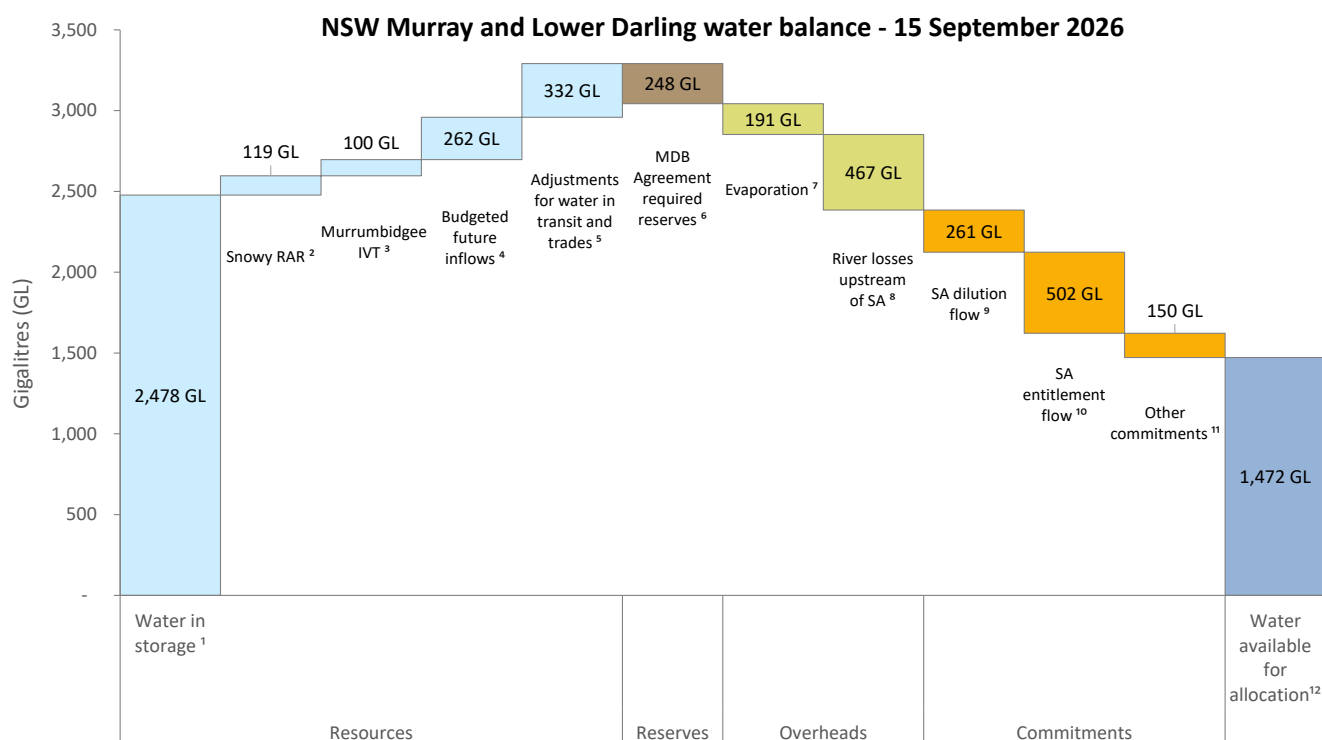


Storage volumes

31 August 2026	Full supply level (GL)	Dead storage (GL)	Total volume in storage (GL)	NSW share* (GL)	NSW share* (as %)
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	71	2,600	1064	28%
Hume Dam	2,982	23	2,232	1105	37%
Lake Victoria	677	100	638	269	47%
Menindee Lakes	1,731	480 [#]	520	40	3%
Total				2,478 GL	

* Active volume of NSW share and % of the NSW share of the total storage's active capacity; maximum share is 50%.

[#] NSW has sole access to water when the lakes fall below 480 GL.

**Notes:**

- (1) Water in storage: Active volumes of NSW share in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 31/8/2026.
- (2) Snowy Hydro's required release for the remaining water year, assuming minimum inflows.
- (3) Murrumbidgee Inter-Valley Trade (IVT) balance is 100 GL as of 31/8/2026.
- (4) Budgeted inflows: NSW's budget of future inflows is based on minimum inflow observed pre-2004. The future inflow also includes Murrumbidgee end of system flows, plus any inflow recession known to date.
- (5) Reserve held behind Snowy, water in transit and trades: Includes snowy environmental program contributions, drought reserve held in snowy, water in transit, Lower Darling and interstate trades.
- (6) 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 Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement in clause 102D and 103, respectively.
- (7) Evaporation: Water set aside for evaporation for the remainder of the year. Generally, this reduces as the year progresses. Of the total evaporation, approximately 12 GL is attributed to Menindee Lakes.
- (8) 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.
- (9) 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.
- (10) SA non-dilution entitlement: Water to supply South Australia's entitlement flow, as required under the MDB Agreement in clause 88. Generally, reduces as water year progresses.
- (11) Other commitments: Includes Menindee commitments, any north-south active environmental water, and other trade adjustments.
- (12) 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 earlier table and pie chart.

Chances of improvement

The chances of NSW Murray general security allocations, against repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below. The simulations do not consider likely variation in losses and water user behaviour in response to inflows. The simulations are based on inflow percentiles and a design water use pattern with no consideration of current weather conditions. Accordingly, the results are indicative only, not guaranteed, and should be used with caution.

Simulated general security allocations (%)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 November 2026	1 February 2026
Pre 2004 minimum	28%	28%
Very dry (90% exceedance)	30%	30%
Dry (75% exceedance)	30%	30%
Median (50% exceedance)	35%	40%

Note 1: Forecast incorporates Murrumbidgee regulated end of system flows.

Note 2: Any water carried into 2026–27 water year is to be added to these indicative allocations with individual accounts not exceeding 110%.

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)	2026–27 volume (GL)*	Account balance (GL)
High security	41	39	39
Conveyance	50	31	30
General security	549	256	256

* Water allocated in 2026–27 plus water carried over on 1/7/2026.

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](#)

Contact



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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](#)

Annexure

Allocations in 2026–27

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2026–27: NSW Murray Regulated River Water Source

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2026–27	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic and stock	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local water utility	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High security [#]	0.97 ML/share	0.97 ML/share	97%
1-Jul	Conveyance	0.50 ML/share	0.50 ML/share	50%
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
15-Jul	General security	0.05 ML/share	0.05 ML/share	30%
15-Jul	Conveyance	0.019415 ML/share	0.519415 ML/share	52%
3-Aug	General security	0.07 ML/share	0.12 ML/share	35%
3-Aug	Conveyance	0.027181 ML/share	0.546596 ML/share	55%
17-Aug	General security	0.03 ML/share	0.15 ML/share	38%
17-Aug	Conveyance	0.011649 ML/share	0.558245 ML/share	54%
1-Sep	General security	0.03 ML/share	0.18 ML/share	41%
1-Sep	Conveyance	0.011649 ML/share	0.569894 ML/share	55%
15-Sep	General security	0.10 ML/share	0.28 ML/share	53%
15-Sep	Conveyance	0.038830 ML/share	0.608724 ML/share	58%

* Maximum allowable.

[#] Excluding high security entitlements with subcategories which received their maximum 100% on 1 July.

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2026–27: Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2026–27	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic and stock	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local water utility	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High security	1.00 ML/share*	1.00 ML/share*	100%*
1-Jul	General security	0.30 ML/share	0.30 ML/share	32%

* 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 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.