

1 October 2026

NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

NSW Murray general security increased by 2%.

Lower Darling has entered Drought Stage 2.

General security	2026–27 allocation	Account balance*
NSW Murray	30%	55% (926 GL)
Lower Darling	30%	30% (24 GL)

*The account balance as of 31 August 2026 plus available water determinations to 1 October 2026.

Key information

- NSW Murray conveyance entitlements have also received an allocation increment commensurate to the general security (GS) allocation increase.
- NSW Murray supplementary water allocations were increased to 120% on 15 September 2026.
- This assessment is based on NSW's share of storage volumes as of 31 August and observed inflows to 21 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.
- With the GS allocation now reaching 30% in NSW Murray, any new resource improvements from next assessment will be set aside to repay the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (BMA). The outstanding balance as of 1 September 2026 is 201 GL.
- There is no change to Lower Darling GS allocations. The average GS account balance as of 28 September is 18% (14 GL), reflecting moderate usage.
- The Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source is now in **Drought Stage 2** (emerging drought). The upper Menindee Lakes active storage level is 245 GL. For further information on drought stages and policy: [Drought, floods and extreme events | Water](#).

Next statement

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

NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 1 October 2026)	Volume (GL)
Available resource for allocation	1,505
Storage volumes NSW share ⁽¹⁾	2,478
Future resources ⁽²⁾	862
less overheads and commitments ⁽³⁾	(1,835)
less	
Planned environmental water ⁽⁴⁾	28
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance ⁽⁵⁾	56
High security balance ⁽⁵⁾	188
Conveyance balance ⁽⁵⁾	194
General security balance ⁽⁶⁾	926
Wakool allowance ⁽⁷⁾	52
Critical human water needs ⁽⁸⁾	61
Higher-priority reserve (2027–28) ⁽⁹⁾	0
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽¹⁰⁾	0

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 21/9/2026); plus conservative estimates of inflow recessions (22 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 needs to be repaid before GS allocations can increase above 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.

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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