2 November 2026

NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

No change to general security allocations

General security	2026–27 allocation	Account balance*
NSW Murray	30%	53% (880 GL)
Lower Darling	30%	-

* The account balance as of 30 September 2026 plus available water determinations to 2 November 2026.

Key information

- NSW Murray resources have continued to improve following recent events, contributing 79 gigalitres (GL) to repay the Barmah-Millewa Allowance (B-MA). All outstanding B-MA commitments have now been met.
- This assessment is based on NSW's share of storage volumes as of 30 September and observed inflows to 26 October, then tapering towards minimum inflows to 31 October. The assessment budgets for minimum inflows arriving at headwater storages from November 2026 to May 2027.
- There is no change to Lower Darling GS allocations. The Lower Darling Regulated River remains in **Drought Stage 2** (emerging drought).
- The Menindee Lakes System (MLS) fell below 480 GL on 4 October 2026. This means the remaining water stored in the Lower Darling is no longer available to support Murray River system operations.

Next statement

The next water allocation statement for these water sources will be published on **Monday 16 November 2026 at 2:30 pm.**

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NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 1 November 2026)	Volume (GL)
Available resource for allocation	1,619
Storage volumes NSW share [1]	2,645
Future resources [2]	807
less overheads and commitments [3]	(1,833)
less	
Planned environmental water [4]	235
Domestic and stock, local water utility balance [5]	54
High security balance [5]	174
Conveyance balance [5]	160
General security balance [6]	880
Wakool allowance [7]	51
Critical human water needs [8]	61
Higher-priority reserve (2027–28) [9]	0
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) [10]	4

Notes:

(1) The NSW share of active storage volume in Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria as of 30/9/2026.

(2) Budgeted minimum inflows (11/2002 to 05/2003); plus inflow to date (1 to 26/10/2026); plus conservative estimates of inflow recessions (27 to 31/10/2026); minus any unregulated flows, 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 30/9/2026).

(4) The volume includes 6 GL of Murray Additional Allowance (MAA), 207 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. B-MA account has been fully repaid in this assessment.

(5) Account balance remaining in higher-priorities and conveyance licence categories as of 30/09/2026.

(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 until 30/9/2026. 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 the next 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

Contact

Subscribe here to receive water allocation statements and email updates from Water Group of the department.

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