

1 July 2024

# Opening Water Allocations 2024/25 - NSW Groundwater Sources

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## Water availability and allocation update

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water today announced the opening water allocations of 2024/25 water year for groundwater users.

All groundwater license categories across all groundwater sources received their maximum allocations for the water year 2024/25 in accordance with their respective water sharing plans, except the couple that are linked to regulated river available water determinations.

- Major utility access licenses covered by all groundwater water sharing plans have received an allocation of 100% of entitlement or 1 megalitre per unit share.
- Local water utility access licenses covered by all groundwater water sharing plans have received an allocation of 100% of entitlement or 1 megalitre per unit share.
- Domestic and/or stock water access licenses covered by groundwater water sharing plans have received an allocation of 100% of entitlement or 1 megalitre per unit share.
- Salinity and water table management licenses covered by all groundwater water sharing plans have received an allocation of 100% of entitlement or 1 megalitre per unit share.
- Aquifer access licenses covered by all groundwater water sharing plans have received an allocation of 100% of entitlement or 1 megalitre per unit share, except those listed next.
- Aquifer [High Security] licenses in the Gundagai Alluvial and Aquifer (general security) licenses in the Peel Alluvium water sources received allocations of 0.984 megalitre per unit share and 0.804 megalitre per unit share respectively.
- Upper Namoi Zone 1, Borambil Creek groundwater source aquifer access licenses received 2.3 megalitre per unit share in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Water sharing plans allow groundwater to be temporarily pumped for some years at higher volumes than the annual limit, provided the long term average annual extraction is not exceeded. This provides users some operational flexibility around seasonal variations including droughts.

The plans set limits on the years that this higher level of extraction can continue. Once the compliance trigger is reached, groundwater allocations may be reduced until extraction is back within the long-term plan extraction limit to prevent long-term resource depletion.

Groundwater pumping volumes have continued a three-year decline due to wet conditions and reduced demand, therefore the average annual extraction over the water sharing plan compliance period has also declined. It has meant that this year there are no water sources identified as exceeding their long-term extraction limits and triggering a reduced allocation.

Available water determinations for license categories in each groundwater source can be found on the department's allocation dashboard: <https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/allocations-availability/allocations/allocations-dashboard>

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