

15 May 2025

# NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

## Water allocation update

All entitlements, including general security (GS), received their maximum allocation by 17 February 2025. No further allocation is possible in this water year. The current GS account balance is about 748 gigalitres (GL).

All entitlements in the Lower Darling regulated river water source were fully allocated on 1 July 2024; hence, no further allocation is possible in this water year.

This statement confirms the current water year allocations and offers an outlook for the potential opening allocations for the 2025/26 water year, to be announced on 1 July 2025. It also includes a simulation of how general security allocations may increase by 1 September and 1 November 2025 under various inflow conditions.

This statement marks the final update for the 2024/25 water year. Any improvements in water resources between now and the end of June will be reflected in the opening allocations for the 2025/26 water year.

## Storage volumes

30 April 2025	Full capacity (GL)	Storage volume (GL/%)	NSW share* (GL/%)
Dartmouth Dam	3,856	2,829 (73%)	1,184 (31%)
Hume Dam	2,982	657 (22%)	317 (11%)
Lake Victoria	677	214 (32%)	63 (9%)
Menindee Lakes System	1731	682 (39%)	120 (7%)
Total			1,684 GL

\*NSW can store up to 50% of full capacity

## Trade

In the Murray, trade across the Barmah Choke remains restricted to 'no net trade downstream'. Downstream trade opens to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade. Water users are advised to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website ([Barmah Choke trade rule | Murray-Darling Basin Authority](#)) for information about the trade balance and status of trade across the Barmah Choke.

Temporary trade between the Lower Darling and the Murray is open and will likely remain open until

the system next falls below 480 GL. Trade within the Lower Darling regulated river water source also remains open.

Trade out of Murrumbidgee and trade into the Murrumbidgee are open (as of 14 May 2025). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.waternsw.com.au](http://www.waternsw.com.au)) for daily information about the inter-valley trade (IVT) account balance, the status of trade, and other important information. The Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated between limits of 0 GL and 100 GL however the balance can move rapidly. The information presented in this statement is current at the time of writing.

## Resource outlook for 2025/26

The outlook for likely 1 July 2025 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution. It aims to broadly guide water users with their end of water year water management decisions. Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water can forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2025.

### Lower Darling water source

- The Menindee Lakes System is around 44% full, holding some 753 GL as of 13 May 2025.
- The Menindee resource is currently shared with other states, under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement, as the system is holding more than 480 GL.
- Maximum (100%) allocation can be expected for all entitlements; towns, domestic and stock access licences, high security and general security entitlements in 2025/26 based on current forecast.
- Maximum allocations for supplementary access licences can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.

### NSW Murray water source

- Maximum (100%) allocation can be expected for towns, domestic and stock access licences, and sub-category high security entitlements.
- Allocation to high security (excluding sub-categories) will likely be 97% of entitlement.
- Conveyance is expected to be allocated in accordance with the plan rules.
- Current average general security balance is 45%, individual balances may vary. Individuals can carryover their closing balances up to 50% of their entitlements. The allocated volume has already been stored behind the dam and secure.
- Current assessment is predicting **very low** opening allocation for general security water users. The allocation will be subject to inflow and losses to 30/06/25 and any forfeiture of allocated water on 1/07/25.

- The current Barmah-Millewa Environmental Water Allowance (BMEWA) account balance is approximately 132 GL. In accordance with the water sharing plan, the balance will be fully borrowed on 1 July 2025 to support the general security allocation, with resource improvements providing payback before general security allocations can exceed 30%.
- Full allocations for supplementary access licence holders can be expected and is available subject to announced periods of supplementary access.

## Chances of improvement

The potential improvements in NSW Murray General Security allocations, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below under a range of conditions from wet to extreme dry. We simulate inflow variation only without regards for corresponding variation in losses or water usage behaviour. The simulation is based on all available historical data and a design water use pattern with no consideration of current weather conditions. The estimates are subject to assumptions of likely carryover volume by the relevant accounts.

### Simulated general security allocations (%)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Sep 2025	1 Nov 2025
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	5%	5%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	5%	12%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	9%	19%
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	17%	39%

Note 1: Estimated values indicative only, not guaranteed and subject to change based on actual events unfolding.

Note 2: Statistical values reflect NSW share of inflows, not whole of system inflows.

Note 3: Forecast incorporates Murrumbidgee regulated end of system flows.

Note 4: Any carryover water is to be added to these indicative allocations with individual account balances not exceeding 110%.

## Allocations in 2024/25

Table 1: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the NSW Murray River Water Source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25
1-Jul	Domestic, Stock & Towns	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	0.97 ML/unit share	0.97 ML/unit share
1-Jul	Conveyance	0.6359 ML/unit share	0.6359 ML/unit share
1-Jul	General Security	0.35 ML/unit share	0.35 ML/unit share
15-Jul	Conveyance	0.0272 ML/unit share	0.6631 ML/unit share
15-Jul	General Security	0.07 ML/unit share	0.42 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Conveyance	0.0078 ML/unit share	0.6709 ML/unit share
15-Aug	General Security	0.02 ML/unit share	0.44 ML/unit share

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25
15-Nov	Conveyance	0.0116 ML/unit share	0.6825 ML/unit share
15-Nov	General Security	0.03 ML/unit share	0.47 ML/unit share
16-Dec	Conveyance	0.0233 ML/unit share	0.7058 ML/unit share
16-Dec	General Security	0.06 ML/unit share	0.53 ML/unit share
15-Jan	Conveyance	0.0194 ML/unit share	0.7252 ML/unit share
15-Jan	General Security	0.05 ML/unit share	0.58 ML/unit share
3-Feb	Conveyance	0.0212 ML/unit share	0.7464 ML/unit share
3-Feb	General Security	0.04 ML/unit share	0.62 ML/unit share
17-Feb	High Security	0.03 ML/unit share	1 ML/unit share*
17-Feb	Conveyance	0.2536 ML/unit share	1.0000 ML/unit share*
17-Feb	General Security	0.48 ML/unit share	1.10 ML/unit share*

\*Maximum allowable

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the Lower Darling River Water Source

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic, Stock & Towns	100%*	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1 ML/unit share*	1 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	1 ML/unit share*	1 ML/unit share*	100%*

\* Maximum allowable

## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The NSW DCCEEW developed a dashboard to enhance the transparency and accessibility of up-to-date information on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water Sharing Plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: Water Sharing Plan for the [NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

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## Further information

The next water allocation statement for this water source will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statements on **Tuesday, 6 am, 1 July 2025**.

Following the **1 July 2025** water allocation statement, routine fortnightly statements will commence on **Tuesday, 2:30 pm, 15 July 2025**. Fortnightly statements are typically published on the 1st and 15th day of the month, or the next business day.

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