

17 March 2025

Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is no allocation increment to General Security (GS) licences in the Murrumbidgee Regulated River water source this time. The cumulative allocation to GS entitlements remains at 39% for 2024/25 water year. Incorporating average carryover of 27%, the total water available in 2024/25 to date has been 66%.

After reviewing expected inflows for the next water year, the department re-assess next year's high priority reserves to 175 GL, from 189 GL. Despite accruing these minor resource improvements since the last assessment, it is still insufficient to increase the allocation by a full percentage point.

This resource assessment is based on information as of mid-March 2025. Any resource changes from this date will be captured in the next routine statement in end-March 2025.

Current allocation

| 17 March 2025 | Allocation Increment | Account Balance |
|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| General Security | 0% | 479 GL |

Storage volume (as of 17 March 2025)

- Blowering Dam is about 32 % full – holding about 535 GL.
- Burrinjuck Dam is about 46 % full – holding about 479 GL.

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)'s monthly outlook for April 2025 (issued 6 March 2025) indicates that April is the month with the highest likelihood of above average rainfall across the catchment. Above average maximum temperatures are very likely (60% to greater than 80% chance) for most of Australia, while above average minimum temperatures are very likely (greater than 80% chance) across almost all of Australia.

For further details: [Overview— Summary - Climate Outlooks \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/summary/)

Trade

Trade out of Murrumbidgee is open and trade into the Murrumbidgee is closed. The current Murrumbidgee IVT account balance is 3.7 GL (as of 17 March 2025). The Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated between limits of 0 GL and 100 GL however the balance can move rapidly. Water users should monitor the [WaterNSW Website](#) for daily information about the IVT account balance, the status of trade, and other important information. The information presented in this statement is current at the time of writing.

Resources assessment data sheet (new version)

The statement is now presenting the data showing the current balances. This is a shift from earlier format of annual reporting. The new format displays current commitments and against current resource availability in a more transparent manner. Note that the allocation methodology has not changed.

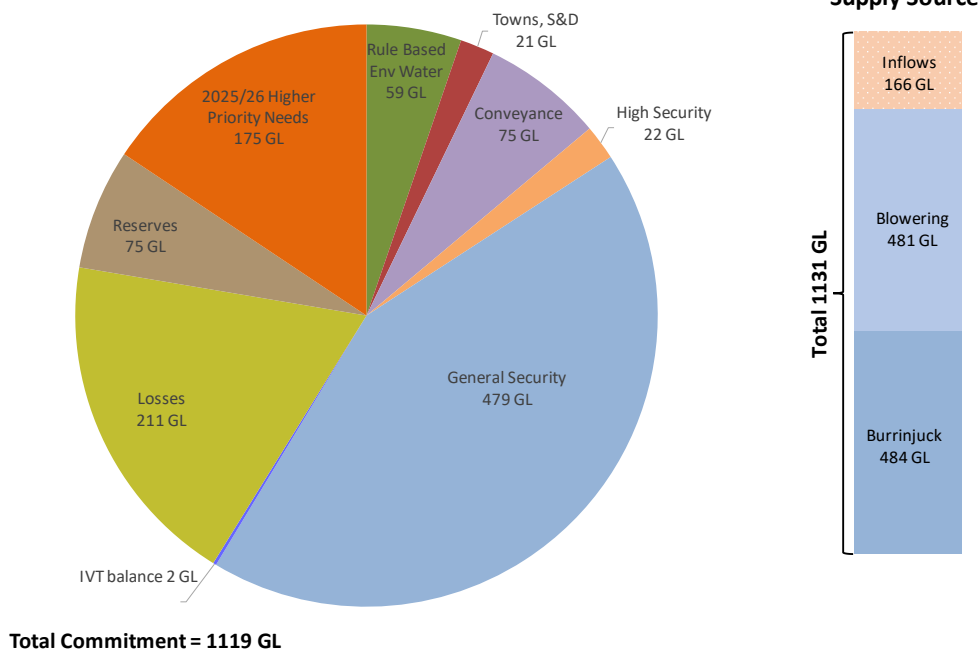
| Resource Distribution (17 Mar 2025 to 30 Jun 2026) | Volume (GL) |
|--|-------------|
| Current Resources ⁽¹⁾ | 1,131 |
| <i>less</i> | |
| Environmental Water balance ⁽²⁾ | 59 |
| Domestic, Stock and Town balance | 21 |
| Conveyance balance | 75 |
| High Security balance | 22 |
| General Security balance ⁽³⁾ | 479 |
| Murrumbidgee IVT balance ⁽⁴⁾ | 2 |
| Losses (03/25 to 6/25) ⁽⁵⁾ | 211 |
| Reserves (operational and PSV1&2) ⁽⁶⁾ | 75 |
| 2025/26 Higher Priority reserve ⁽⁷⁾ | 175 |
| <i>equals</i> | |
| Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾ | 12 |

Notes:

- 1) Active storage volume behind Blowering (discounted for any flex from SHL) and Burrinjuck Dams at the day of assessment, plus any usable flows in transit, plus minimum inflows for the rest of the year, plus expected regulated inflow from Snowy Hydro. For information, Snowy Hydro's net Jounama Release into Blowering since 1/5/24 has been about 698 GL (as of 11/3/25).
- 2) This includes end-of-system flow requirements (35 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 24 GL, EWA2 = 0 GL, EWA3 = 0 GL).

- 3) Current balance of water in GS accounts. The volume includes water carried over from last year, new AWD this year minus usage to date. Both consumptive and Held Environmental Water (HEW) GS are reported here.
- 4) Inter Valley Trade account current balance as of 12/03/25.
- 5) Losses reflect the conservative estimate of the volume required to run the river to meet demands for the remainder of the water year. This includes storage evaporation, transmission and operational loss.
- 6) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, and mainly used for emergency purposes and critical needs. Includes 25 GL per dam as an operational reserve, and Provisional Storage Volumes (PSV1 =25 GL, PSV2 = nil).
- 7) Volume set aside for full opening allocation to higher priority needs on 1/7/2025. The current estimate of the required reserve is 175 GL, which has been fully reserved.
- 8) Surplus or (deficit)-there is a small surplus which will be rolled over to next month's assessment.

Murrumbidgee resource balance as of 17 March 2025



Held environmental water (HEW)

| License Category | Share component (GL) | 2024/25 volume (GL)* | Account balance (GL) |
|------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| General Security | 478 | 284 | 102 |
| High Security | 16 | 15 | 5 |
| Conveyance | 81 | 64 | 25 |

* water allocated 2024/25 plus water carried over on 1/7/24

Held Environmental Water entitlements are managed either individually or jointly by various environmental groups, including the NSW Government, The Living Murray, and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. The figures in the above table are approximate. For detailed information, please refer to the individual agency websites.

Allocations in 2024/25

| Date | License Category | Increment | Total 2024/25 |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1-July | DOMESTIC AND STOCK | 100%* | 100%* |
| 1-July | LOCAL WATER UTILITY | 100%* | 100%* |
| 1-July | REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) | 0.95 ML/unit share | 0.95 ML/unit share |
| 1-July | SUPPLEMENTARY WATER | 1.00 ML/unit share* | 1.00 ML/unit share * |
| 1-July | SUPPLEMENTARY WATER (LOWBIDGEE) | 1.00 ML/unit share * | 1.00 ML/unit share * |
| 1-July | COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.8585 ML/unit share | 0.8585 ML/unit share |
| 1-July | MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.7179 ML/unit share | 0.7179 ML/unit share |
| 1-July | REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE) | 0.28 ML/unit share | 0.28 ML/unit share |
| 1-July | REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY) | 0.28 ML/unit share | 0.28 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jul | COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0 ML/unit share | 0.8585 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jul | MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.034 ML/unit share | 0.7519 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jul | REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE) | 0.05 ML/unit share | 0.33 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jul | REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY) | 0.05 ML/unit share | 0.33 ML/unit share |
| 2-Sep | COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0 ML/unit share | 0.8585 ML/unit share |
| 2-Sep | MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.0068 ML/unit share | 0.7587 ML/unit share |
| 2-Sep | REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE) | 0.01 ML/unit share | 0.34 ML/unit share |
| 2-Sep | REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY) | 0.01 ML/unit share | 0.34 ML/unit share |

| Date | License Category | Increment | Total 2024/25 |
|--------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 15-Jan | COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0 ML/unit share | 0.8585 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jan | MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.0068 ML/unit share | 0.7655 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jan | REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE) | 0.01 ML/unit share | 0.35 ML/unit share |
| 15-Jan | REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY) | 0.01 ML/unit share | 0.35 ML/unit share |
| 17-Feb | COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.0117 ML/unit share | 0.8702 ML/unit share |
| 17-Feb | MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.0136 ML/unit share | 0.7790 ML/unit share |
| 17-Feb | REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE) | 0.02 ML/unit share | 0.37 ML/unit share |
| 17-Feb | REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY) | 0.02 ML/unit share | 0.37 ML/unit share |
| 03-Mar | COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.0117 ML/unit share | 0.8819 ML/unit share |
| 03-Mar | MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE) | 0.0136 ML/unit share | 0.7926 ML/unit share |
| 03-Mar | REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE) | 0.02 ML/unit share | 0.39 ML/unit share |
| 03-Mar | REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY) | 0.02 ML/unit share | 0.39 ML/unit share |

*Maximum allowable

Outlook for 2025-26

A water availability outlook for the start of the next water year (1 July 2025) is provided below. The outlook is indicative only, not guaranteed, and should be used with caution, particularly when projecting many months ahead. Nevertheless, it aims to help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

Indicative allocations on 1 July 2025 for the 2025/26 water-year

- Full (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 95% of entitlement.
- Conveyance will be allocated in accordance with rules, commensurate with high security and general security allocations.
- Current assessment is predicting either no or very low opening allocation for general security water users. The allocation will be subject to inflow and losses to 30/6/25 and any forfeiture of allocated water on 1/7/25. More information will be provided in the coming months.
- Full allocations for supplementary (including Lowbidgee) access licence holders can be expected however take of water will be subject to announced periods of supplementary access.

- The undelivered IVT balance at the end of this water year (2024/25) will be carried over to the next water year (2025/26). The IVT balance is held in Murrumbidgee storages and is a callable resource for the NSW Murray.

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved Murrumbidgee general security allocations after 1 July 2025, based on a repeat of historical inflows, are provided in the table below under a variety of conditions. 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.

Simulated general security allocations (%)

| Repeat of historical inflow conditions | 1 Sep 2025 | 1 Nov 2025 |
|--|------------|------------|
| 99 chances in 100 (extreme dry) (99%) | 0% | 0% |
| 9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%) | 2% | 2% |
| 3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%) | 9% | 10% |
| 1 chance in 2 (median) (50%) | 26% | 36% |
| 1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%) | 47% | 55% |

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

Note 2: Any carryover water is to be added to these indicative allocations with individual account balances not exceeding 100%.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water 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 | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Further information

The next water allocation statement will be published on Tuesday, 2:30 pm, 1 April 2025 or earlier if there is significant resource improvement.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [NSW Government Water](#)

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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