

15 July 2025

# Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

General security (GS) access licences in the Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source have received an allocation increase of 5% of entitlement and conveyance entitlements have also received their commensurate allocation increases.

All higher priority licences, including local water utility, domestic and stock and high security (subcategories) have received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2025. Likewise, supplementary and floodplain harvesting licence holders received their maximum (100%) allocation. High security licence holders (with no subcategory) received the required 95% opening allocation and general security licence holders received an opening allocation of 4% of entitlement.

The 5% increment from this statement brings the cumulative GS allocation this water year to 9%. Incorporating the average carryover of 16%, the total water available in 2025/26 to date has been 25%.

The improved resources come from a combination of good inflows in June, along with the return of unused water from the previous water year to the general resource pool, forfeited from certain licence types in accordance with water sharing plan rules.

This resource assessment is based on information available up to 11 July 2025. Any changes after this date will be reflected in the next routine statement.

## Current allocation

15 July 2025	Allocation increment	Account balance
General security	5%	483 GL

## Summary of last water year (2024/25)

All higher-priority licences, including local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security entitlements received their full opening allocations at the start of 2024/25 water year. As the water year progressed, high security allocations remained at 95% of entitlement, as general security allocations did not exceed 95%, a condition required to allocate the remaining 5% to high security. This is the first time this has occurred since the 2019/20 water year. Supplementary access licence holders commenced 2024/25 with maximum (100%) allocations.

GS licence holders started the water year with an average account balance of 55%, made up of a strong opening allocation of 28% and an average carryover of 27%, which is close to the 30% maximum permitted by water sharing plan rules. Over the water year, 6 allocation increments were made, resulting in a total additional allocation of 41%, bringing the total average water availability for the year to 68% of entitlement (including carryover). By mid-May, general security account balances had decreased to an average of 20% of entitlement, reflecting significant usage over the year in response to the prevailing dry climate conditions.

Burrinjuck and Blowering dams began the 2024/25 year with healthy storage levels of 75% and 74% full, respectively. Storage volumes rose during the first half of the year, with Burrinjuck peaking at 85% full in October 2024 and Blowering reaching 86% in August 2024. However, both storages have gradually declined since to be around 45% and 48% respectively (as of 30 June 2025), largely due to sustained releases meeting high annual demand.

The decline in storage has been driven by below-average rainfall across much of the southern inland, which has limited inflows and increased reliance on regulated water releases to meet demand. The catchment has recorded its lowest January to June inflows since 2019, which corresponds to an 81% exceedance probability, when compared to the pre-water sharing plan historical inflow record from 1901 to 2004. The shift from wetter to drier catchment conditions also led to significantly higher river transmission losses, which were nearly 4.5 times the losses experienced in the 2023/24 water year.

Regarding environmental water delivery, a total of 88 GL and 38 GL were credited into environmental water allowances (EWA1 and EWA2) accounts respectively for the 2024/25 water year. By June 2025, 71 GL was delivered from EWA1 while EWA2 water was fully delivered.

In 2024/25, supplementary access licences recorded minimal usage of 40 GL (4%).

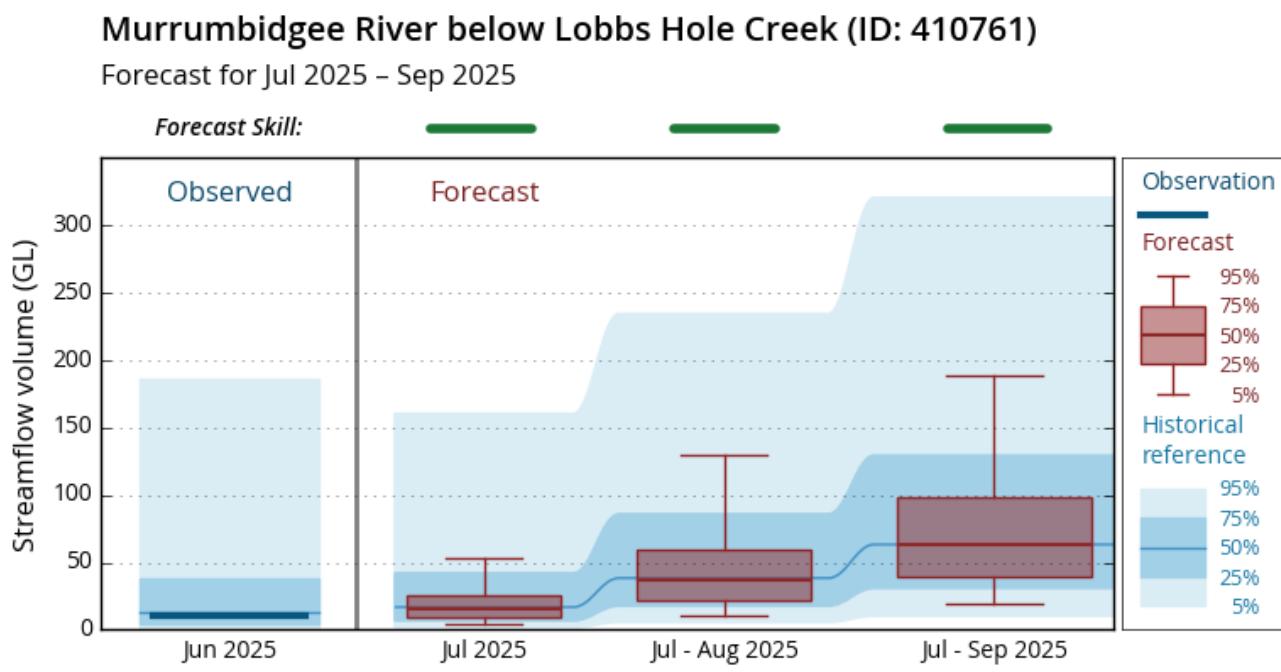
## Storage volume (as of 15 July 2025)

- Blowering Dam is about 50% full – holding about 826 GL.
- Burrinjuck Dam is about 48% full – holding about 496 GL.

## Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Murrumbidgee River at Lobbs Hole Creek (see the figure below). This may indicate potential inflows into Burrinjuck Dam in the coming months. For July to September 2025, the median forecast streamflow volume is close to the historical median; the upper forecast quantiles are tighter around the median historical flows. This forecast is indicating average inflow conditions for this period.

The graph for July to September 2025 is shown below, and updates can be found at : [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology](#)



## Dam inflows

The table below presents the dam inflows from January to June for 2019 to 2025, highlighting that the dam inflows for 2025 have been the lowest since 2019.

January – June	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Inflows (GL)	127	400	954	1763	517	514	169

## Inter-Valley Trade (IVT)

Trade out of Murrumbidgee is open and trade into the Murrumbidgee is closed. The current Murrumbidgee IVT account balance is 0.1 GL (as of 11 July 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.

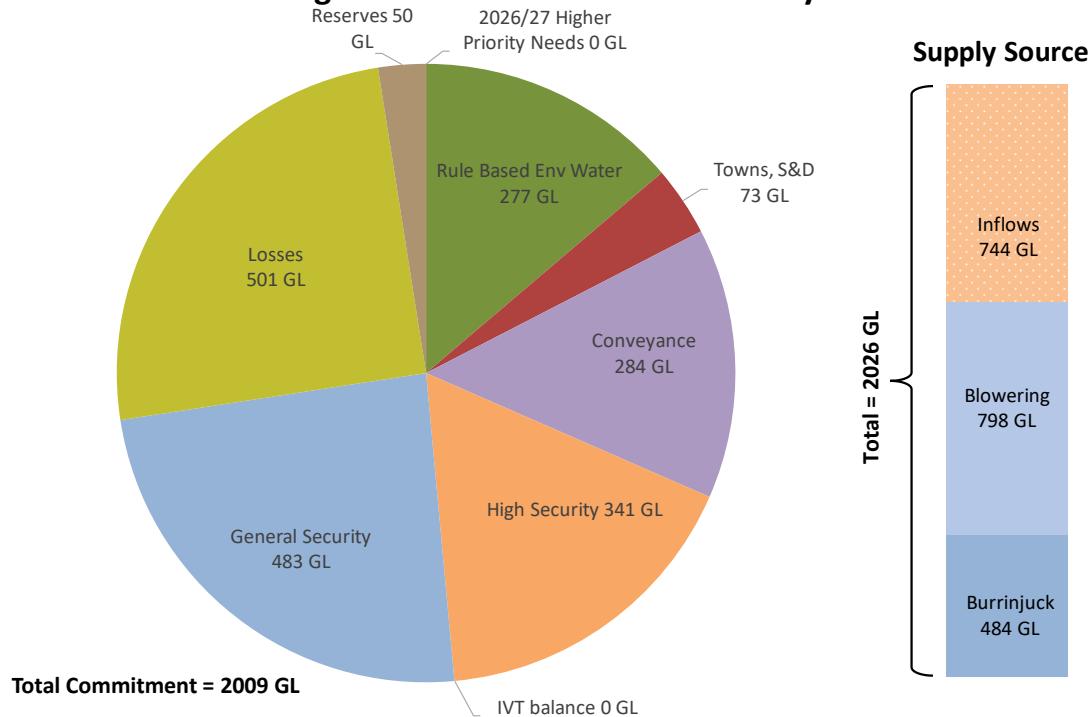
## Resources assessment data

Resource distribution (15 July 2025 to 30 Jun 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources <sup>(1)</sup>	2,026
<i>less</i>	
Planned environmental water balance <sup>(2)</sup>	277
Domestic and stock and local water utility balance	73
Conveyance balance	284
High security balance	341
General security balance <sup>(3)</sup>	483
Murrumbidgee IVT balance <sup>(4)</sup>	0
Losses (07/25 to 06/26) <sup>(5)</sup>	501
Reserves (operational and PSV1&2) <sup>(6)</sup>	50
Higher priority reserve (2026/27) <sup>(7)</sup>	0
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	17

### Notes:

- 1) Total active storage volume behind Blowering and Burrinjuck dams at the day of assessment, plus any usable flows in transit plus, minimum inflows for rest of the year, plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR).
- 2) This includes end-of-system flow requirements (205 GL) and environmental water allowances (EWA1 = 18 GL, EWA2 = 54\* GL, EWA3 = 0 GL), \*including expected EWA2 minimal accrual during the 2025/26 water year.
- 3) Balance of water in GS accounts as of 11/07/2025. 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 11/07/2025.
- 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. We budgeted the delivery of entire general security volume here irrespective of potential carry over into next year.
- 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 = nil, PSV2 = nil).
- 7) Volume set aside for full opening allocation to higher priority needs on 01/07/2026. This reserve will be built from December onward.
- 8) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. There is a small surplus remaining after this allocation, which will be rolled over to the next resource assessment.

### Murrumbidgee resource balance as of 15 July 2025



### Held environmental water (HEW)

Licence category	Share component (GL)	2025/26 volume (GL)*	Account balance (GL)
General security	478	119	119
High security	16	15	15
Conveyance	85	1	1

\* Water allocated in 2025/26 plus water carried over on 01/07/25

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.

### Chances of improvement

The chances of improved Murrumbidgee general security allocations, 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. We have discontinued reporting wet (25%) condition that is subject to wide uncertainties such as storage spills, account limits, loss savings etc.

## Simulated cumulative general security allocations (%)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Sep 2025	1 Nov 2025
Pre 2004 minimum	9%	9%
Exceedance: 9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	14%	14%
Exceedance: 3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	18%	19%
Exceedance: 1 chance in 2 (median) (50%)	26%	38%

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 allocations in 2025/26

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025/26
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)	0.6274 ML/unit share	0.6274 ML/unit share
1-July	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.04 ML/unit share	0.04 ML/unit share
1-July	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.04 ML/unit share	0.04 ML/unit share
15-Jul	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0 ML/unit share	0.8585 ML/unit share
15-Jul	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.0113 ML/unit share	0.6387 ML/unit share
15-Jul	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.05 ML/unit share	0.9 ML/unit share
15-Jul	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.05 ML/unit share	0.9 ML/unit share

\*Maximum allowable

#Excluding regulated river (high security) subcategories of town water supply, research, community and education, environmental and Aboriginal cultural, which all received the maximum allowable 1.00 ML per unit share on 1 July 2025.

## Water sharing plan rules

- Domestic and stock, local water utility and high security sub-category access licences are to receive 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year.

- High security (HS) access licences are to receive full allocation of 95% at the start of the water year and cannot carry over any unused balances into the next water year.
- General security (GS) access licences are to receive allocations after all higher priority categories have been fully allocated. GS accounts can carry over up to 30% of entitlement into the next water year and have a limit of 100% of entitlement.
- Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance) licences are allocated incrementally based on both HS and GS allocations. Regulated river (conveyance) and Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance) licences are allocated incrementally based on GS allocations. These licences can carry over up to 30% of entitlement, with an account limit of 100%.
- Planned environmental water rules are the environmental water allowance 1, 2 and 3 (EWA1, EWA2, EWA3) and provisional storage volume 1 and 2 (PSV1 and PSV2).
- EWA1 and PSV1 are allocated when GS total water availability reaches 60%, EWA2 can accumulate when transparent flows are greater than or equal to translucent releases from Burrinjuck Dam. EWA3 is allocated when GS reaches 80% while PSV2 allocation starts once PSV1 has been fully allocated, but not after 1 January. Water remaining in EWA1 and EWA2 accounts only can be carried over to the next water year.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance can not be carried over into the next year.

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## Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We published 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 statement - The water allocation statement for all water sources can be accessed at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – We developed a dashboard 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 Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

## Further information

The next water allocation statement for this water source will be published on **Friday, 1 August 2025 at 2:30 pm.**

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