

15 August 2024

NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

Water allocation update

General security (GS) access licenses in the NSW Murray regulated rivers water source have received **an allocation increase of 2% of their entitlement**. The increment brings the cumulative General Security allocation to 44% in this water source.

The cumulative GS allocation for this water year is 44%. Incorporating average carryover of around 40%, the total water available in 204/25 to date, is around 84%. The current GS account balance is about 1408 gigalitres (GL).

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

Current allocation (NSW Murray)

15 August 2024	Allocation increment	Account balance
General Security	2%	1408 GL

Key information

- The Barmah-Millewa Forest Environmental Water Allowance has not been borrowed this water year and is fully available.
- Carryover volumes assumed in this resource assessment are based on provisional data. Carryover volumes will be finalised once water user accounts have been reconciled and finalised.
- The Menindee Lakes System is currently holding around 1,109 GL. The Menindee Lakes System is currently operated as a shared resource in accordance with the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. It will remain a shared resource until it drops below 480 GL, after which it will be operated to meet Lower Darling needs only.

Storage volume

9 August 2024	Storage levels	Storage volume (GL)	NSW share (GL)
Dartmouth Dam	95%	3,668	1,704
Hume Dam	72%	2,158	894
Lake Victoria	75%	510	242

Menindee Lakes System	64%	1,112	411
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Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be median to above median across the catchment. Day and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median over the next three months.

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

NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

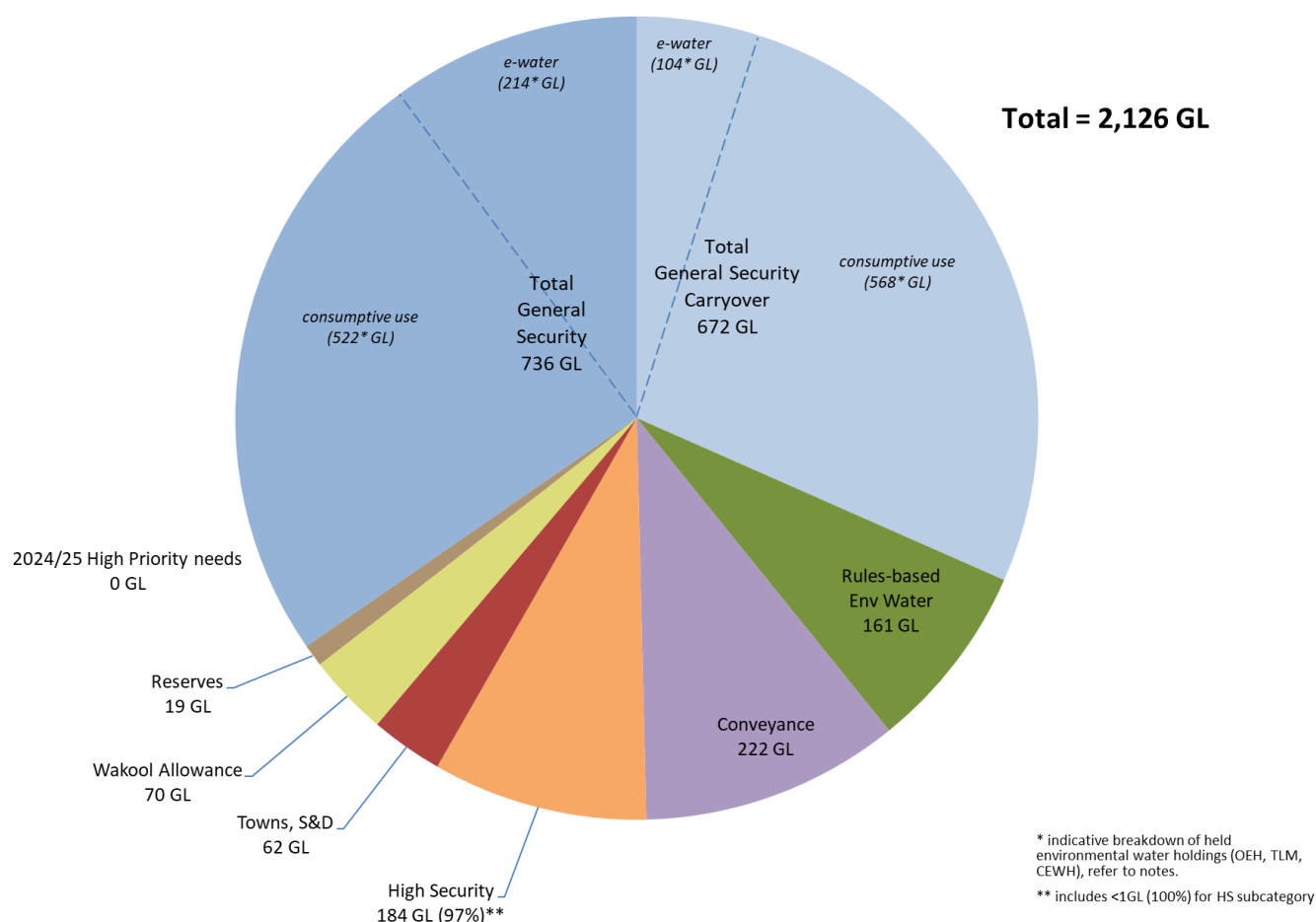
Resource Distribution (15 August 2024 to 30 June 2025)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	2,126
<i>less</i>	
Carryover ^{(2), (8)}	672
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	161
Domestic, Stock and Towns ⁽⁴⁾	62
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	184
Conveyance ⁽⁵⁾	222
Announced General Security ⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾	736
Wakool Allowance ⁽⁶⁾	70
Reserves for critical human needs ⁽⁷⁾	19
2025/26 higher priority reserve ⁽¹⁰⁾	0
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽¹¹⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as assessed and accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement at the date of the assessment plus any usable flows in transit plus assumed (99%ile) inflows for the rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR) (including any flex (pre-release) from the prior year), as well as estimated usage to date. Snowy Hydro's M1 releases to date for this water year (2024/25) is estimated to be about 386 GL.
- (2) Carryover – NSW Murray General Security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50% of their entitlement into the following water year. The account limit is 110% of entitlement, meaning that account credits from allocation and/or carryover cannot exceed 110% of entitlement in any water year. The limit does not include allocation trade.
- (3) This includes 6 GL of Murray Additional Allowance (MAA), 155 GL of Barmah-Millewa Allowance, 0 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 for use. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water, known as held environmental water (HEW).
- (4) High Security licences received 97% allocation. High Security subcategory licences received 100%. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the High Security town water supply allocation volume has been grouped as "Towns, S&D".

- (5) Conveyance entitlement – a category of access licence originally issued to Irrigation Corporations to facilitate delivery of water through their channel systems. Allocation to this category is prescribed in the Water Sharing Plan and is a function of current High Security and General Security allocations.
- (6) Wakool Allowance – a conveyance volume necessary for NSW to operate the Edward-Wakool system. Typically, the assessment has been budgeting 70 GL.
- (7) Reserves – required primarily under statutory plans, up to 61 GL; set aside for critical human needs in accordance with Clause 11.03 of the Basin Plan.
- (8) Held Environmental Water (HEW) – water administered by environmental water holders is reported here. This reporting of HEW is limited to only NSW entitlements, reporting of credits to accounts (not usage or trade), and estimated to be 214 GL of General Security, 104 GL of General Security carryover, 25 GL of High Security, 33 GL of Conveyance allocation. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, The Living Murray and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites
- (9) General Security allocation to date is 44% .
- (10) Volume set aside for opening allocation to high priority needs on 1 July 2025.
- (11) Available volume is fully allocated with no surplus left.

NSW Murray resource distribution 2024/25 – 15 August 2024



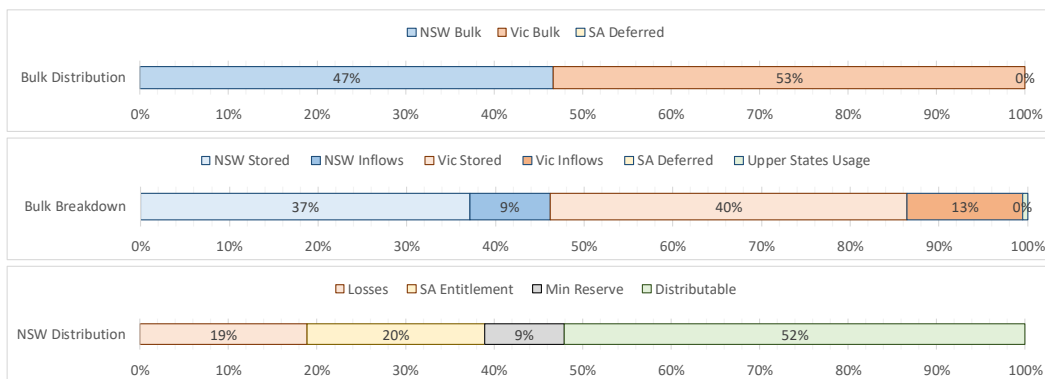
State sharing of the Murray Resource

The bulk accounts assessment indicates that around 7,954 gigalitres (GL) of total shared Murray resource is available in the extreme dry (99th percentile) case. The NSW share of this resource is approximately 3,826 GL based on the rules in the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement. After removing commitments required under the MDB Agreement, including losses in operating the River Murray System, South Australia's entitlement flow

and the minimum reserve, the assessment results in a volume of Murray resource for NSW to allocate of 2,126 GL.

Distribution of Murray Resources

Distribution of Murray resource – 15 August 2024



The breakdown of the Murray resources is provided in the graphs above. The breakdown is based on the 99% inflow scenario, which is the scenario used by NSW for its allocations and water sharing framework. The NSW government's acceptable risk, on behalf of all water users including towns and the environment, is given in the water sharing plan. NSW is required to work to the minimum inflow scenario prior to the commencement of the plan (2004). The MDBA's 99% scenario closely aligns with the minimum inflow pre-2004 scenario. Therefore, NSW distributes the volume provided by the MDBA's 99% scenario to satisfy the water sharing plan.

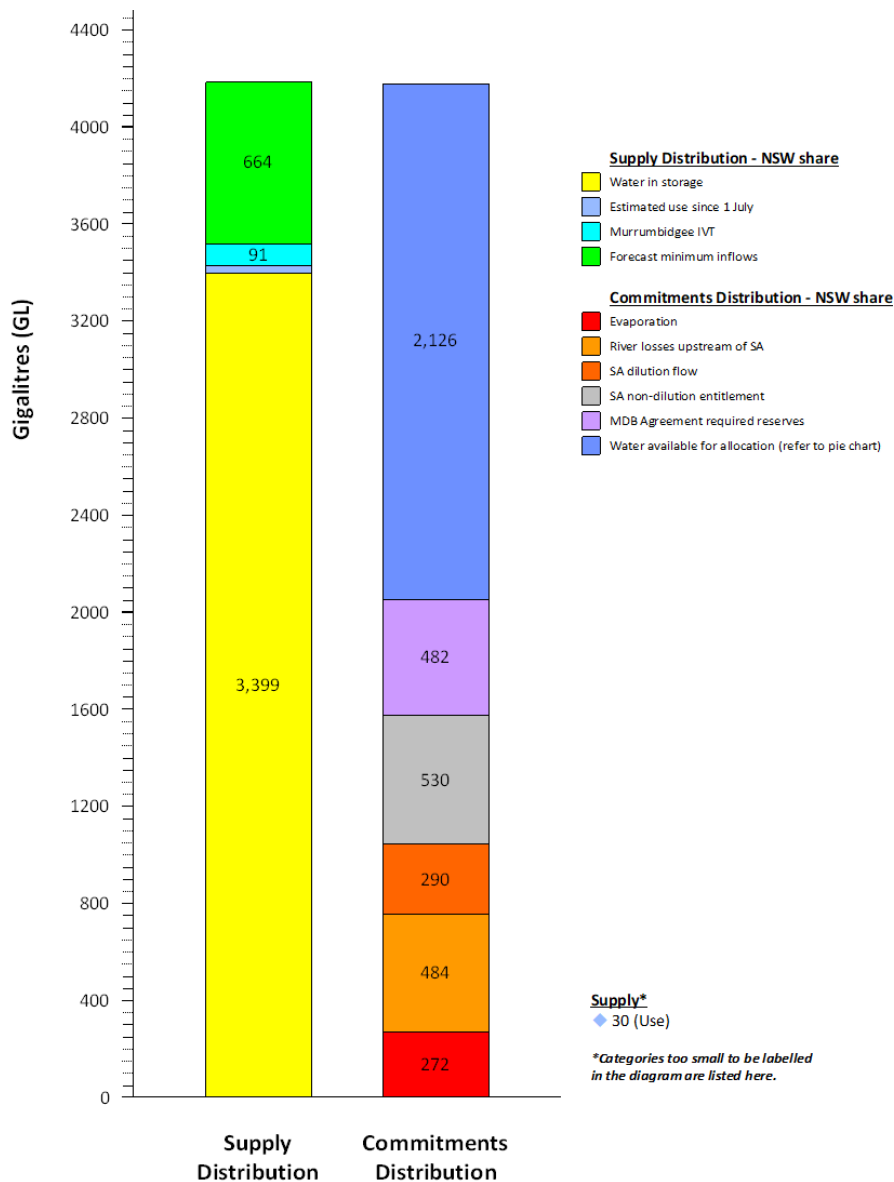
Trade

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 (www.mdba.gov.au) 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 is closed** and **trade into the Murrumbidgee is open** (as of 14 August 2024). Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website (www.waternsw.com.au) for daily information about the 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.

NSW Murray water balance – 15 August 2024



Water balance notes:

- (1) Supply and Commitments Distribution – The volumes in the categories shown are only those relating to NSW’s share of the resource, at the end of the preceding month. The categories include the following:
- **Water in storage:** Volumes in the dams at the end of the previous month.
 - **Estimated use since 1 July:** Estimated NSW usage to-date, reconciled periodically with hydrographic updates (meter readings).
 - **Forecast inflows:** NSW’s share of forecast inflows into the River Murray System based on assumed extremely dry future conditions (includes Snowy Hydro’s guaranteed inflows for the water year and Murrumbidgee end of system flows).
 - **IVT:** Total tributary system water bought by Murray system users that is yet to be delivered.
 - **Evaporation:** Water set aside for evaporation for the remainder of the year. Generally reduces as the year progresses.
 - **River losses upstream of SA:** Water budgeted for transmission losses from the River Murray system upstream of the South Australian border for the remainder of the year. Generally reduces as the water year progresses.
 - **SA non-dilution entitlement:** Water to supply South Australia’s entitlement flow, as required under the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement. Generally reduces as water year progresses.
 - **SA dilution flow:** Water to provide South Australia’s dilution and conveyance component of flow, as required under the MDB Agreement. Reduces as the year progresses. Note, may included the Additional Dilution Flow (ADF) when triggered.
 - **MDB Agreement required reserves:** Includes conveyance reserve and minimum reserve to be set aside for use in the next water year, as required by the MDB Agreement in clause 102D and 103, respectively.
 - **Water available for allocation:** NSW’s bulk share of the resource that can be assigned to NSW Murray entitlement holders based on the Water Sharing Plan. Allocation of this volume is provided in the above table and pie chart.

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. The forecast is based on all available historical data, which gives a more optimistic outlook than using just the driest years on record (dry tercile).

It is important to note that these estimates are indicative improvements only and are not guaranteed allocations. Estimates are subject to change based on weather conditions, water user behaviour, water management decisions and other events. This means water users should use this information with caution and at their own risk, particularly as it projects many months ahead.

Forecast General Security allocations (%)

(Any carryover water can be added to these indicative allocations)

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Oct 2024	1 Feb 2025
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	44%	44%
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	47%	59%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	56%	69%*
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	69%*	110%*
1 chance in 4 (wet) (25%)	110%*	110%*

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.

* Potential storage spills may limit resource improvements if usage is limited, as spilling storages and low usage means liabilities do not retire from the storages, and therefore resources do not improve. Therefore, actual allocations for the given inflow condition may be lower than forecast.

Allocations in 2024/25

Table 1 : Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the NSW Murray River Water Source (in % or ML/unit share)

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

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2024/25
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

*Maximum allowable

Table 2: Water allocation history in 2024/25 for the Lower Darling River Water Source (in % or ML/unit share)

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

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 these water sources is available at the following link:

[Resource assessment process | Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Further information

The next statement for these water sources will be published on **Monday, 2:30 pm, 2 September 2024**.

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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