

16 September 2024

# NSW Murray and Lower Darling Regulated Rivers

## Water allocation update

There is **no allocation increase to General Security (GS)** entitlements in the NSW Murray regulated river water source this time.

The cumulative General Security allocation remains at 44% for 2024/25 water year in this water source. Average carryover from last year has been 40%. The current GS account balance is about 1366 gigalitres (GL).

There have been no changes in resources since the last assessment, and therefore, the allocation remained unchanged.

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)

16 September 2024	Allocation increment	Account balance
General Security	-	1366 GL

## Held Environmental Water (HEW)

Held Environmental Water represents the total volume credited to accounts (not usage). The current volume is estimated to be 214 GL of General Security, 104 GL of General Security carryover, 25 GL of High Security, and 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

## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for October to December 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be 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 \(bom.gov.au\)](#)

## NSW Murray resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (16 September) for 2024/25	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	2,138
<i>less</i>	

Carryover <sup>(2)</sup> ,	672
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	164
Domestic, Stock and Towns <sup>(4)</sup>	62
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	184
Conveyance	221
Announced General Security (44%)	737
Wakool Allowance <sup>(5)</sup>	70
Reserves for critical human needs <sup>(6)</sup>	42
2025/26 higher priority reserve <sup>(7)</sup>	0

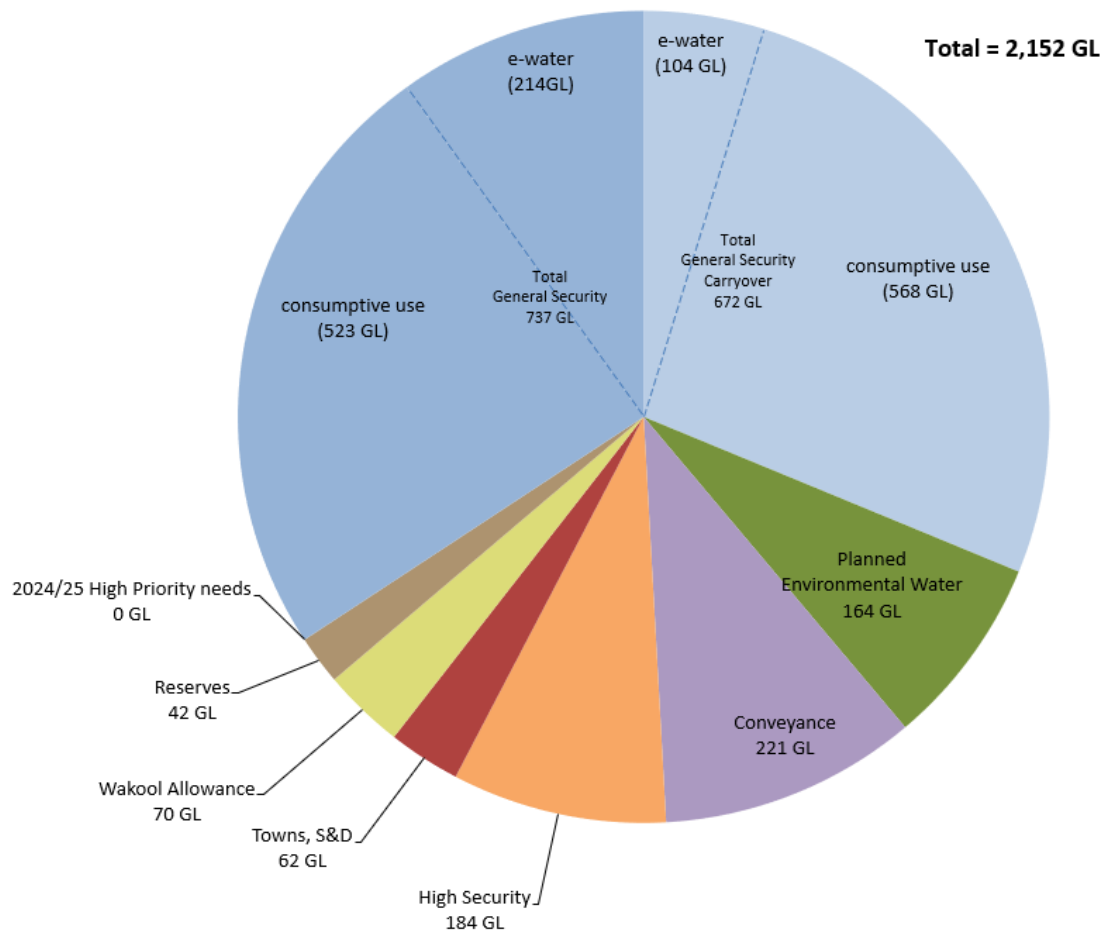
***equals***

Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup> (14)

**Notes:**

- (1) Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Victoria) as accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin (MDB) Agreement at the date of the assessment; plus any usable flows in transit; plus budgeted 99%ile inflows for the rest of the year; plus expected regulated inflow from Snowy Hydro, plus downstream usage to date. For information, Snowy Hydro's M1 releases since 1/5/24 has been about 386 GL.
- (2) Consumptive and Held Environmental Water (HEW) carried over from last water year. General Security water users can carryover a maximum account balance of 50% of their entitlement into the following water year.
- (3) This includes 6 GL of Murray Additional Allowance (MAA), 158 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.
- (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 under 'Domestic, Stock and Town'.
- (5) Wakool Allowance – a conveyance volume necessary for NSW to operate the Edward-Wakool system. Typically, the assessment has been budgeting 70 GL.
- (6) 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.
- (7) Volume set aside for opening allocation to high priority needs on 1 July 2025.
- (8) This assessment returned a notional deficit of 14 GL. This is caused by reserving 835GL/2 from NSW bulk resources to cover next year's full opening allocation at this assessment, see MDB Agreement clause 103. This deficit is expected to diminish as the year progresses

## NSW Murray resource distribution 2024/25 – 16 September 2024



### State sharing of Murray Resource

The bulk accounts assessment indicates that around 7,957 gigalitres (GL) of total shared Murray resource is available in the extreme dry (99th percentile) case. The NSW share of this resource is approximately 3,792 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 2,138 GL.

### Storage volume

10 September 2024	Storage levels	Storage volume (GL)	NSW share (GL)
Dartmouth Dam	96%	3,689	1,725
Hume Dam	75%	2,224	867
Lake Victoria	84%	567	263

Menindee Lakes System

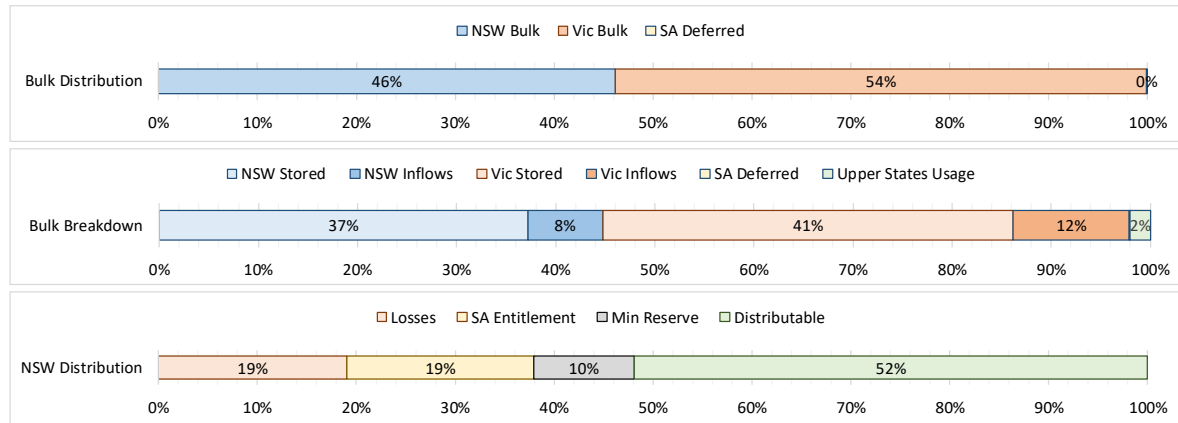
64%

1,116

420

## Distribution of Murray Resources

### Distribution of Murray resource – 16 September 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

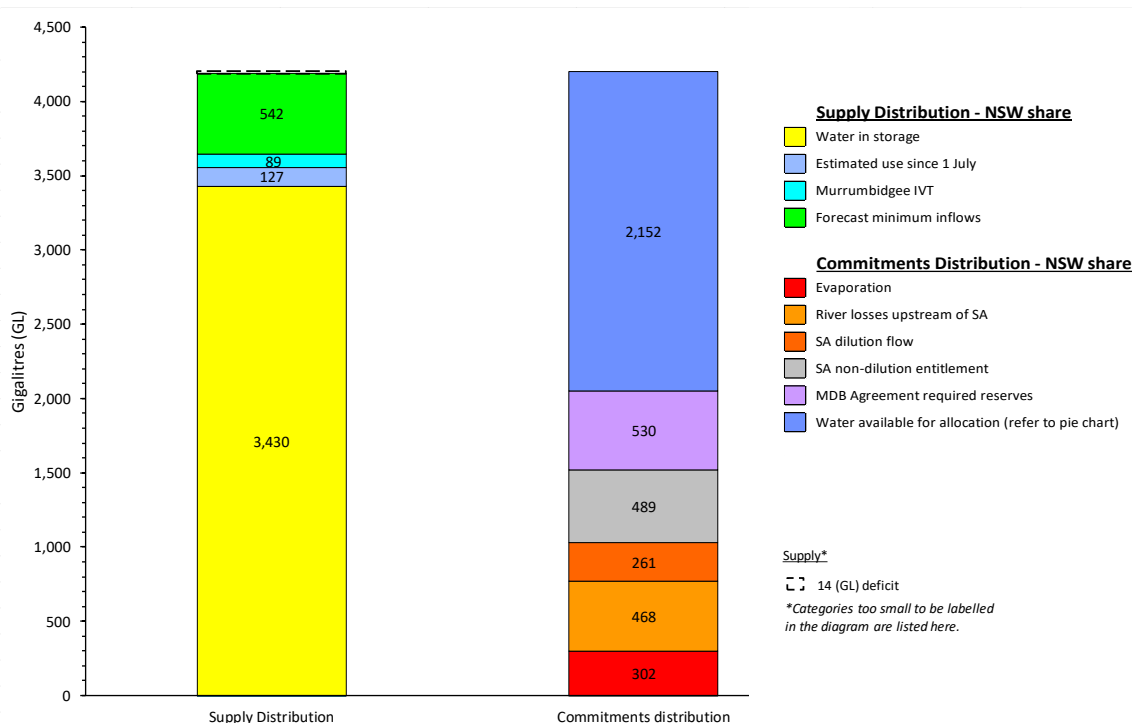
In the Murray, trade across the Barmah choke remains restricted to '**no net trade downstream**'. Downstream trade opens to the extent of the volume of any upstream trade. Water users are advised to monitor the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) website ([www.mdba.gov.au](http://www.mdba.gov.au)) 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 13 September 2024).

Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website ([www.watersnw.com.au](http://www.watersnw.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 – 16 September 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 date of assessment.
  - 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.
  - Deficit:** This assessment returned a notional deficit of 14 GL. This is caused by reserving 835GL/2 from NSW bulk resources to cover next year’s full opening allocation at this assessment.

### 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 simulation 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 is to be added to these indicative allocations. However, individual account balances are limited to 110%.

Repeat of historical inflow conditions	1 Nov 2024	1 Feb 2025
99 chances in 100 (extreme) (99%)	44%	-
9 chances in 10 (very dry) (90%)	47%	59%
3 chances in 4 (dry) (75%)	56%	69%
1 chance in 2 (mean) (50%)	60%	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.

The simulations are based on a design water use volumes. However, if actual usages are lower, then the potential storage spills may limit resource improvements. In that case actual allocations in wet scenario for the given inflow condition may be lower than the 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
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 guides for these water sources are available at the following link:

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

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## Further information

The next statement for these water sources will be published on **Tuesday, 2:30 pm, 1 October 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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