16 February 2026

Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no change** in allocations to general security (GS) licences in the Murrumbidgee Regulated River Water Source. The cumulative allocation to GS entitlements remains at 32% for 2025–26 water year. The current GS account balance is 26%.

Since December 2025, we have been building reserves to secure opening allocations for higher-priority needs on 1 July 2026. The required reserve for 2026–27 is now estimated at 220 GL, revised downward since last assessment. After covering current commitments, this assessment fills the reserve to 93 GL. We will continue to accrue the remaining reserve until full.

This resource assessment is based on information available up to 10 February 2026. Any changes after this date will be reflected in the next routine statement.

Current allocation

16 February 2026	Allocation increment	Average account balance
General security	-	26% (500 GL)

Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Murrumbidgee River below Lobbs Hole Creek (see figure below). Though preliminary, this may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dams in the coming months.

Observed flows in January 2026 were near historical median for the month. The forecast for February to April 2026 indicates a likelihood of near median flows at Lobbs Hole Creek.

The graph for February 2026 to April 2026 is shown below, and updates can be found at: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology.

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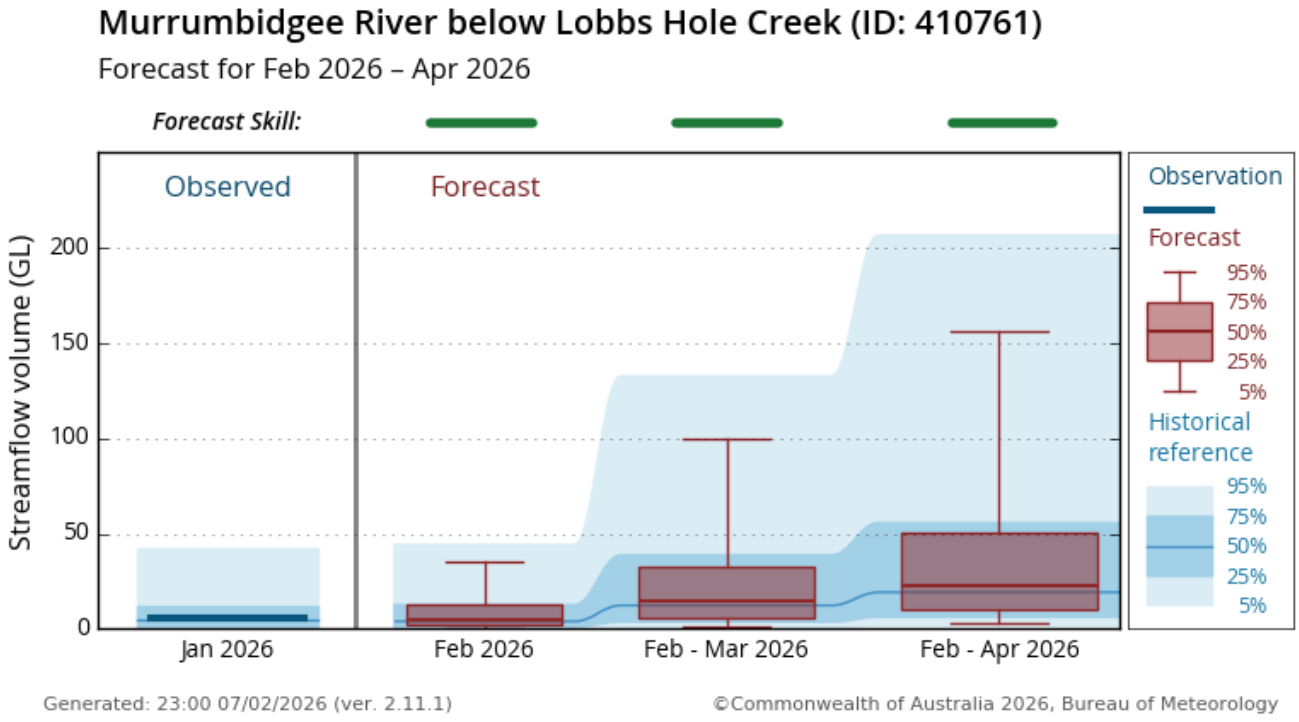


Inter-Valley Trade (IVT)

Trade into the Murrumbidgee is **closed** and trade out of the Murrumbidgee is currently **open**. The Murrumbidgee IVT account balance is still in deficit as of 10 February 2026. The deficit had allowed the continuation of delivery to River Murray users to avert a likely shortfall during the extreme heat wave late January. The deficit is being monitored closely. Generally, the Murrumbidgee IVT account is operated within limits of 0 GL to 100 GL; however, the balance can move rapidly.

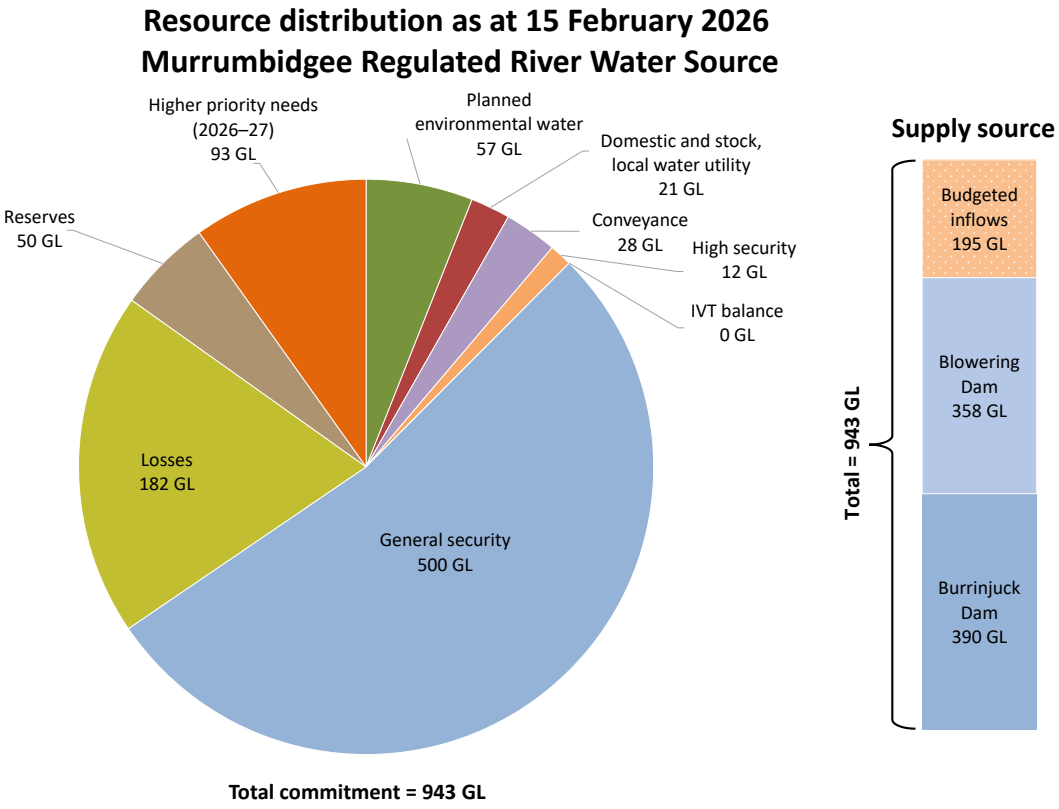
Water users should monitor the WaterNSW website for daily information on the IVT account balance, the status of trade, and other important updates. The information presented in this statement is current at the time of writing.

Resources assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (15 February 2026 to 30 June 2026)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources [1]	943
less	
Planned environmental water balance [2]	57
Domestic and stock, and local water utility balance	21
Conveyance balance	28
High security balance	12
General security balance [3]	500
Murrumbidgee IVT balance (as of 10/02/26) [4]	0
Losses (3/26 to 06/26) [5]	182
PSV1&2 and operational needs [6]	50
Higher priority reserve (2026–27) [7]	93
equals	
Surplus (or deficit) [8]	0

Notes:

1) Total active storage volume behind Burrinjuck and Blowering dams as of 10 February 2026, plus any usable flows in transit, plus minimum inflows for rest of the water year (Burrinjuck - 03/1902 to 06/1902, Blowering – 03/2003 to 06/2003), plus Snowy Hydro's assured Required Annual Release (RAR) till 4/2026.
2) This includes end-of-system flow requirements (44 GL); plus environmental water allowances balance (EWA1 = 3 GL, EWA2 = 0 GL, EWA3 = 0 GL); plus a budgeted 10 GL for future EWA2 to reflect the simulated transparent release arising from the budgeted minimum inflow.
3) Balance of water in GS accounts as of 10 February 2026. The volume includes water carried over from last year, new AWD this year minus usage to date. For information, the average carryover into 2025–26 was 16%. Both consumptive and Held Environmental Water (HEW) GS volumes are reported here.
4) The IVT balance is in deficit as of 10/02/2026, meaning Murray owes Murrumbidgee IVT water. This volume is conservatively excluded.
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 losses. We budgeted the delivery of the entire general security volume here, irrespective of potential carryover into next year.
6) The volume required primarily under statutory plans for emergency purposes and critical needs. This 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 1 July 2026. The current estimated full higher priority needs for next water year are 220 GL. This volume will be progressively reviewed and firmed as 2026–27 contribution from Snowy becomes more certain.
8) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments.



Held environmental water (HEW)

Held environmental water entitlements are managed either individually or jointly by various environmental groups, including the NSW Government, and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder. The figures in the table below are approximate as of 10 February 2026. For detailed information, please refer to the respective agencies' websites.

Licence category	Share component (GL)	2025–26 volume (GL)*	Account balance (GL)
General security	502	256	108
High security	17	16	2
Conveyance	84	62	22

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

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	0.09 ML/unit share
15-Jul	Regulated river (general security)	0.05 ML/unit share	0.09 ML/unit share
01-Aug	Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance)	0 ML/unit share	0.8585 ML/unit share
01-Aug	Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance)	0.0136 ML/unit share	0.6523 ML/unit share
01-Aug	Regulated river (conveyance)	0.06 ML/unit share	0.15 ML/unit share
01-Aug	Regulated river (general security)	0.06 ML/unit share	0.15 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance)	0 ML/unit share	0.8585 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance)	0.0091 ML/unit share	0.6614 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Regulated river (conveyance)	0.04 ML/unit share	0.19 ML/unit share
15-Aug	Regulated river (general security)	0.04 ML/unit share	0.19 ML/unit share
01-Sep	Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance)	0 ML/unit share	0.8585 ML/unit share
01-Sep	Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance)	0.0091 ML/unit share	0.6705 ML/unit share
01-Sep	Regulated river (conveyance)	0.02 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share
01-Sep	Regulated river (general security)	0.02 ML/unit share	0.21 ML/unit share
15-Sep	Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance)	0 ML/unit share	0.8585 ML/unit share
15-Sep	Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance)	0.0406 ML/unit share	0.7111 ML/unit share

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26
15-Sep	Regulated river (conveyance)	0.06 ML/unit share	0.27 ML/unit share
15-Sep	Regulated river (general security)	0.06 ML/unit share	0.27 ML/unit share
1-Oct	Coleambally Irrigation (conveyance)	0 ML/unit share	0.8585 ML/unit share
1-Oct	Murrumbidgee Irrigation (conveyance)	0.0340 ML/unit share	0.7451 ML/unit share
1-Oct	Regulated river (conveyance)	0.05 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share
1-Oct	Regulated river (general security)	0.05 ML/unit share	0.32 ML/unit share

*Maximum allowable

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

Water sharing plan rules

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decisions.

- 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 a 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, with an account 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 include 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 can only 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 cannot be carried over into the next water year.

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 **Monday, 2 March 2026 at 2:30 pm**.

Subscribe here to receive water allocation statements and email updates from Water Group of the department.

You can also follow the department on X: @NSWDCCEEW_Water

Contact information for water enquiries and other water-related matters can be found on the department's website: Contact us - DCCEEW | Water