

4 September 2026

NSW Border Rivers Regulated River

Entered drought stage 2 - emerging water shortage

Category	2026–27 allocation	Account balance
General security (A class)	0%	8% (2 GL)
General security (B class)	0%	44% (107 GL)

Key information

- This resource assessment is based on information as of 1 August 2026.
- All higher priority access licences, supplementary and floodplain harvesting access licences received their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2026.
- Catchment conditions remain very dry, with no inflow recorded in the past month. As a result, General Security (A class) received no allocation.
- General security (B class) licences can only receive an allocation after A class reaching 100%.
- The stimulus flow account balance is 4,079 ML, including 79 ML carried over from the previous water year. No stimulus flow release has occurred due to low inflows.
- This water source is now assessed to be in Stage 2 (emerging drought or water shortage). This is an indication that water cannot be delivered under normal operation at some parts of the river. For information on drought stages, please click here: [Extreme Events Policy](#)
- A section 324 Order is in place until 30 September 2026, restricting floodplain harvesting and supplementary water extraction. However, the restrictions are temporarily lifted now as the active storage levels in the upper lakes at Menindee have risen above 250GL. Please [click here](#) for the latest status.

Next statement

The water allocation statement for this water source will be published periodically or after a significant change in water resource.

Summary of last water year (2025–26)

All higher-priority licences, including local water utility, domestic and stock, and high security entitlements, received their maximum allocations on 1 July 2025. Floodplain harvesting and supplementary access licence holders also commenced 2025–26 with maximum (100%) allocations.

At the start of the 2025–26 water year, general security (A class) users held an average account balance of 7% of entitlement. Over the year, three allocation increments were announced, resulting in full allocation by 29 August 2025. By 30 June 2026, average account balances had declined to 8%.

General security (B class) users commenced the water year with an average account balance of 54% of entitlement. Four allocation increments were announced during the year, bringing the total allocation to 26% for 2025–26. By 30 June 2026, the average account balance was about 44%.

Supplementary access was announced on many occasions during the 2025–26 water year, with total usage recorded at 48 GL (40%). The floodplain harvesting licence account balance stands at 399%, with only 1% of the available entitlement used in the 2025–26 water year.

The NSW Border River catchments experienced predominantly below-average rainfall conditions during the 2025–26 water year. Both Pindari and Glenlyon Dams recorded about 110 GL and 35 GL, respectively, during the water year. By 30 June 2026, Pindari had reduced from about 49% to 42% of capacity, while Glenlyon declined from 54% to 47%.

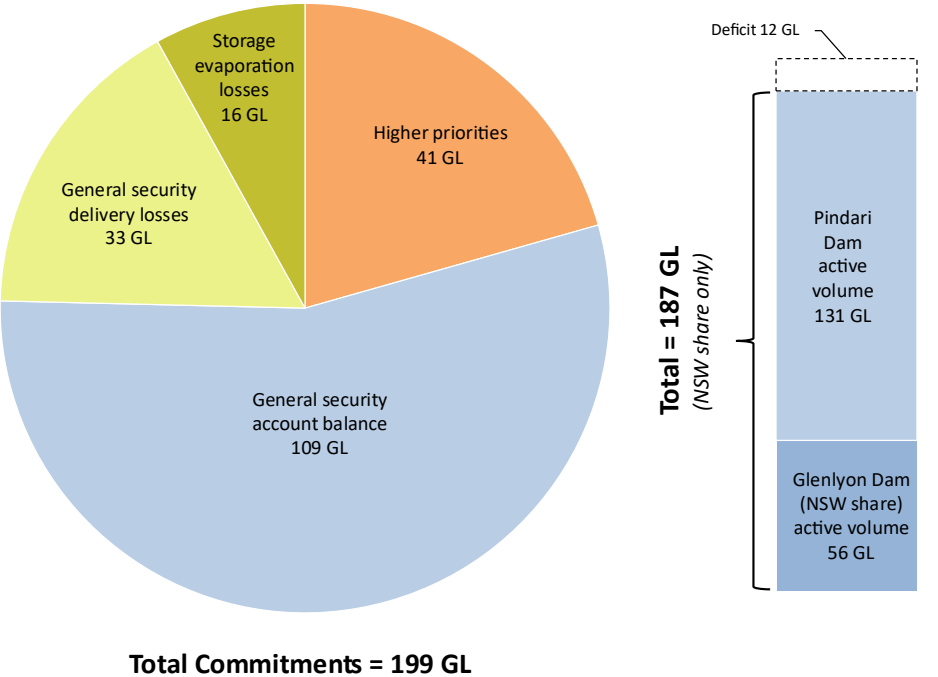
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (as of 1 August 2026)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾	187
<i>less</i>	
Higher priorities ⁽²⁾	41
General security account balance ⁽³⁾	109
General security delivery loss ⁽⁴⁾	33
Storage evaporation losses ⁽⁵⁾	16
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁶⁾	(12)

Notes:

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, as of 1 August 2026. In accordance with the New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008, NSW has access to 57% of net inflows into Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for domestic, stock, towns, high security, replenishment, stimulus release (4 GL), delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage. The full reserve for next 24 months is 41 GL. If depleted, this reserve is replenished first prior to allocation increment.
- (3) The general security account balance includes 3.9 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. These environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW Government and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (4) A reserve reflecting budgeted loss to deliver general security water. Traditionally, a 30% delivery loss has been budgeted for this river system. The loss reserve is continually assessed, and (if depleted) is topped up after higher priorities are secured, to ensure that allocated water can be delivered.
- (5) Storage evaporation loss is based on forecast storage depletion over the next 24 months.
- (6) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. A deficit is identified in this assessment, which will be monitored closely.

Resource distribution as at 1 August 2026
NSW Border Rivers Water Source



Useful links



Allocation statements for all water sources are available at: [Water allocation statements | Water](#)



A series of guides that describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems are available at: [Resource assessment process | Water](#)



The dashboard on water availability and allocations for all water sources is available at: [Allocations dashboard | Water](#)



Water sharing plans for all water sources are available at: [NSW Border Rivers Regulated Water Source 2021](#)

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Annexure

Allocations in 2026–27

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2026–27	Account balance
1-Jul	Domestic and stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local water utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*

* Maximum allowable

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.

- Stimulus flow account is to be credited 4,000 ML at the start of the water year. The account can carry over unused balances into the next water year, subject to the total balance not exceeding 8,000 ML.
- Domestic and stock, local water utility and high security licence categories are to receive an allocation of 100% of their share component at the start of the water year. These licences cannot carry over unused balances into the next water year.
- General security (A class) access licences receive allocation only after all higher priority requirements are met. The maximum allocation in a year to this category is 100%.
- General security (B class) licences cannot receive an allocation until general security (A class) licences received their maximum allocation (100%).
- Any unused water of general security accounts (A class and B class) can be carried over to the next water year. The account balance at any time must not exceed 100% of entitlement.
- 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.
- Floodplain harvesting licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the year, unless a growth-in-use measure is required. The closing balance can be carried over into the next water year, but the account balance must not exceed 500% of entitlement.