



NSW Water Allocations

20 October 2021

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

Our Team



- What We Do

- Arrange the crediting of NSW water accounts

all NSW water sources - regulated river, unregulated, groundwater; and all licence categories

Also

- Administer the Controlled Allocation process
- Administer the Snowy Water Licence



- Key Players in NSW Water Management

- DPIE – Water
- DPIE – EES
- WaterNSW
- NRAR

- Legislative Setting

- *Water Management Act 2000*
- Statutory water sharing plans
- Water licensing framework

- Some Fundamentals

- 1. Entitlement vs Allocation

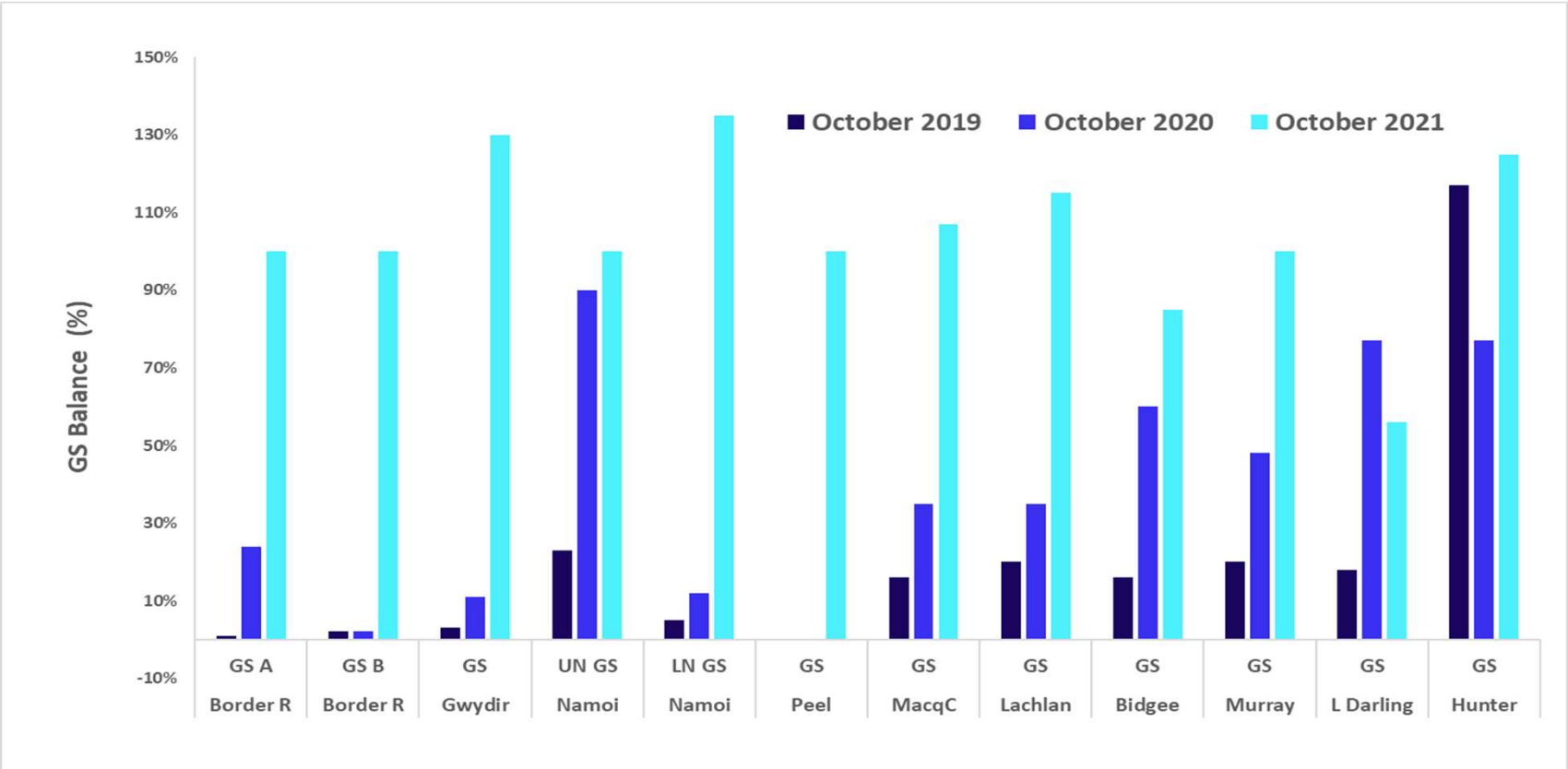
- 2. Significance of 1 July

- 3. Trade

- Current NSW Water Status

- All high priority commitments met this year (and next)
- Good general security allocations (full in some valleys)
- Major storages total 91% full, holding 16,000 GL
- Compares with 53% full this time last year

- Current Water in GS Accounts



- Significance of Our Work

- Towns and businesses can prosper
- Riverine environment can flourish
- Brings health to families and communities across all cultures

Water Allocation Statements

Water Allocation Statement
Water availability and allocation update

NSW

15 October 2021

NSW-Murray and Lower-Darling

Corrected version includes Water Balance Diagram - published 20 October 2021

Water allocation update

There is a **55% allocation increase to general security entitlements** in the NSW-Murray regulated river water source. This means general security allocation has reached its full extent, which is 110% of entitlement as per the Water Sharing Plan. Additionally, **high security and conveyance have also received their full allocation**. All **Lower-Darling** regulated river entitlements, including **general security**, received their full allocation (100%) on 1 July 2021.

Full allocations in the NSW-Murray were achieved on the back of around 185,000 megalitres (ML) of resource improvement, plus additional resource freed by individual accounts reaching their account limits including without-debit take converting to debit take.

Further resource improvements over the remainder of this water year will be used to assure high priority needs for 2022/23 and assist an opening allocation to general security entitlements.

Airspace releases and tributary inflows continue to create unregulated conditions across the regulated Murray system and provide supplementary access. Unregulated flows are also being used to meet Additional Dilution Flow requirements to South Australia, as required by the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement. While supplementary access continues to be available in the NSW-Murray, general security licence holders can no longer use the without-debit take provisions of their entitlements. Supplementary access details can be found at <https://www.water.nsw.gov.au/waterinsights/water-insights>.

The Menindee Lakes System (MLS) has been surcharged with inflows from the northern basins, with the current combined storage holding around 1,575,000 ML (as of 14 October 2021). The MLS can be surcharged to a maximum of around 2,039,000 ML. With inflows continuing to occur, releases from the MLS are required to maintain storages at a safe level. As a result, airspace releases are being made into the Lower-Darling and the Great Darling Anabranch. Updates can be found on the WaterNSW website (<https://waterinsights.water.nsw.gov.au/>).

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Murrays	100% ^a	110% ^a	43% ^b
Lower-Darling	100% ^a	100% ^a	2% ^b

^a Availability of allocation on individual licences is subject to account limits as per the rules in the Water Sharing Plan.
^b Carryover of water accounts can be considered for release and replaced by allocation when full allocations are announced.

Page 1/10

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment | PUBLIC 400 | 19

Water Allocation Statement
Water availability and allocation update

NSW

NSW-Murray resource distribution 2021-22 – 15 October 2021

Total = 2,690 GL

Data sheet notes

- Total available resource - NSW's state share of active storage volume (Hume, Dartmouth, Menindee and Lake Oakey) as assessed and accounted for under the Murray-Darling Basin Agreement at the time of the assessment (an any available flow in transit plus assumed 50% flow for the rest of the year plus Snowy Hydro's assumed Request Annual Release (RAR) including any flow (zero-release) from the prior year), as well as estimated usage to date. Snowy Hydro's RAR releases to date for the water year (2021-22) is estimated to be about 530 GL. NSW is not in Special Accounting with South Australia (SA) as of 15 October 2021. The details of Special Accounting can be found in the MDB Agreement clause 123-126. Special Accounting is triggered when forecasts indicate that NSW will have an end of year reserve of less than 1,250 GL.
- 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 the account credits from allocation and/or carryover cannot exceed 110% of entitlement in any water year. The first date not include allocation trade.
- Priority take-based licensed environmental water (PEW) - water regarded as set aside to provide for riverine environments, as per the Water Sharing Plan and other inter-jurisdictional agreements. In the NSW Murray this includes the Murray Additional Allowance (MAA) (currently 0 GL), Gairah Willows Allowance (B-WA) (200 GL - fully paid back), it also includes River Murray Increased Flow (RMIF) programs, as well as part of the Snowy Water Initiative (currently 23 GL). The total commitments to MAA, B-WA 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).
- The Water Sharing Plan for the New South Wales Murray and Lower-Darling Regulated River Water Sources 2016 has sub-categories of High Security Licences in the Murray River Sources. High Security subcategory licences under Part 7 Division 2 Clause 4(2) that are present in the Murray include community and education, research, and town water supply. At the commencement of each water year, these licences are to receive 100% allocation, while remaining High Security licences are to receive 97% allocation. With full allocations to GS entitlements being reached this month, 100% of entitlement has been allocated to High Security licences. For the purposes of this water allocation statement, the High Security lower water supply allocation volume has been grouped as 'Town, SAC'.
- Conveyance entitlement - a category of access licence originally issued to Irigoin Corporation to facilitate delivery of water through the conveyance system. Allocation to this category is provided in the Water Sharing Plan

NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment | PUBLIC 400 | 19

Water Allocation Statement
Water availability and allocation update

NSW

NSW-Murray water balance – 15 October 2021

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- More Information
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- Water Landing Page

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/>

- Water Allocation Statements

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/statements>

- Water Dashboard

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/dashboard>

- Water Insights Portal (WaterNSW)

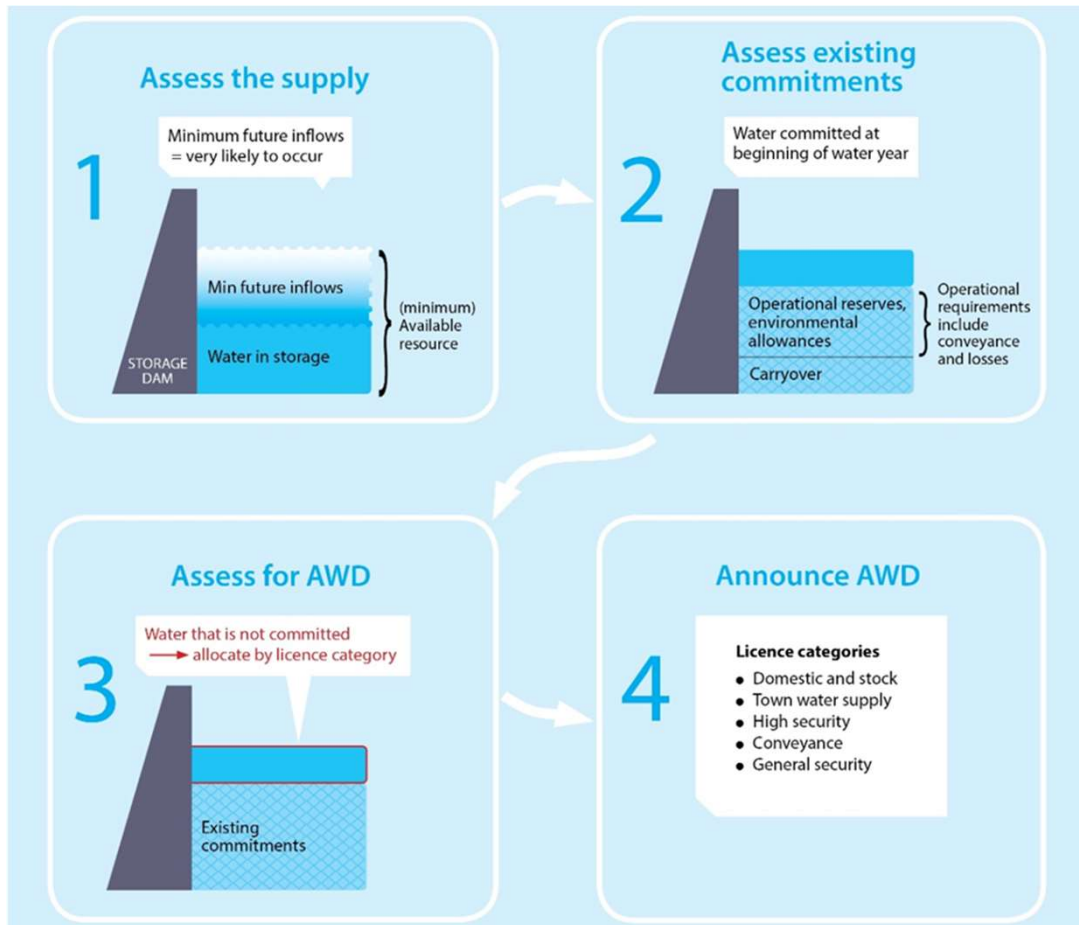
<https://www.waternsw.com.au/waterinsights>



- Questions
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- Allocation Process



- Murray Entitlements
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NSW Murray ~ 2250 GL*
Victoria ~ 1600 GL
SA ~ 750 GL

Approximate values from

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/water-markets-trade/water-markets-product-information>

