

How does spillable water affect you?

When can I access the water in my spillable water account?

Water in your spillable water account will become available to trade or use once the low risk of spill declaration is made.

The risk of spill is updated on the 10th of each month (or next business day) during the irrigation season until all three systems have been declared.

What if the Resource Manager makes an allocation(s) before the low risk of spill declaration?

The volume allocated to your allocation account is added to your carryover balance from the start of the season; if the total volume exceeds 100 per cent of your linked high-reliability water shares and/or low-reliability water shares, it will be credited to your spillable water account.

If new season allocation goes into my spillable water account, does the five per cent evaporation deduction apply?

No. The deduction only applies to the volume you carry over from the previous season on 30 June.

Does spillable water have a cost?

There is no charge for any water lost from a spillable water account if a dam spills. If a customer has seen all water spilled from their spillable water account, there will be no charge.

If a customer has any volume in a spillable water account, they will receive a charge only on the volume returned when a declaration of low risk of spill is made.

How much water will I lose if the storages spill?

A spill has no impact on the volumes available for trade or use in your allocation account.

Once allocation is recorded as available in your allocation account, it stays there until used or traded.

If there is a spill before the declaration is made, all spillable water account balances will be reduced in

proportion, in line with the volume of the spill.

It's a bit like an allocation, except all spillable water accounts are reduced by the same percentage. If there is a major spill it is possible that all spillable water accounts may be reduced to zero.

If pre-releases occur to prevent spills, does this affect carryover?

If releases need to be made to control the rate of filling of a storage, the released volume is treated as a spill and is proportionally deducted from your spillable water account.

Pre-releases do not affect the volumes in your allocation account. Any pre-releases made before 30 June do not affect carryover because the low risk of spill declaration has already been made.

If I carry over equivalent to 100 per cent of my total linked water shares and then use or trade allocation before the low risk of spill declaration, can I top up my allocation account balance from my spillable water account, or with current season allocation?

No. Until the declaration of low risk of spill is made, you can only use or trade the volume available in your allocation account.

This ensures equity of water across different customer bases, who use water at different times.

Anyone with water in a spillable account is effectively borrowing the space of another entitlement holder who has not filled their entitlement. When new inflows bring new resource and fill the dam, that new resource must be allocated to those who still have space in their entitlements. As such, the borrowers need to reduce the amount they borrowed, which occurs through the reduction of the spill accounts.

Any use from the allocation accounts cannot be refilled from the spill accounts or the new allocations because it effectively means the holder is receiving additional allocation over and above what they already received. By accounting only on the carryover balances and new allocation – not use and trade – all entitlement holders are treated equally.