

# BARMAH TRADE OPENING, JULY 2026

JOINT PROTOCOL FOR TRADE APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS, ASSESSMENT,  
AND PROCESSING

## THE PROTOCOL

This is a protocol for the management and processing of all trade applications received for the Barmah trade opening, July 2026.

This protocol has been developed jointly by DEECA and WaterNSW to ensure reliable access to this year's Barmah trade opportunity and a unified experience for customers from both Victoria and New South Wales.

## Protocol

For July 2026, the following protocol will be applied to all trade applications received for the Barmah trade opening:

### 1. Trade Application Submissions

**In July 2026, Victoria and New South Wales will be accepting Barmah trade applications during a 'submission window' rather than 'first come, first served'.**

Key points to note:

- There are no proposed changes to 2025.
- New South Wales and Victoria will continue to operate their own application submission processes.
  - For Victoria, submissions remain via the Victorian Water Register.
  - For NSW, submissions remain via the WaterNSW email service
- The time and duration of the window for submitting trade applications will be the same for Victorian and New South Wales applicants.
- Unlike 2024, there is no pressure to be at the front of the queue – trade applications can be submitted at any time within the submission window.
- A customer who submits a trade application at the start of the submission window will have the same chance of having their application succeed as a customer who submits at the end of the submission window.

Information about the date and time of the submission window, and relevant application processes will be provided late May.

## 2. Trade Application Eligibility for Randomisation

**Trade applications submitted for the Barmah trade opening will only be included in the randomisation process if they meet the eligibility criteria.**

**Victorian and New South Wales ‘trade application eligibility’ procedures will be applied in a way to ensure that applications in each state are assessed in a comparable manner, and that applications are not advantaged or disadvantaged based on the state where their water accounts are held.**

Key points to note:

- New South Wales and Victoria will operate their own procedures for assessing the eligibility of trade applications to be included in the randomisation pool
- For any one seller account, based in either New South Wales or Victoria, the volume eligible for inclusion in the randomisation pool cannot exceed the volume of tradable allocation available in that account at the start of the submission window (whether submitted via a single trade application, or multiple trade applications)

For clarity, the following eligibility procedures will be applied to trade applications received during the submission window:

### For NSW trade applications

The NSW procedure follows the rules set out by State and Commonwealth legislation and trading rules, and the “information for Parties to Dealings” as noted on “WaterNSW Application to assign surface water allocation” forms.

1. Applications may be submitted at any time during the submission window.
2. Each application will be assessed according to the usual criteria e.g. sufficient available water in account, correct licence numbers/holder names, etc. Incorrect applications will be returned for amendment and must be rectified and returned before the application submission window closes to be considered for the pool. After this time the application will be refused and the fee forfeited.
3. Multiple Applications: Seller’s may submit multiple applications to the same or different purchaser licences, as long as the total volume of water being offered for sale is not greater than the seller’s available water balance on the day. Any additional application which (if processed) would subsequently cause the seller’s available water to be overdrawn will be refused and not considered for the randomisation pool.
4. The time of receipt (into the WaterNSW email system) will be used as the basis for refusing multiple applications as outlined in 3. Please note any refused applications will result in the fee being forfeited.

Information on the [NSW Temporary Trade procedure](#) can be found on the WaterNSW website

## For Victorian trade applications

The Victorian procedure is made under Rule 34 of the Victorian Trading Rules for Declared Water Systems.

1. If the seller allocation account nominated in the application has sufficient allocation balance at the time the application is submitted, that application will be deemed to be eligible for inclusion in the randomisation pool
2. If the seller allocation account nominated in the application has insufficient allocation balance at the time the application is submitted, the application will be deemed ineligible.
3. All applications to 'Trade Remaining Balance' will be ineligible for inclusion in the randomisation pool.
4. Applications must still meet all other requirements required by the standard forms in order to be eligible for randomisation (i.e., having complete details, enough allocation at the time of processing, and application fee payment having been received for My Water users).

The complete [Victorian Trade Application Procedure](#) can be found on the VWR website.

## 3. Randomisation approach

**The processing order for all Victorian and NSW eligible trade applications will be determined in a joint randomisation process.**

### Randomisation Procedure

The randomisation of eligible trade applications will be undertaken in the following manner:

1. Each state will provide a list of its eligible trade applications.
2. The Victorian and New South Wales lists will be merged into one list.
3. A randomisation tool will be applied that will sort the merged list of eligible applications into a randomly generated order. This is the order that will be used by both states for the processing of trade applications.

Key point to note: An independent observer will observe the execution of the randomisation process and attest that the process was undertaken correctly, with no interference.

## 4. Trade Application Processing

Once the randomisation procedure has been completed, the processing of trade applications will be undertaken in the following manner:

1. Trade applications on the merged list will be processed one at a time, working down the list from start to finish.
2. Each state will be responsible for processing their own trade applications.
3. WaterNSW and Victoria will be in constant contact to ensure that the processing order is adhered to.

4. Applications will be approved or refused based on standard rules for processing trade applications, considering the trade opportunity and allocation account tradable balance for each application at the time of processing.
5. The Victorian Water Register and WaterNSW will notify applicants of the status of their applications as per their normal notification processes.

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