

20 May 2020

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Allocation update


There is **no change** to Hunter regulated river water allocations following this latest assessment.

Rainfall in April 2020 ranged from average to very much below average in the Hunter catchment. Glenbawn and Glennies Creek dams received about 65 mm of rainfall in April 2020. General security allocations therefore remain unchanged at 95 per cent of entitlement. All other licence categories in this water source have already received their maximum allocation in 2019-20.

Resource outlook for 2020-21

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including major and local utilities, are secure to at least June 2022, assuming the budgeted (minimum) future inflows arrive.
- **High Security** and **General Security** licences can expect opening allocations on 1 July of up to 85 per cent and 20 per cent of entitlement respectively. The final assessment will be undertaken in June, using the latest inflows and water usage data and likely carryover volume.
- All other higher priority licence holders including **Local Water Utilities**, **Major Water Utilities**, and **Domestic** and **Stock** water access licenses can expect full (100 per cent) allocations.
- Likewise, **Supplementary** entitlement holders can expect a full (100 per cent) allocation.
- The **Environmental Water Allowance** will be credited with 20 gigalitres (GL) in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Unused water in accounts (**Carryover**) can be carried forward (to allowable limits) in accordance with the rules of the water sharing plan and will be fully deliverable in 2020-21.
- General security licence holders can carry over a maximum of 25 per cent of their share component and it is expected that **average carryover** this year will be 20-25 per cent of entitlement.

Current allocations

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Hunter Regulated River Water Source	100%	95%	 Stage 1

Dam levels (as at 18 May 2020)

- Glenbawn Dam is just under 40 per cent full – falling slowly – holding about 297 gigalitre (GL).
- Glennies Creek Dam is just under 37 per cent full – falling – holding about 105 GL.

These dams were just over half full at this time last year.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Hunter regulated river water source is in Stage 1 - meaning normal regulated river operations.

Drought information sessions

The department, together with WaterNSW, will be holding public information sessions on drought outlook and water availability via webinars during May and June 2020. Presentations can be viewed live and a recording will be available on the website later. The Hunter outlook will be discussed in a session scheduled for Tuesday 2 June from 3 pm to 4 pm.

For more information on information session, **and more importantly to register**, go to: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/information-sessions

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for June to August shows wetter than average conditions for the catchment are likely. Day time temperatures are likely to be above average and night time temperatures are very likely to be above average.

While the Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is most likely to remain neutral over winter, the tropical Pacific Ocean is likely to cool and there is some chance that ocean temperatures could reach La Niña levels in late winter or early spring.

Furthermore, while the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also currently neutral, the outlook suggests a negative IOD could develop from mid-winter. However, caution should be exercised when using IOD forecasts issued during autumn, as they are less accurate than forecasts made at other times of the year. Nevertheless, it should be noted all other international models surveyed by the Bureau also indicate a negative IOD is likely to form during 2020. A negative IOD often results in more rainfall than average over south-eastern Australia.

The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) has recently been negative, but is forecast to briefly rise into positive values before becoming neutral for the next three weeks. During autumn, SAM has little influence on Australian rainfall, though winter marks the time of the year when a positive SAM can mean more rainfall over parts of eastern Australia.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Further information

The next water allocation announcement will be on 1 July 2020 and will provide opening water allocations for the 2020-21 water year.

As reduced allocations are expected, particularly for general security water users, monthly water allocation statements will be continued in 2020-21. The next water allocation statement will be provided Friday 17 July 2020.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

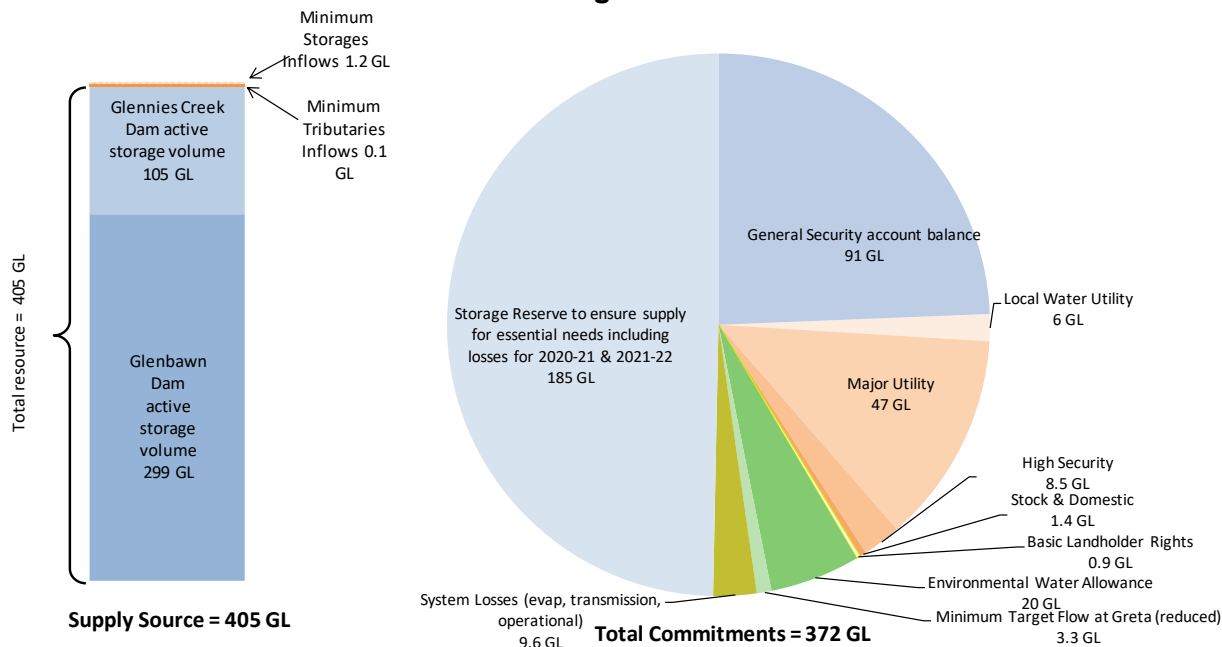
Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 May 2020 to 30 June 2022)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource (as at 1 May 2020) ⁽¹⁾		403.56
Minimum storage & tributary inflows (1 May 2020 – 30 Jun 2020) ⁽²⁾		1.30
<i>less</i>		
General Security account balance	90.72	
Town Water (Local Water Utility)	6.00	
Major Utility	47.00	
High Security	8.50	
Basic Land Holder Rights	0.90	
Environmental Water Allowance (EWA)	20.00	
Domestic and Stock	1.40	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta	3.26	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation)	9.59	
Storage Reserve for 2020-21 & 2021-22 ⁽³⁾	184.99	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus water ⁽⁴⁾		32.48

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource in the dams – is the total active storage volume in Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam combined as at 1 May 2020.
- (2) Minimum forecast dam inflows from 1 May 2020 to 30 June 2020 (1.2 GL) and minimum forecast usable tributary inflows (0.1 GL) from 1 May 2020 to 30 June 2020.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses of 101 GL in 2020-21 (after accounting for minimum combined inflows of at least 61 GL in 2020-21) & 84 GL in 2021-22 (after accounting for minimum combined inflows of at least 76 GL in 2021-22). The essential supply includes EWA, towns, major utilities, high security, domestic use, basic rights net of minimum inflow and losses.
- (4) Surplus water available after accounting for all commitments. This will improve resource situation on 1 July 20.

Resource Distribution: 1 May 2020 to 30 June 2022 Hunter Regulated River Water Source



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