

24 May 2021

## Hunter Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update

Available water for the 2020-21 water year ending 30 June 2021 has been fully allocated in accordance with the Hunter regulated river water sharing plan.

Rainfall in April and May has been limited across the Hunter catchment. Small inflows have been recorded at Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam to offset minor drawdown, meaning the storages have remained steady or slightly improving.

This water year has seen good natural inflows throughout the system. The annual high flow tally at Greta exceeded 36.4 gigalitres (GL) and allowed allocation to supplementary access licence holders to receive the maximum 200% of entitlement, in accordance with the water sharing plan.

### Current allocations for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2020/21	Drought Stage
Domestic and Stock	100%	
Local and Major Water Utilities	100%	Stage 1
High Security	100%	
General Security	100%	
Supplementary	200%	
Environmental Water Allowance	20 GL	

### Dam levels (as at 21 May 2021)

Glenbawn Dam is about 57% full – rising – holding 430 GL.

Glennies Creek Dam is about 58% full – falling – holding 165 GL.

### Water availability outlook for 2021-22

The system is well placed to meet water security commitments and provide water for productive use in the new water year commencing 1 July 2021. The seasonal outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology is for likely wetter than historical inflow conditions over next three months. Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including for major and local water utilities, is secure to at least June 2023, based on at least minimum future inflows.

## Likely allocations on 1 July 2021

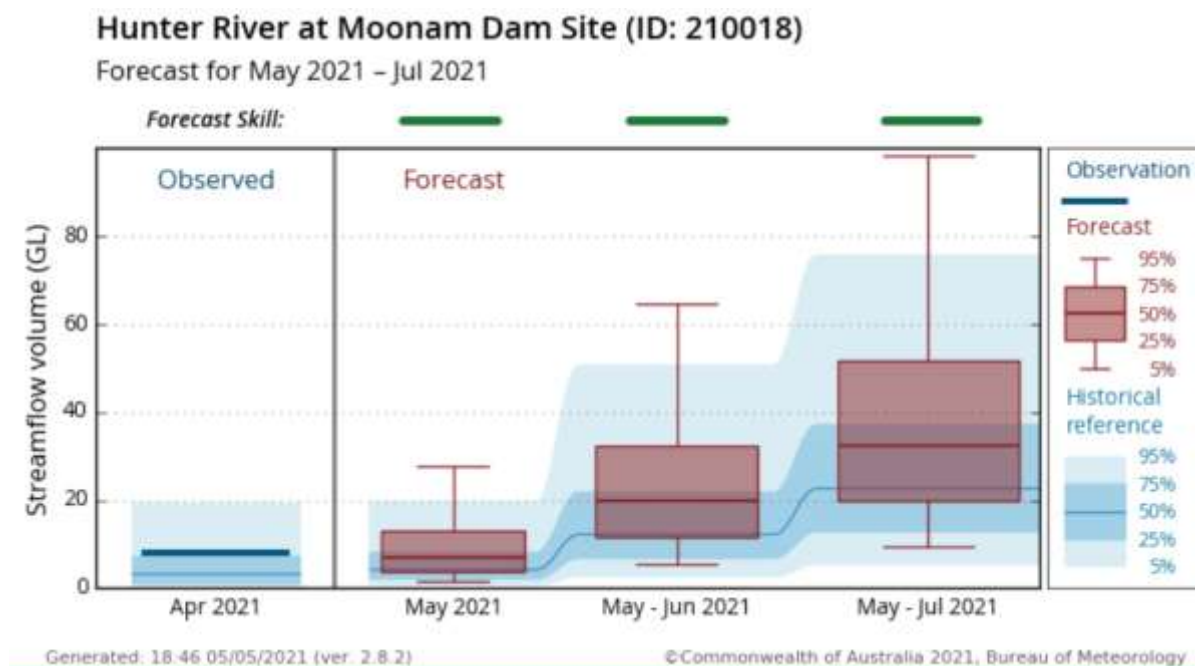
- All high priority licence holders including, **Major and Local Water Utilities, Domestic and Stock and High Security** water access licenses can expect full (100%) allocations.
- Likewise, **Supplementary** entitlement holders can expect a full opening (100%) allocation.
- The **Environmental Water Allowance** will be credited with 20 gigalitres (GL) in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Unused water in accounts (**carryover**) can be carried forward, subject to allowable limits, in accordance with the rules of the water sharing plan and will be fully deliverable in 2021-22.
- **General Security** licences can expect a high opening allocation on 1 July 2021. The final value will be based on a resource assessment in mid-June, using the latest inflow and water usage data and likely carryover volumes.

Water users are reminded to check their account limits and the carryover provisions for their entitlements and be aware of potential forfeiture of water from accounts at the end of the year.

## Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology climate outlook for June 2021 to August 2021 shows that the chance of above median rainfall across the catchment during this period is below average.

The Bureau also issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Hunter River upstream of Glenbawn Dam at Moonan (figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam. All forecast quartiles of total streamflow volumes from May to July are higher than historical streamflow volumes, indicating the potential for better than historical storage inflows in this period.



For further details: [http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product\\_type=FC\\_9](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9)

## Further information

The next water allocation statement for Hunter Regulated River will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statement due on 1 July 2021.

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](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

<b>Resource Distribution (1 May 2021 to 30 Jun 2023)</b>	<b>(GL)</b>	<b>(GL)</b>
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage volume		587.4
Minimum storage & tributary inflows (5/21 to 6/21) <sup>(1)</sup>		1.3
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	0.9	
Domestic and Stock	1.7	
Local Water Utility balance	6.7	
Major utility account balance	48.7	
Environmental Water Allowance	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta (including losses)	5.3	
High Security account balance	18.1	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) (5/21 to 6/21)	10.1	
Storage Reserve for 2021-22 <sup>(2)</sup>	127.3	
Storage Reserve for 2022-23 <sup>(3)</sup>	77.5	
General Security balance <sup>(4)</sup>	140.2	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>		132.2

### Notes:

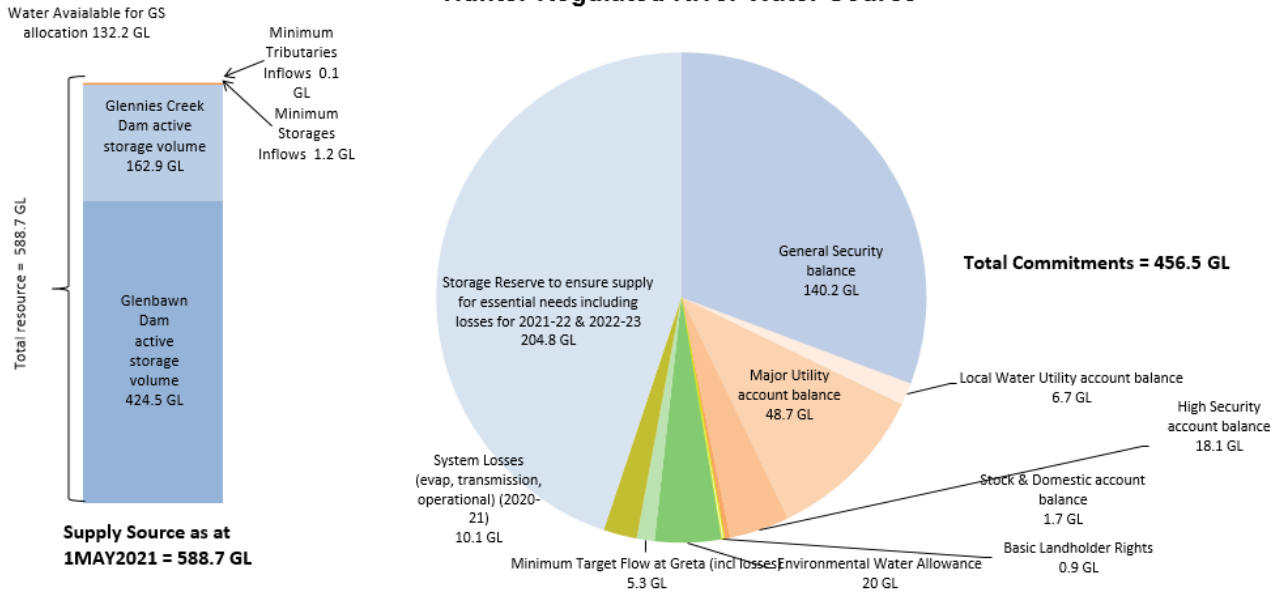
- (1) Minimum historical dam inflows (1.2 GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (0.1 GL) from 1 May 2021 to 30 June 2021.
- (2) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2021/22. Calculated as: system losses of 52.0 GL plus Essential Requirements of 127.9 GL minus 52.7 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the first 12 months of 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2021. Essential Requirement includes minimum 75% High Security (HS) opening allocation and 100% to all other high priority licences.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2022/23. Calculated as: system losses of 50.2 GL plus Essential Requirements of 109.9 GL minus 82.6 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the second 12 months of 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2021. Essential Requirement includes minimum 75% High Security (HS) opening allocation and 100% to all other high priority licences.
- (4) The water remaining in General Security accounts yet to be ordered and delivered. It is calculated by subtracting the usage (inclusive of Uncontrolled Flow takes) from the water already allocated to GS.
- (5) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. The surplus of 132.2 GL signifies the additional resources available. As all accounts are allocated in full this volume remains unallocated improving the reliability of next water year.

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



## Resource Distribution: 1 May 2021 to 30 June 2023 Hunter Regulated River Water Source



Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.