

28 September 2023

Paterson Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

Allocations for the current 2023/24 water year remain unchanged because all entitlements, including general security, received their maximum allocation for the year on 1 July 2023.

This quarterly statement provides information on current water sharing and regulated resource conditions for this water source.

As of 26 September, Lostock Dam is holding 19,694 megalitres (ML) of water (95%). This time last year, the storage held 20,435 ML (101%).

General security usage to 1 September 2023 has been minimal (about 2.3% of entitlement), due to generally wet conditions. The current resource assessment results in a surplus of 89 ML but with all licences already fully allocated it means this water remains unassigned and will contribute to future allocations and system reliability.

Current allocation

28 September 2023	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General Security	nil	109%

Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Last year continued with generally wet conditions. Lostock Dam remained, on average, 100% full, spilling periodically throughout 2022/23. General security entitlements in this regulated system started 2022/23 with 100% allocation and remained unchanged. Very little account water was needed or used (11% of water available) during 2022/23, leaving most of the resource for re-allocation in 2023/24.

A significantly different outlook for 2023/24 is emerging with potentially a hotter and drier experience caused by climatic drivers that have prompted the Bureau of Meteorology to formally declare El Niño conditions.

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution – September 2023	(ML)	(ML)
Lostock Dam active storage volume (as at 1/09/2023) ¹		19,694
Minimum storage inflows (9/2023 to 6/2024)		4,600
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	457	
Domestic and Stock balance	41	
Local Water Utility balance	63	
Minimum storage releases	200	
High Security (HS) account balance	253	
Environmental Water Allowance (EWA)	2,000	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) ²	8,622	
Essential supplies reserve for 2024/25 ³	2,308	
General Security (GS) account balance	10,469	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) ⁴		89

Notes:

- (1) This is the active storage volume in Lostock as of 1 September 2023, capped at active full supply volume. Higher volumes of storage surcharge and spill are not counted as available resource for allocation.
- (2) Storage evaporation loss, transmission loss and operation loss pro-rated for the remaining months of the current water year.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in the storage as reserve to meet system losses of 10,346 ML plus essential requirements of 3,054 ML minus 11,300 ML of minimum storage inflows for the 2024/25 water year. For the 2025/26 water year, no reserve is currently required as the future minimum inflows are expected to cover the system losses and essential requirements.
- (4) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. The surplus signifies the additional resources available. As all accounts are allocated in full, this volume remains unallocated, improving the allocation reliability for the next water year.

Paterson Regulated River Water Source Resource Distribution 1 September 2023 to 30 June 2024

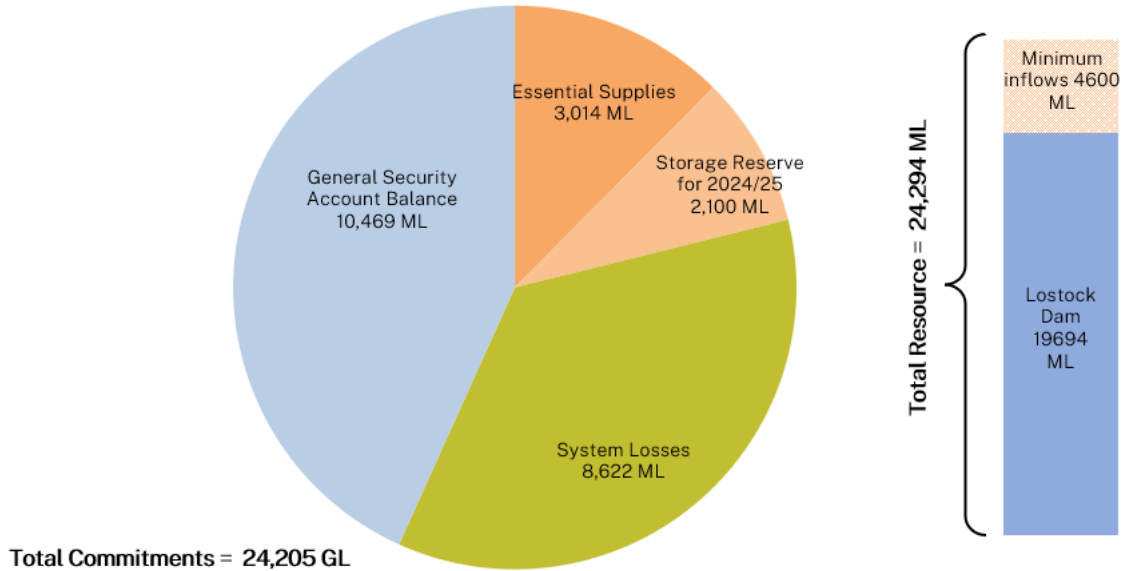


Table 1. Water Allocations for the Paterson Regulated River Water Source in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*

* Maximum allowable

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Paterson regulated river water source will be in **December 2023**, unless there is a significant change in conditions beforehand.

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

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