

23 May 2022

Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is an increase in allocation to general security (B class) licence holders of one megalitre per unit share (ML/unit share).

The account balances of most general security (B class) users remain at their maximum limit of 100%. Usage to date by general security (B class) water users has been low (about 12% of total entitlement). However, the months of April and May have seen some further usage, allowing for an allocation increment to general security (B class) users that tops-up their accounts.

Continued inflows in April and May have enabled both Pindari and Glenlyon dams to remain full. All high priority licence categories have received their maximum allocations this water year. General security (A class) users have also received their maximum allocations this water year.

As the storages have remained full or near full, with only minor usage, there has been no significant change in resource balance. Therefore, the regular pie chart has not been reproduced in this statement as it lacks meaning.

Resource outlook for 2022/23

This outlook for likely 1 July 2022 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including **local water utility**, are secure for the 2022/23 water year.
- High priority water access licence holders, including **local water utility, stock and domestic** and **high security**, can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- Water held in **general security (A class) and (B class)** accounts will be carried forward in full for use in 2022-23, up to the maximum account limit which is 1.0 ML/share (100% of entitlement).
- Allocation for general security **general security (A class) and (B class)** could be up to 100%, however; this is dependent on conditions to the end of the water year and final carryover volumes. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.0 ML/share.
- The department is on track to implement the amendments to the water sharing plan for the Border regulated water sharing plan that includes rules for the take of Floodplain Harvesting Water. This would result in an opening allocation for **supplementary** entitlement holders of 100%. However, if the amendment orders are delayed beyond 30 June, the department will again be required to implement a growth in use response. This would result in a reduced opening allocation for supplementary entitlement holders. The situation is being monitored. Supplementary access licence holders are reminded that use of this water is only available during announced supplementary access events.

Storage levels (as at 23 May 2022)

- Pindari Dam is 100% full - holding about 312 gigalitres (GL).
- Glenlyon Dam is 101% full - holding about 256 GL.

Key facts

- This allocation statement is based on the surplus that was remaining from the resource assessment completed on 30 March 2022.
- Some usage from general security (B class) accounts, since the last allocation on 30 March 2022, has created 4.439 GL of space in general security account balance to enable an allocation increase of 1.00 ML/unit share for general security (B class) licence holders this time.
- Supplementary licence holders received a reduced allocation of 0.75 ML/unit share for 2021/22 resulting from the implementation of growth-in-use rules.
- Supplementary water usage has been about 57 GL this 2021/22 water year, out of the total 90 GL that was allocated to supplementary users this year.

Seasonal climate outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be below median and overnight temperatures are likely to be above median for the catchment during the June to August period.

Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/

NSW Border Rivers resource assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Surplus as of 30 March 2022 ⁽¹⁾		10.270
New allocation General Security (B class) accounts ⁽²⁾	4.439	
Surplus as of 23 May 2022 ⁽³⁾		5.831

Notes:

- (1) As a result of allocations made to general security (B class) on 30 March 2022, all accounts were at their maximum limit, with 10.27 GL surplus or uncommitted water remaining.
- (2) This volume is the space available in general security (B class) accounts for allocation as a result of usage from general security (B class) accounts in April 2022 and part of May 2022.
- (3) As a result of allocations made to general security (B class) of 4.439 GL in this resource assessment, all accounts are at their maximum limit, with 5.831 GL surplus or uncommitted water remaining, contributing to future allocation reliability.

Water allocation history for 2021/22

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2021/22	Account Balance (% of entitlement)
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100.0%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100.0%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.75 ML/unit share	0.75 ML/unit share	75%#
1-Jul	General Security (A class)	0.37 ML/unit share	0.37 ML/unit share	37%
	General Security (B class)	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	0%
27-Jul	General Security (A class)	0.63 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
	General Security (B class)	0.047 ML/unit share	0.047 ML/unit share	47%
17-Aug	General Security (B class)	0.953 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
29-Sep	General Security (B class)	0.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	99.99%
22-Dec	General Security (B class)	0.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	99.85%
28-Jan	General Security (B class)	0.28 ML/unit share	1.28 ML/unit share	100%*
30-Mar	General Security (B class)	1.00 ML/unit share	2.28 ML/unit share	100%*
23-May	General Security (B class)	1.00 ML/unit share	3.28 ML/unit share	100%*

*maximum allowable

#maximum allowable in the 2021-22 water year due to the implementation of growth-in-use rules

Further information

The next Border Rivers water allocation statement will be published on 1 July 2022 with state-wide opening allocations for the 2022/23 water year. Quarterly resource assessments will once again commence in the 2022/23 water year. The first water allocation statement will be published in September 2022, or earlier if there is a significant change to the resource situation.

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

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