

21 July 2023

# Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

There is sufficient water available from this resource assessment to increase allocation to general security (A class) access licences by 0.94 megalitres per unit share (ML/unit share) or 94% of entitlement. This brings general security (A class) licenses to their maximum allocation of 100% of entitlement for this water year.

Allocation to general security (B class) commences once general security (A class) reaches 100%. The balance of water available from this assessment therefore provides an allocation of 0.19 ML/unit share to general security (B class). This brings the average account balance for general security (B class) to about 93% of the entitlement. The water sharing plan allows for continued top-up of general security (B class) licenses throughout the year but individual account balances cannot exceed their maximum 100% limit.

All higher priority license holders have already received their maximum (100%) allocation for 2023/24. Similarly supplementary and floodplain harvesting access license holders have also received their maximum (100%) allocation.

Inflows up to 200 ML/day into Pindari Dam will be passed transparently through the storage during winter months, in accordance with environmental flow rules. Pindari Dam experienced inflow greater than 1,200 ML/day in April 2023. This has met the pre-condition for releasing stimulus flows up to 4 gigalitre (GL) between next August to November.

## Current allocations

2022/23	High Security	General Security (A Class)	General Security (B Class)
Border Rivers	100%*	100%*	19%

\* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan

## Storage levels (as at 21 July 2023)

- Pindari Dam is about 84% full – steady - holding about 262 GL.
- Glenlyon Dam is about 98% full – rising - holding about 247 GL.

## Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Border Rivers system storages – Pindari (NSW) and Glenlyon (NSW/QLD) were well above 80% and 95% of active storage volume respectively throughout the year.

Both General security (A class) and General security (B class) licence holders received their maximum (100%) allocation at the beginning of last year (2022/23). In addition, General security (B class) licence holders received four more allocation increments through the year reaching a closing account balance of 200 GL or 83.5% of the entitlement, despite nearly 74 GL of usage.

Supplementary access water users started last year with a reduced 0.74 ML/unit share allocation but this was increased to its maximum (100%) by 15 August 2022.

General security (A Class) and General security (B Class) water usage was approximately 12 GL (55% of entitlement) and 74 GL (30% of entitlement) respectively in 2022/23.

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October shows unusually low rainfall conditions across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be unusually high while night-time temperatures are very likely to be above median conditions across the catchment.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/)

## NSW Border Rivers resource assessment

Table 1 Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 1 July 2023)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) <sup>(1)</sup>		399.2
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses <sup>(2)</sup>	26.3	
Essential supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	41.1	
General security account balance <sup>(4)</sup>	254.7	
General security delivery losses <sup>(5)</sup>	76.6	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (deficit) <sup>(6)</sup>		0.5

### Notes:

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, at the time of the assessment. In accordance with the *New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008* NSW has access to 57% of net inflows into Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Storage evaporation loss is based on forecast storage depletion over the next 24 months.
- (3) Water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for domestic, stock, towns, high security, replenishment, stimulus release (4GL), delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage.
- (4) The general security account balance is inclusive of about 2.806 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. The HEW volume is indicative only and prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW Department of Planning and Environment- Environment and Heritage, and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) General security delivery losses – budgeted at about 30 per cent of remaining general security account water.
- (6) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments, there is nominal surplus that will be rolled over to next resource assessment. The system is secure for all essential supplies for next 24 months and beyond.

### Distribution of NSW Resources as at 1 July 2023

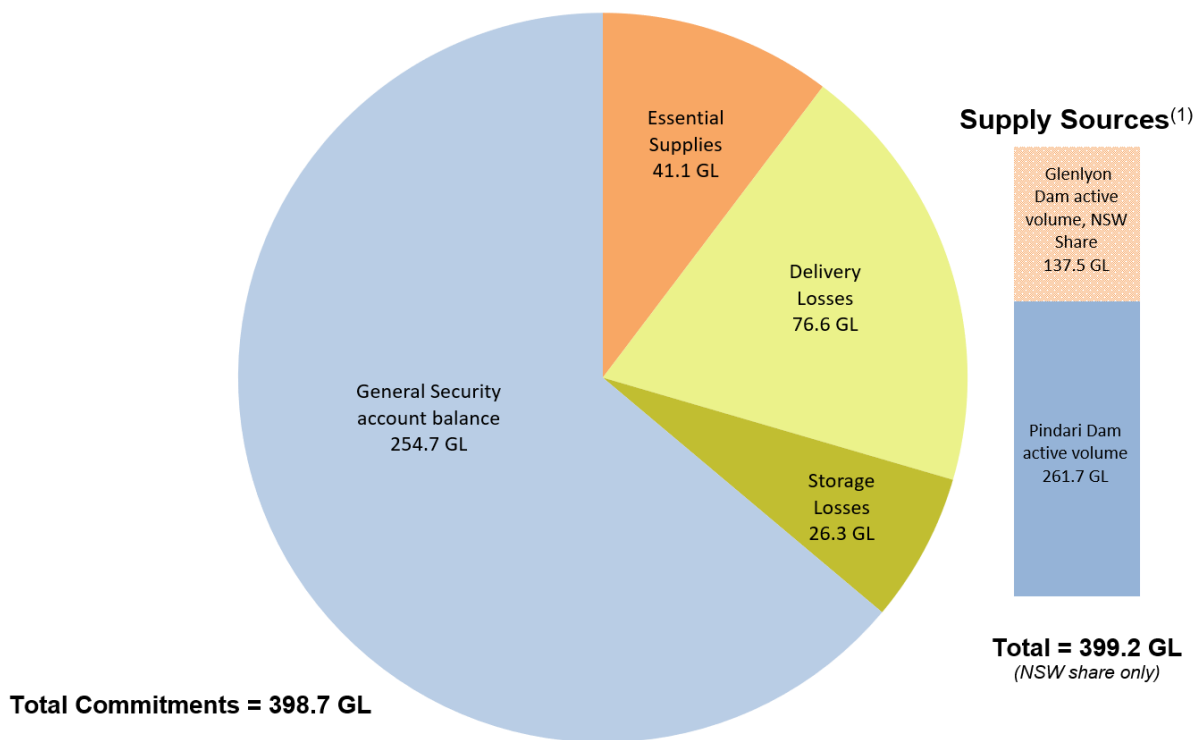


Table 1 : Water allocation history for 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total AWD 2023/24
1-Jul	Domestic and 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	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share <sup>#</sup>	1.00 ML/unit share
1-Jul	General Security (A class)	0.06 ML/unit share	0.06 ML/unit share
1-Jul	General Security (B class)	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share
21-Jul	General Security (A class)	0.94 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
21-Jul	General Security (B class)	0.19 ML/unit share	0.19 ML/unit share

\* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan.

### Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methodology for all major NSW regulated river systems.

The guide for the NSW Border Rivers regulated river water source is available at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

The next Border Rivers water allocation statement will be published in **September 2023**, or earlier if there is a significant change to resources.

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

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