

7 December 2023

Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is no change to allocations in the Border Rivers regulated river water source. However, this assessment does not capture any November resource improvements.

General security (B class) allocation this 2023/24 water year is 0.23 megalitres (ML)/unit share or 23% of entitlement and the average account balance for general security (B class) about 74%. The water sharing plan allows for top-up of general security (B class) licenses throughout the year if water becomes available, but individual account balances cannot exceed their maximum 100% limit.

General security (A class) and all higher priority access licenses have received their maximum (100%) allocation for 2023/24. Similarly, supplementary and floodplain harvesting access licenses have also received their maximum (100%) allocation.

Inflows up to 200 ML/day into Pindari Dam were passed transparently through the storage during the winter months, in accordance with environmental flow rules. Pindari Dam experienced inflow greater than 1,200 ML/day in April 2023, therefore the pre-condition for releasing stimulus flows up to a total volume of 4,000 (ML) between August and November has been met.

Total allocation to date (2023/24)

7 December 2023	Allocation	Average Account Balance
General Security (A Class)	100%	85%
General Security (B Class)	23%	74%

Storage levels (as at 04 December 2023)

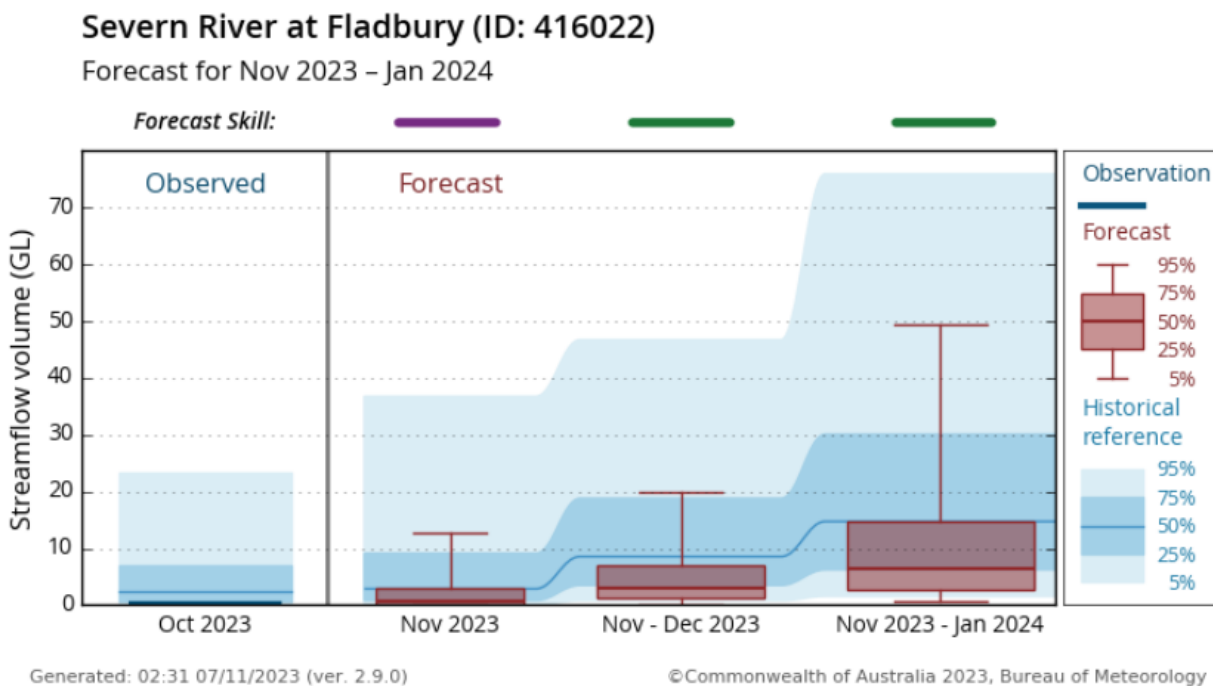
- Pindari Dam is about 68% full – falling - holding about 212 gigalitres (GL).
- Glenlyon Dam is about 74% full – falling - holding about 187 GL.

Seasonal climate outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for January 2024 to March 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below average for the Border Rivers region.

Both maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be above average for the same period. Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Severn River at Fladbury, upstream of Pindari Dam (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam in the coming months. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from November to January are below the historical quantile references, indicating that inflows over this period are likely to be lower than historically. The graph for November to January 2023 is shown below and updates can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=416022



NSW Border Rivers resource assessment

Table 1 Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 1 NOV 2023) Volume (GL) Volume (GL)

Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾		334.1
less		
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	22.7	
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	37.4	
General security account balance ⁽⁴⁾	212.5	

General security delivery losses ⁽⁵⁾

63.8

equals

Deficit ⁽⁶⁾

(2.3)

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. The full reserve is 41.1 GL, of which 3.7 GL is used. This reserve is replenished before further allocation.
- (4) The general security account balance includes 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: There is a small deficit identified in this assessment. It will be closely monitored.

Distribution of NSW Resources as at 1 November 2023

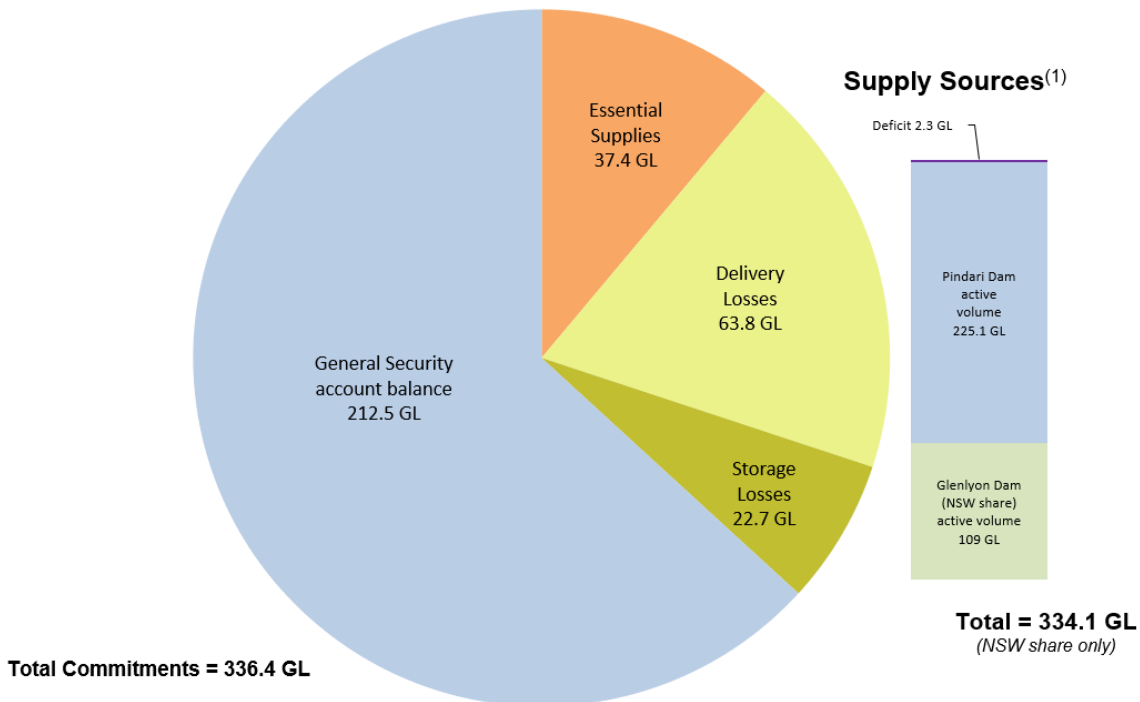


Table 2: Water allocation history for 2023/24

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 [#]	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
31-Oct	General Security (B class)	0.04 ML/unit share	0.23 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: water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next water allocation statement of this water source will be published in February 2024, 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: water.dpie.nsw.gov.au

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