

29 August 2023

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations for the current 2023/24 water year remain unchanged. Entitlements generally received their maximum allocation for the year on 1 July 2023. The environmental water allowance (EWA) was also credited with its maximum of 20 gigalitres (GL) volume on 1 July 2023.

Water users are reminded that, with continued high storage levels, carryover water can be removed from accounts in accordance with the water sharing plan if water spills from headwater dams or must be released for flood mitigation purposes.

Supplementary licence holders have received a 100% allocation for the current water year. The current usage of supplementary water this year is about 7% of entitlement. The cumulative high flow tally at Greta to the end of July totals 19,971 megalitres (ML). This is less than the threshold of 36,389 ML, meaning more flow is required to allow further allocation to supplementary access licence holders.

Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Last year continued with generally wet conditions. Glenbawn and Glennies Creek dams remained full, periodically spilling throughout the water year. General security entitlement in the Hunter regulated system started the year with the maximum 100% allocation. Supplementary access allocation increased to the maximum 200% by September 2022. About 102% of supplementary allocation was used by license holders resulting in very little general security account water needed or used during 2022/23. Unused water in applicable license categories was carried forward into the 2023/24 water year, subject to allowable limits and maximum account balance rules.

Storage levels (as at 28 August 2023)

- Glenbawn Dam is about 97% full – holding about 728 GL.
- Glennies Creek Dam is about 95% full – holding about 269 GL.

Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

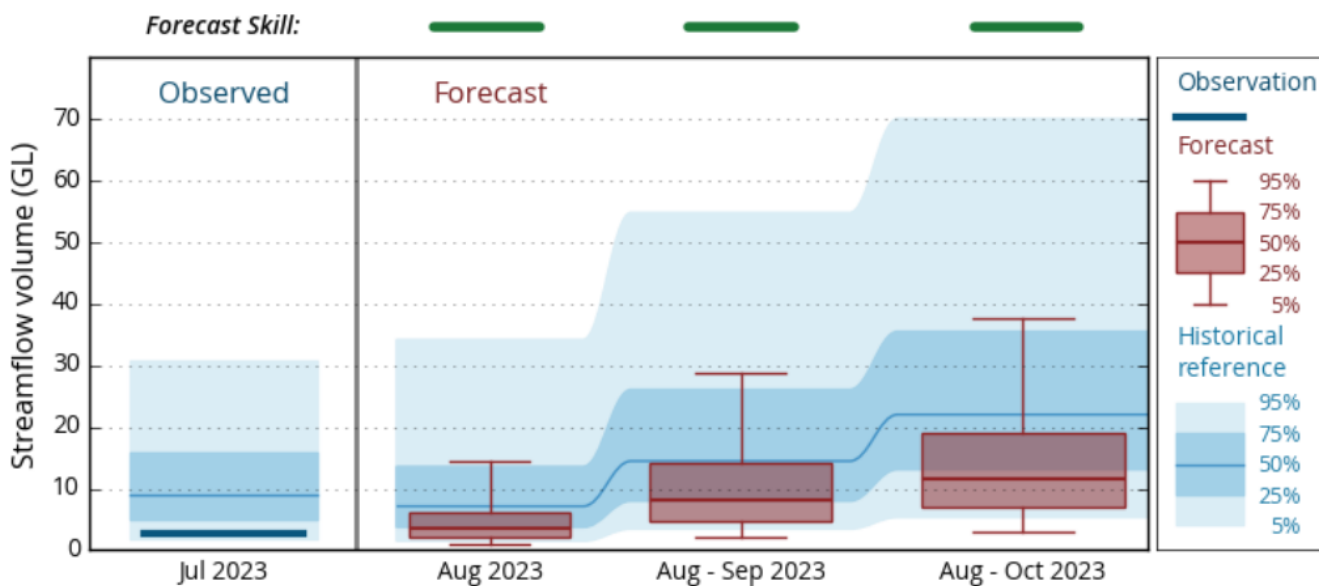
The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for September to November indicates that rainfall shows no clear indication of wetter or drier than median condition for the catchment. Minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the same period. For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau also issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Hunter River upstream of Glenbawn Dam at Moonam Dam Site (figure below). This may indicate potential future inflows into Glenbawn Dam. All forecast quartiles of total streamflow volumes from August 2023 to October 2023 are below historical volumes, indicating a potential for lower than historical storage inflows in this period.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9

Hunter River at Moonam Dam Site (ID: 210018)

Forecast for Aug 2023 – Oct 2023



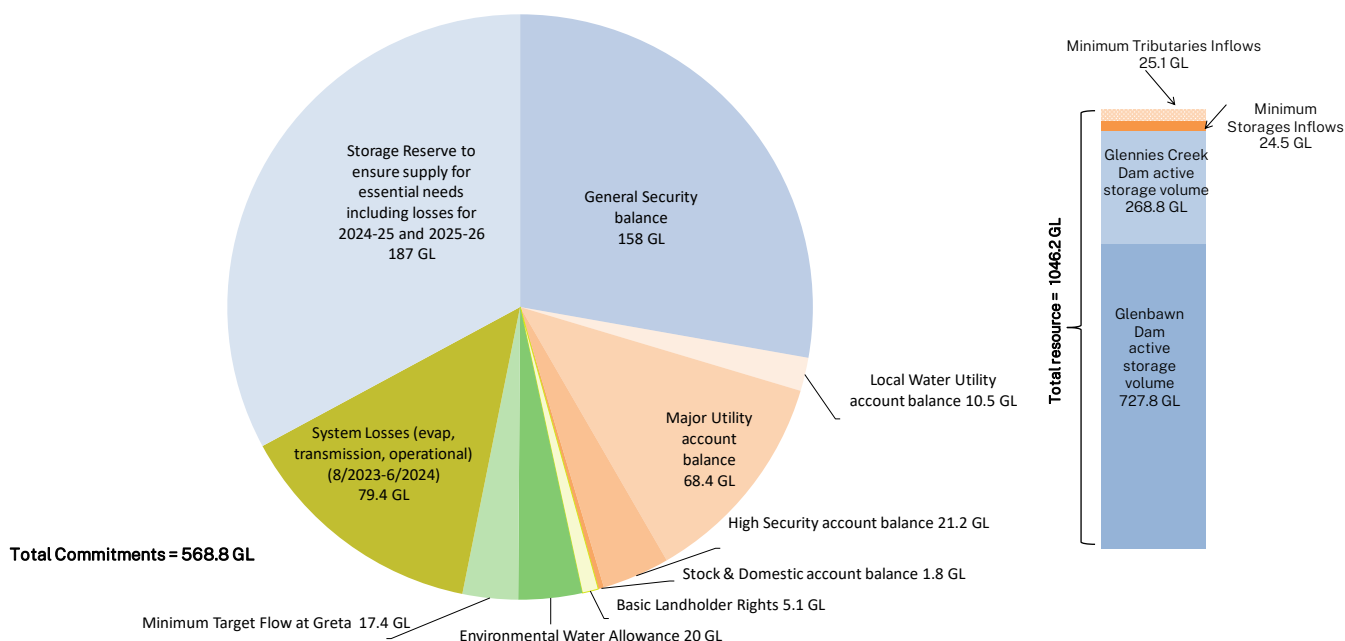
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (August 2023 to June 2026)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage (as at 1/8/23)		996.6
Minimum storage and tributary inflows (8/23 to 6/24) ¹		49.6
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	5.1	
Domestic and Stock	1.8	
Local Water Utility	10.5	
Major Utility	68.4	
Environmental Water Allowance	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta	17.4	
High Security	21.2	
Evaporation, transmission, operation losses (8/23 to 6/24)	79.4	
Storage Reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26 ²	187.0	
General Security (GS) balance ³	158.0	
<i>Equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) ⁴		477.4

Notes:

- (1) Minimum historical dam inflows (24.5 GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (25.1 GL) from August 2023 to June 2024.
- (2) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2024/25 and 2025/26. This is net of 135.3 GL minimum inflow budgeted for next two years. The essential requirements include two opening allocations of 75% to high security, 100% to all other higher priority licences and EWA.
- (3) 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.
- (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.

**Resource Distribution: August 2023 to June 2026
Hunter Regulated River Water Source**



Water Allocations in 2023/24

Table 1: Water allocation history for 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	2023/24 Cumulative
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Major 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	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 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 Hunter regulated river water source is available at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source will be published in three months (November 2023) or earlier if conditions change significantly.

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

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