

22 September 2023

Peel Regulated River Water Source and Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Peel regulated river water source nor the Peel alluvium groundwater source. This quarterly statement is to provide an update on the water sharing and the regulated river resource conditions.

All entitlements, including general security (GS) received their maximum allocations for the 2023/24 water year on 1 July 2023. At the same time, the environmental contingency allowance (ECA) was also credited in full 5 gigalitre (GL), in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Current allocation

2023/24	General Security Allocation	Average General Security Account Balance
Peel regulated river water source	100%*	approx. 99%

* Maximum allowable.

Key facts:

- Since 1 July, Chaffey Dam inflow was about 1.7 GL, and 1.8 GL was released over two months.
- Downstream tributary flows were about 5 GL to the end of August.
- Overall, the total resource used since 1 July has been about 1.5 GL, of which 1.1 GL has been used for town water supply.

Summary of last water year (2022/23)

Last year continued with generally wet conditions. Chaffey Dam remained full, periodically spilling throughout the water year. General security entitlement in the Peel regulated system started the year with the maximum 100% allocation. Overall wet conditions resulted in low water usage, with less than 10% of available irrigation water and just 46% of allocated town water being used. Unused water in accounts is forfeited at the end of each water year and re-distributed in priority order at the start of each year (1 July) in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Storage levels (as at 22 September 2023)

- Chaffey Dam is currently 99.6% full – holding about 100 GL.

Climate Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for October to December indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median for the Peel valley. Minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the same period. For further details:

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

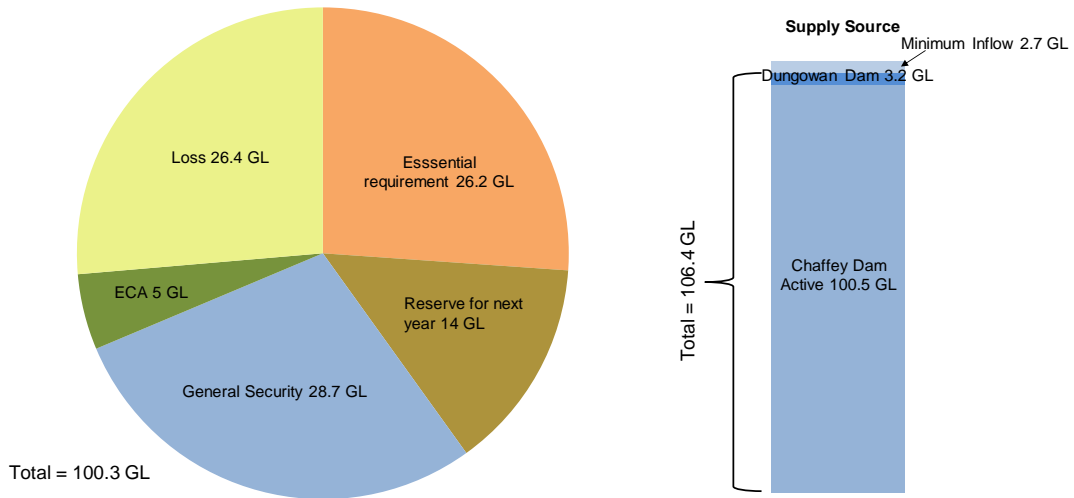
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 August 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	106.4
<i>less</i>	
Essential Supplies (9/23 to 6/24) ⁽²⁾	26.2
Reserve for 2024/25 ⁽³⁾	14.0
General security balance	28.7
ECA balance	5.0
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁴⁾	26.4
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	6.1

Notes:

- (1) Chaffey Dam volume above dead storage, Dungowan Dam volume above 50% and minimum inflow expected to June 2024.
- (2) Water set aside to provide for basic landholder rights, domestic and stock (D&S), local water utility (LWU), high security (HS) and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. D&S entitlements have been allocated 100%, LWU entitlements have been allocated 100%, and HS entitlements have been allocated 100% for the current water year.
- (3) Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation of 2024/25 under the water sharing plan (WSP) obligation at the repeat of the worst drought known at the commencement of the WSP. The reserve includes basic landholder rights, 70% domestic and stock, 70% local water utility, 50% high security and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. This also considers minimum inflow expected next year offset by evaporation over 2024/25.
- (4) Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is budgeted to deliver water orders based on current conditions and forecasts. ECA water delivery is measured at the dam wall thus incurs no transmission loss.
- (5) All categories of water licences (including general security) in the Peel regulated river water source have been fully allocated this 2023/24 water year. The surplus adds to future water security.

Resource Distribution as at 31 August 2023 Peel Regulated River Water Source



The history of allocations in the 2023/24 water year is shown in the tables below.

Table 1. Water Allocations for the Peel 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*

* Maximum allowable

Table 2. Water Allocations for the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
1-Jul	Aquifer (general security)	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*

* Maximum allowable

Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Peel regulated river water source is available at the following link.

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process>

Further information

As water allocations for the 2023/24 water year have reached their maximum limit, regular allocation announcements have ceased. However, conditions will continue to be monitored and a water allocation statement will be issued if there are any significant changes to resource availability or outlook. The next water allocation statement for this water source will be published in December 2023.

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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