

21 December 2022

Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is sufficient resource available to top-up general security B class access licences to their full account limit with an allocation of 0.50 megalitre per unit share (ML/unit share).

The resource assessment has identified a surplus of 33,112 megalitres (ML) available for distribution by NSW. The water sharing plan allows for the top-up of general security (B class) entitlements. Despite continued wet conditions, there has been some minor use of regulated water from some general security (B class) accounts. This assessment shows that an allocation of 50% of entitlement (0.50 ML/unit share), requiring 6,745 ML, will fill all general security (B class) accounts to their maximum allowable account limit of 100%. Note that once an account balance reaches the maximum 100% (1.00 ML/unit share) it cannot benefit further from the allocation.

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 as conditions remain effectively unchanged.

Current allocations

2022/23	High Security	General Security (A Class)	General Security (B Class)
Border Rivers	100%*	100%*	207%

* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan

Storage levels (as at 20 December 2022)

- Pindari Dam is 100% full – holding a little more than its full capacity of 312 gigalitres (GL).
- Glenlyon Dam is 99% full – holding about 252 GL.

Key facts

- Continued wet conditions and healthy inflows in 2022 have enabled both Pindari and Glenlyon dams to remain full or near full.
- All higher priority licence categories are at their maximum allocations for this water year.
- General security (A class) users have received their maximum allocations for this water year.
- Supplementary access licence holders received a reduced allocation on 1 July 2022 as a result of growth-in-use measures, however; the implementation of floodplain harvesting licences in August 2022 enabled a further 0.26 ML/unit share on 15 August 2022, bringing their total allocation for the 2022/23 water year to the maximum allowable 100% of entitlement.
- Supplementary water usage has been about very low, just 5 GL, so far this water year or about 4% of entitlement.

Seasonal climate outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for January 2023 to March 2023 shows no clear indication of wet or dry conditions across the catchment. Maximum and minimum temperatures also show no clear indication of warmer or cooler than median conditions across the catchment.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/

NSW Border Rivers resource assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources	Volume (ML)	Volume (ML)
Surplus as of 26 Sep 2022 ⁽¹⁾		33,112
New allocation General Security (B class) accounts ⁽²⁾	6,745	
Surplus as of 21 Dec 2022 ⁽³⁾		26,367

Notes:

- (1) As a result of allocations made to general security (B class) in late September 2022, all accounts were at their maximum limit, with 33,112 ML 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.
- (3) As a result of allocations made to general security (B class) of 6,745 ML in this resource assessment, all accounts are at their maximum limit, with 26,367 ML surplus or uncommitted water remaining, contributing to future allocation reliability.

Regulated Border Rivers water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	0.74 ML/unit share	0.74 ML/unit share	74%#
1-Jul	General Security (A class)	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
1-Jul	General Security (B class)	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	100%
15-Aug	Supplementary	0.26 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	100% [^] *
26-Sep	General Security (B class)	0.57 ML/unit share	1.57 ML/unit share	100% [@]
21-Dec	General Security (B class)	0.50 ML/unit share	2.07 ML/unit share	100% [@]

* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan.

Reduced on 1 July 2022 due to the implementation of growth-in-use rules.

[^] Increased to maximum allowable of 100% in 2022/23 due to implementation of floodplain harvesting licences.

[@] Small volume of new allocation to top-up accounts to 100% of entitlement.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has 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

Further information

The next Border Rivers water allocation statement will be published in late **March 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

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