

13 April 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 or the Peel alluvium groundwater source. This quarterly statement is to provide an update on the water sharing and the regulated resource conditions.

All entitlements, including general security (GS) received their maximum allocations for the 2022/23 water year on 1 July 2022. At the same time, the environmental contingency allowance (ECA) was also credited in full 5 gigalitre (GL).

Current allocation

2022/23	General Security	General Security Average Account Balance
Peel regulated river water source	100%*	approx. 94%

* Maximum allowable.

Key facts:

- Inflow into Chaffey Dam was about 9.3 GL, and about 6.4 GL was released since the last water allocation statement was published in December.
- Downstream tributary flows total 84.7 GL in last four months.
- As at 12 April 2023, Chaffey Dam was 100% full, holding 102.5 GL of water.

Resource outlook for 2023/24

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2023 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that this forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local water utility, are secure for the 2023/24 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including **domestic and stock, local water utility and high security** can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- The allocation for **general security** entitlement holders and the **environmental contingency allowance (ECA)** account will depend on factors including inflows and usage for the remainder of this water year. The current early forecast is predicting the opening **general security** allocation could be as high as **80%**, subject to several assumptions.
- Aquifer (general security) and ECA will receive commensurate volumes related to the general security allocation.

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for May to July indicates below median rainfall for the Peel catchment. Additionally, maximum temperatures are likely to be above median for the catchment and there is no clear indication of either cooler than median or warmer than median conditions for the minimum temperatures.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

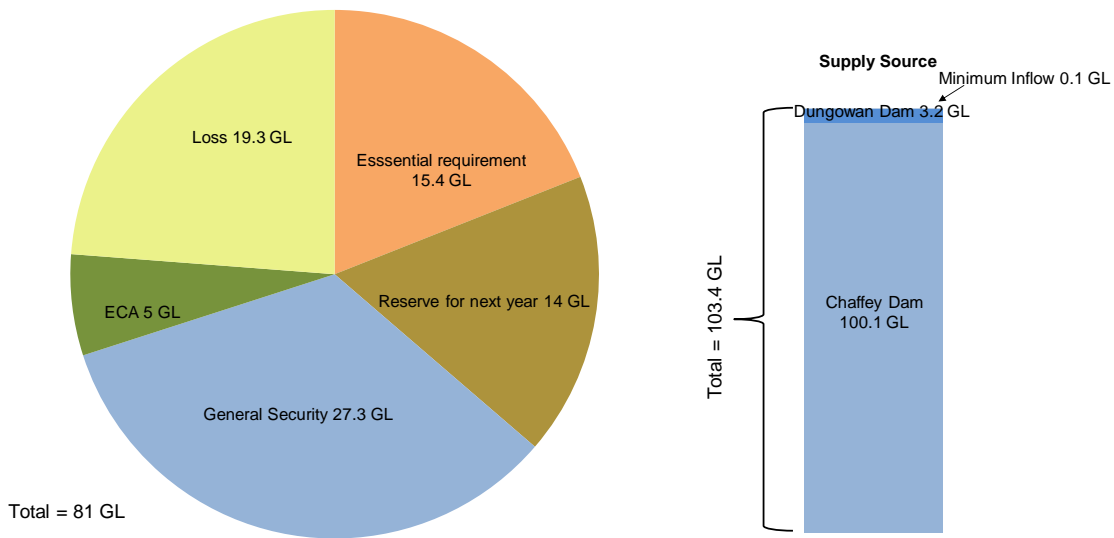
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 March 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	103.4
<i>less</i>	
Essential Supplies (4/23 to 6/23) ⁽²⁾	15.4
Reserve for 2023/24 ⁽³⁾	14.0
General security balance	27.3
ECA balance	5.0
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁴⁾	19.3
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	22.4

Notes:

- (1) Chaffey Dam volume above dead storage, Dungowan Dam volume above 50% and minimum inflow expected to June 2023.
- (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 2023/24 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 2023/24.
- (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 2022/23 water year. The surplus adds to future water security.

Resource Distribution (as at 31 March 2023)



The history of allocations in the 2022/23 water year is shown in the tables below.

Table 1. Water allocations for the Peel Regulated River Water Source in 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
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 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23
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: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

As water allocations for the 2022/23 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 the Peel regulated river water source and for the Peel alluvium groundwater source will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statements on 1 July 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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