

27 November 2023

# Hunter Regulated River Water Source

## Water availability and allocation update

The allocation to supplementary water access licenses in the Hunter regulated river water source has been increased by 30% of entitlement, in accordance with the water sharing plan. This brings the allocation to a total of 130% of entitlement for the current water year. The cumulative high flow tally at Greta to the end of October was 50,052 megalitres (ML), which is greater than the 36,389 ML threshold and underpins this allocation increase. Supplementary water access licenses can receive up to a maximum 200% allocation in a water-year if there are sufficient flows. The current average usage of supplementary water this year is relatively low at about 15% of entitlement.

All other licence categories were fully allocated on 1 July 2023 and remain unchanged, including the environmental water allowance (EWA) which received its maximum 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.

## Current allocations for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2023/24
Domestic and Stock	100%
Local Water and Major Utilities	100%
High Security	100%
General Security	100%
Supplementary	130%

## Storage levels (as at 26 November 2023)

- Glenbawn Dam is about 95% full – holding about 709 GL.

- Glennies Creek Dam is about 92% full – holding about 262 GL.

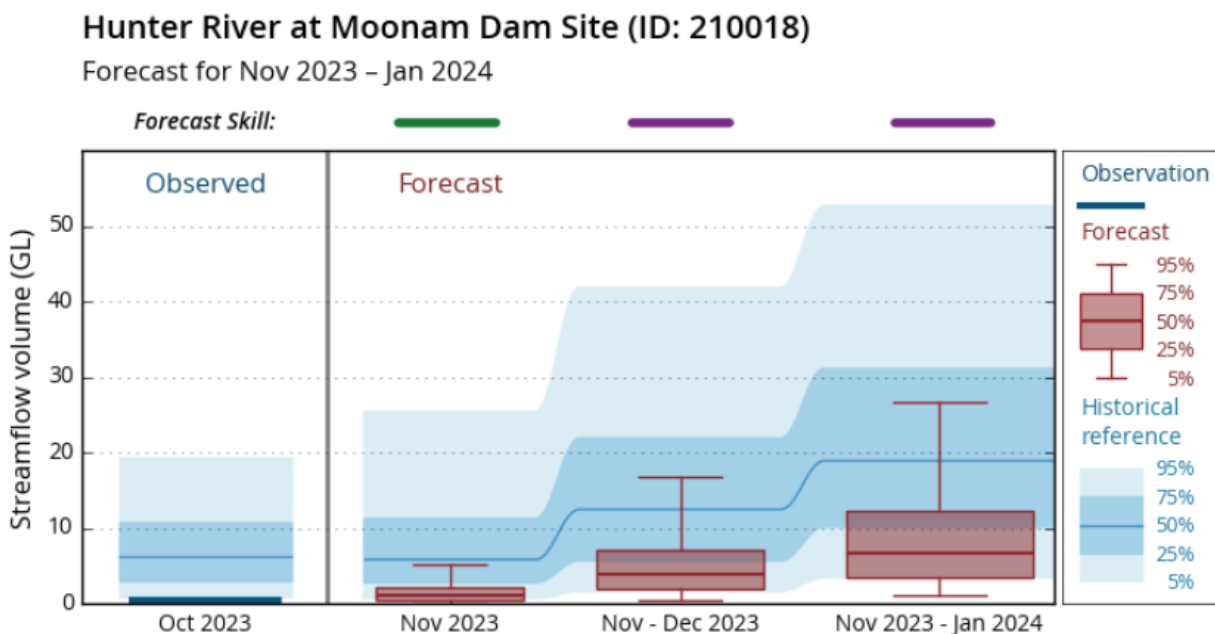
## Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for December 2023 to February 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below average across the catchment. Minimum and maximum temperatures are very likely to be above average for the same period.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://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 indicates that potential future inflows into Glenbawn Dam are likely to be lower than historically for the forecast quartile November 2023 to January 2024.

Details can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product\\_type=FC\\_9](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9)

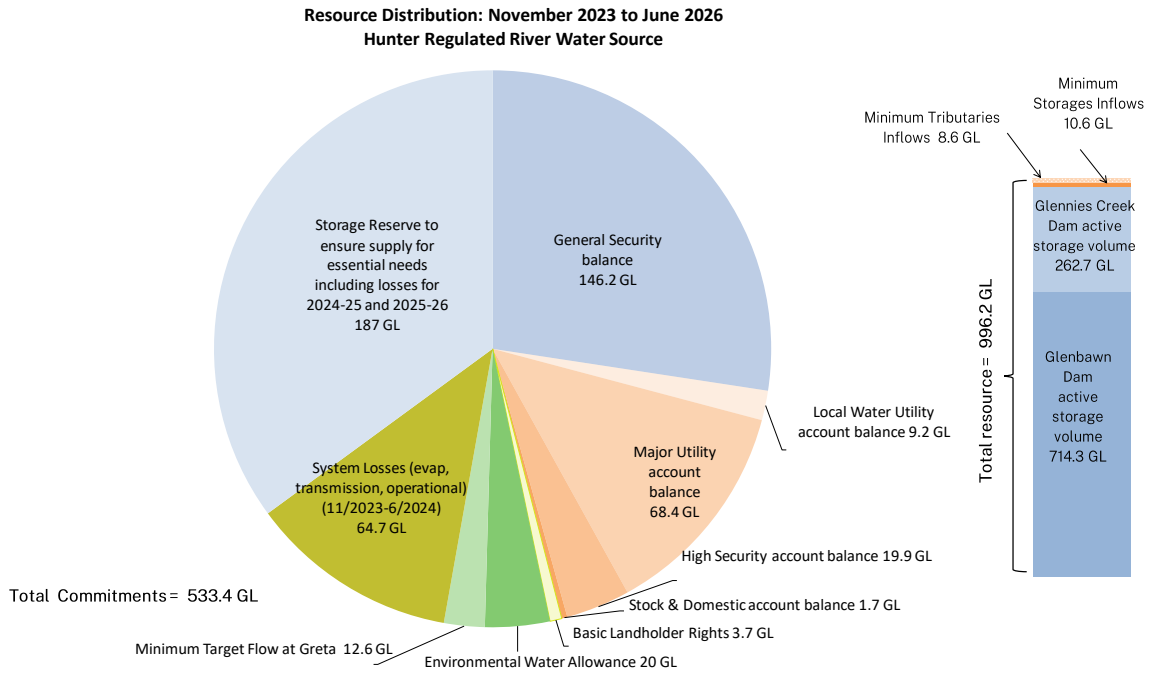


## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (November 2023 to June 2026)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage (as at 1/11/23)		977.0
Minimum storage and tributary inflows (11/23 to 6/24) <sup>1</sup>		19.2
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	3.7	
Domestic and Stock	1.7	
Local Water Utility	9.2	
Major Utility	68.4	
Environmental Water Allowance	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta	12.6	
High Security	19.9	
Evaporation, transmission, operation losses (11/23 to 6/24)	64.7	
Storage Reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26 <sup>2</sup>	187.0	
General Security (GS) balance <sup>3</sup>	146.2	
<i>Equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>4</sup>		462.8

### Notes:

- <sup>(1)</sup> Minimum historical dam inflows (10.6 GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (8.6 GL) from November 2023 to June 2024.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Water required to be set aside in reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2024/25 and 2025/26. This is net of minimum reservoir 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.
- <sup>(3)</sup> 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.
- <sup>(4)</sup> 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.



## 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*
27-Nov	Supplementary	0.30 ML/unit share	1.30 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: [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/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 (mid-late February 2024) 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: [water.dpie.nsw.gov.au](http://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au)

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