

7 August 2024

Peel Regulated River Water Source and Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Water allocation update

There has been a significant improvement in water availability since the opening water allocation on 1 July 2024. This has resulted the following water allocation increases:

- General security allocation to **increase by 40%** of entitlement, resulting their maximum annual allocation of 100% for the current water year.
- Environmental Contingency Allowance (EWA) to **increase by 40%** of entitlement, resulting its maximum annual volume of 5 gigalitres (GL).
- Peel alluvium aquifer general security allocation to **increase by 19.6%** of entitlement, resulting their maximum annual allocation of 100% for the current water year.

Since July 1st, the inflow into Chaffey Dam has totalled approximately 13 GL, while the release from the dam has been around 0.2 GL. Additionally, the inflow from tributaries downstream of Chaffey Dam during the same period amounted to approximately 30 GL.

Current allocation

| 7 August 2024 | Allocation Increment | Average Account Balance |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| General Security (GS) | 40% | 27 GL |
| Environment Water Allowance (EWA) | 40% | 5 GL |

Storage levels (as of 5 August 2024)

- Chaffey Dam is currently 98.3% full – holding around 101.2 GL.

Summary of last water year (2023/24)

The 2023/24 water year experienced balanced conditions, neither particularly wet nor dry. Chaffey Dam remained above 80% full on average throughout the year. All licence categories, including the general security entitlement, in the Peel regulated river water source started 2023/24 with their maximum 100% allocation. Moderate water consumptions were observed. Unused water volumes in all accounts were forfeited at the end of the water year and re-distributed in priority order on 1 July 2024 in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Climate Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August 2024 to October 2024 indicates that rainfall in the Peel valley is likely to be around median. Over this period, maximum temperatures and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in the catchment.

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

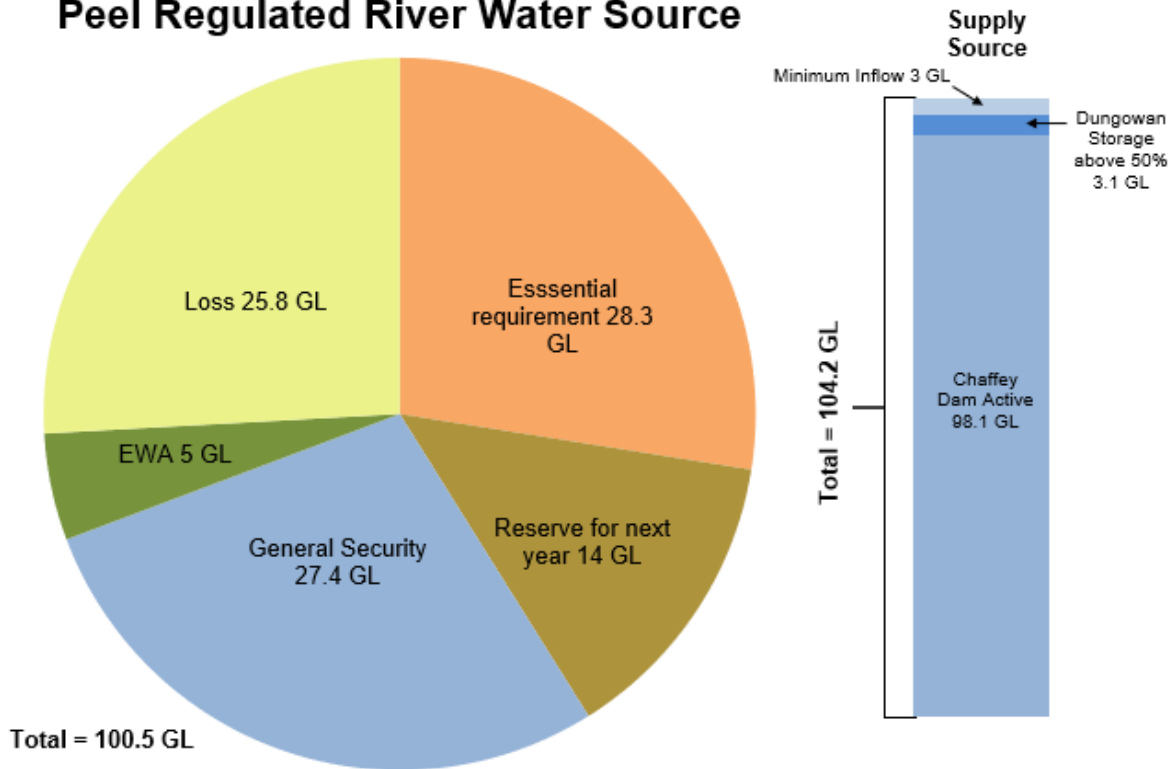
Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| Resource Distribution (as at 31 July 2024) | Volume (GL) |
|---|-------------|
| Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾ | 104.2 |
| <i>less</i> | |
| Essential Supplies (08/24 to 06/25) ⁽²⁾ | 28.3 |
| Reserve for 2025/26 ⁽³⁾ | 14.0 |
| General security balance | 27.4 |
| EWA balance | 5.0 |
| Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁴⁾ | 25.8 |
| <i>equals</i> | |
| Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾ | 3.7 |

Notes:

- (1) Chaffey Dam active storage, Dungowan Dam volume above 50% full and minimum inflow expected to June 2025.
- (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, LWU entitlements, and HS entitlements have all been allocated 100% for the current water year.
- (3) Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation of 2025/26 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 2025/26.
- (4) Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is budgeted to deliver water orders based on current conditions and forecasts. EWA water delivery is measured at the dam wall thus incurs no transmission loss.
- (5) All categories of water license (including general security) in the Peel regulated river water source have been fully allocated this 2024/25 water year. The surplus adds to future water security.

Resource Distribution as at 31 July 2024 Peel Regulated River Water Source



The history of allocations in the 2024/25 water year is shown in the tables below.

Table 1. Water Allocations for the Peel Regulated River Water Source in 2024/25

| Date | License Category | Increment | Total 2024/25 |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 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 | EWA | 60% | 60% |
| 1-Jul | General Security | 0.60 ML/unit share | 0.60 ML/unit share |
| 7-Aug | EWA | 40% | 100% |
| 7-Aug | General Security | 0.40 ML/unit share | 1.00 ML/unit share* |

* Maximum allowable

Table 2. Water Allocations for the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source in 2024/25

| Date | License Category | Increment | Total 2024/25 |
|-------|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1-Jul | Aquifer (general security) | 0.804 ML/unit share | 0.804 ML/unit share |
| 7-Aug | Aquifer (general security) | 0.196 ML/unit share | 1.00 ML/unit share* |

* Maximum allowable

Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the link below.

For further details: [Resource assessment process](#) | [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Further information

All entitlements at these water sources have reached their maximum annual allocation. Routine publication of water allocation statement will cease. There may be intermittent publications during the water year to update resource status.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [Water \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Subscribe [here](#) to receive Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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