

24 May 2023

Border Rivers Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

There is sufficient resource available to provide general security (B class) access licences with an allocation of 0.02 megalitre per unit share (ML/unit share) or 2% of entitlement.

The water sharing plan allows for the top-up of general security (B class) licenses as accounts draw down below their 100% limit and when more unassigned water is available. This assessment finds that 3,790 ML can be distributed now without risk to higher priority commitments on 1 July.

Current allocations

2022/23	High Security	General Security (A Class)	General Security (B Class)
NSW Border Rivers	100%*	100%*	221%

* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan

Resource outlook for 2023/24

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local water utility licenses are secure for the 2023/24 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including **local water utility, stock and domestic** and **high security** can expect full (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- Water held in general security (A and B class) accounts accrues on a continuous basis and is carried forward into the new water year. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.0 ML/share (or 100% of entitlement).
- Depending upon water availability, **general security (A class)** users may receive a small allocation on 1 July to add to the unused account balance carried forward.
- No opening allocation to **general security (B class)** is envisaged. Allocation to general security (B class) licenses can only occur once general security (A class) allocations have reached 100%. However, full access to account balances carried forward into the new year will be available.
- Post 1 July, regular resource assessments will continue, and any new allocation to general security users will be announced in routine allocation statements.
- Floodplain Harvesting water access licence holders can expect full (100%) allocation on 1 July.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can expect full (100%) allocation on 1 July, however, access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow events.

Water users are advised that this allocation outlook is indicative only and should be used with caution. It aims to broadly guide water users with their end of year water management decisions. Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water can forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2023.

Storage levels (as at 23 May 2023)

- Pindari Dam is about 86% full, holding about 267 gigalitres (GL).
- Glenlyon Dam is about 98% full, holding about 248 GL.

Key facts

- 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.
- Full supplementary access allocations have been announced but there has been limited supplementary water usage; just over 11 GL so far this water year or about 9.5% of entitlement.
- Pindari Dam experienced inflow greater than 1,200 ML/day in April 2023. This means That the pre-condition for releasing stimulus flow in the period August to November has been met.

Seasonal climate outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for June to August shows likely below median rainfall conditions across the catchment. Also, daytime and night-time temperatures are likely to be warmer than median conditions across the catchment.

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

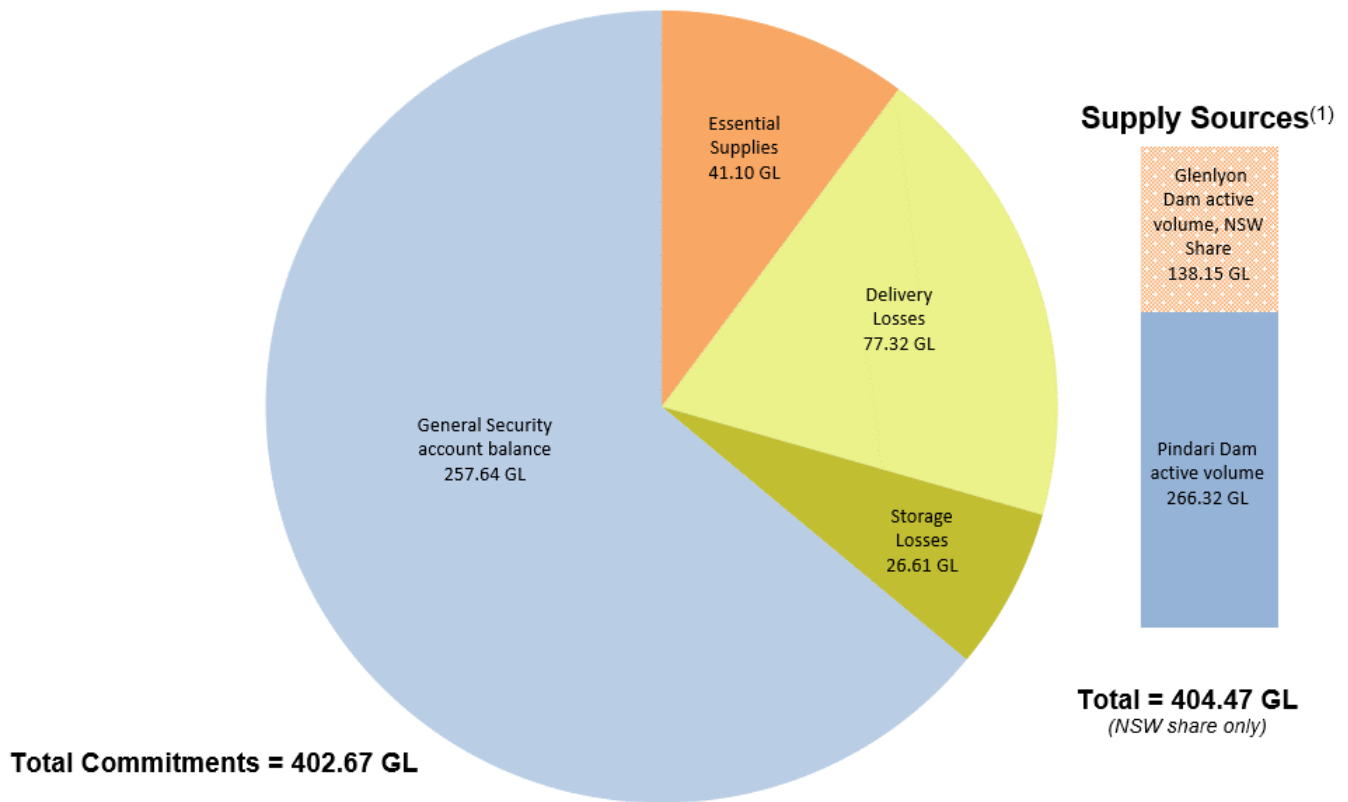
NSW Border Rivers resource assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (1 May 2023)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Pindari Dam active volume ⁽¹⁾		266.32
Glenlyon Dam active volume (NSW share) ⁽¹⁾		138.15
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	26.61	
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	41.10	
General Security account balance (before new allocation) ⁽⁴⁾	253.85	
General Security delivery Loss (before new allocation) (30%) ⁽⁵⁾	76.18	
General Security (B class) new allocation volume ⁽⁶⁾	3.79	
General Security (B class) delivery Loss (for new allocation) (30%)	1.14	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁷⁾		1.80

Notes:

- (1) This is the active volume of Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, at the date of the assessment (1/5/23). In accordance with the *New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008* NSW has access to 57% of net inflows into Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Evaporation loss from both storages. This is based on forecast storage depletion over the next 24 months.
- (3) Water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for domestic, stock, towns, high security, replenishment, stimulus release (4GL), delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage.
- (4) The general security (A class) plus general security (B class) account balance is exclusive of further allocations made to general security (B class) in this resource assessment. This account balance includes 2.806 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. The HEW volume is indicative only pending reconciliation of usage and net trade. These environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW environmental water holder – Environment and Heritage Group (EHG), and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) Budgeted general security (A and B class) delivery losses for the account balances (prior to the new allocation to general security (B class) licences in this assessment).
- (6) The volume of water allocated to general security (B class) this time as a result of this resource assessment.
- (7) There is a small surplus remaining. This surplus will provide some further water security. High priority commitments in this system are secure for at least the next 24 months.

Distribution of NSW Border Rivers Resources – May 2023



NSW Border Rivers water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Average 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%*
31-Mar	General Security (B class)	0.12 ML/unit share	2.19 ML/unit share	86%
24-May	General Security (B class)	0.02 ML/unit share	2.21 ML/unit share	86%

* 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.

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 water allocation statement for the NSW Border Rivers Regulated River Water 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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