

28 April 2023

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

This quarterly statement provides information on the current water sharing and regulated resource conditions and an outlook for the opening allocations on 1 July 2023 for the 2023/24 water year.

Allocations for the current 2022/23 water year **remain unchanged** as all entitlements, including general security, received their maximum allocation for the year on 1 July 2022.

Supplementary licence holders received their maximum allocation (200% of the entitlement) for the current water year in September 2022 and the current usage of supplementary account is about 81% of entitlement. All other licences, including general security (GS), received their maximum (100%) allocation for the 2022/ 23 water year on 1 July 2022.

Current allocations for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2022/23
Domestic and Stock	100%*
Local Water and Major Utilities	100%*
High Security	100%*
General Security	100%*
Supplementary	200%*

* maximum allowable under the Hunter regulated river water sharing plan

Resource outlook for 2023/24

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2023 water availability is based on several assumptions, therefore water users should use this forecast information with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs are secure for 2023/24.
- All higher priority water access licence holders including, major utility, local water utility, domestic & stock and high security can expect a maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2023.
- The environmental water allowance will be credited with 20 gigalitres (GL) in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Unused water in accounts can be carried forward from the 2022/23 water year into the 2023/24 water year on 1 July 2023, subject to allowable limits, in accordance with the rules of the water sharing plan and will be fully deliverable in 2023/24.

- The allocation for general security entitlement holders will depend on factors including inflows and usage for the remainder of this water year. Indications suggest a high opening general security allocation is likely, potentially up to 100% of entitlement.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can expect a 100% allocation 1 July 2023 however access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow events.

Water users are reminded to check their account limits and the carryover provisions for their entitlements, noting the risk of any forfeiture of water from accounts at the end of the water year.

Water users are advised that the outlook is indicative only, may change, and should be used with caution, particularly when projecting months ahead. Nevertheless, it aims to help water users with their end of year water management decisions.

Storage levels (as at 26 April 2023)

- Glenbawn Dam is about 99% full – holding about 746 GL.
- Glennies Creek Dam is about 97% full – holding about 276 GL.

Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

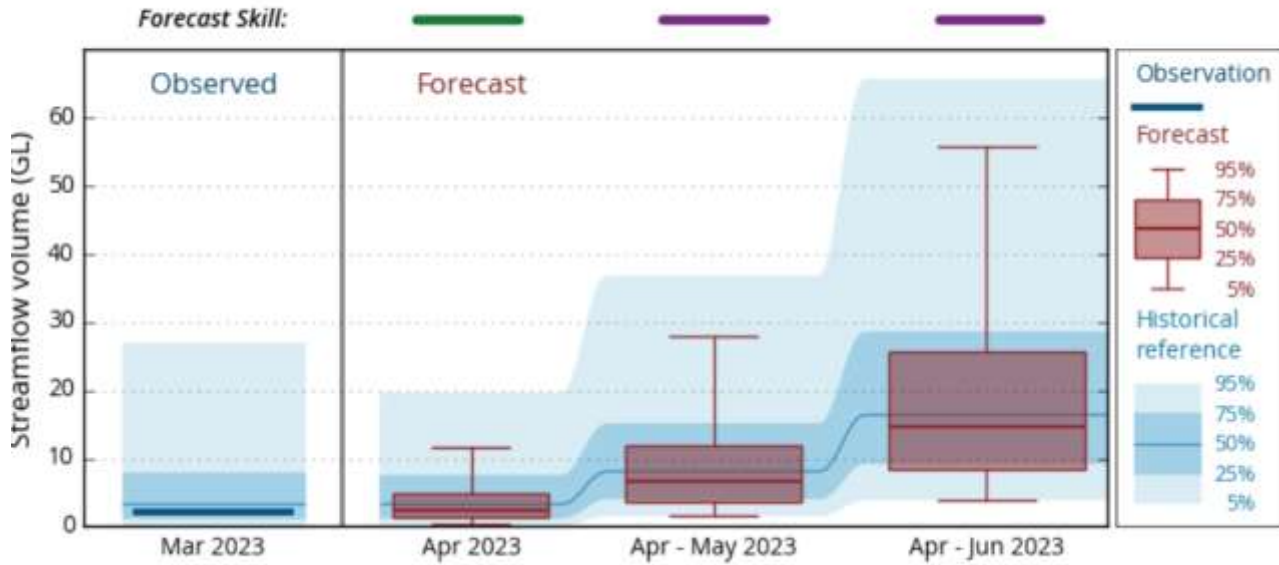
The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that rainfall is likely to be below median across the catchment. Minimum and maximum temperatures are likely to be above median. Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau also issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Hunter River upstream of Glenbawn Dam at Moonam Dam Site (see the figure below). This may indicate potential future inflows into Glenbawn Dam. All forecast quartiles of total streamflow volumes from April 2023 to June 2023 are below historical volumes, indicating a potential for lower than historical storage inflows in this period.

Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9

Hunter River at Moonnam Dam Site (ID: 210018)

Forecast for Apr 2023 – Jun 2023



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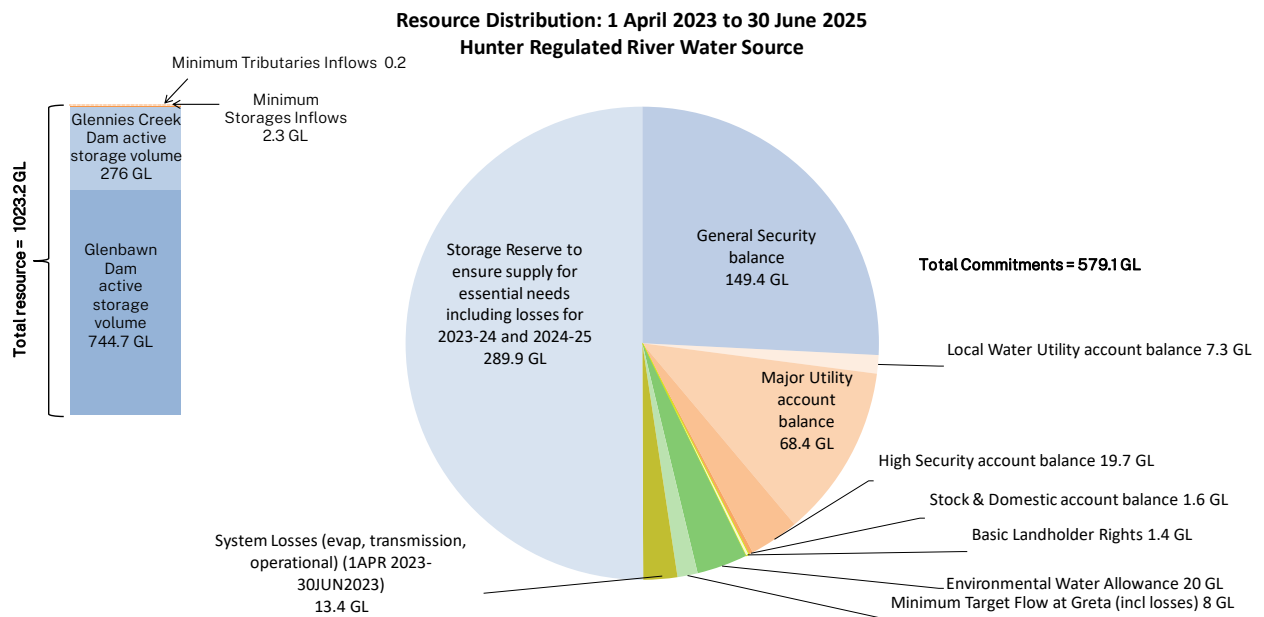
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Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (1 April 2023 to 30 June 2025)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage (as at 1/4/2023)		1,020.7
Minimum storage and tributary inflows (4/23 to 6/23) ¹		2.5
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	1.4	
Domestic and Stock	1.6	
Local Water Utility	7.3	
Major Utility	68.4	
Environmental Water Allowance	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta	8.0	
High Security	19.7	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) (4/23 to 6/23)	13.4	
Storage Reserve for 2023/24 ²	162.8	
Storage Reserve for 2024/25 ³	127.1	
General Security (GS) balance ⁴	149.4	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) ⁵		444.1

Notes:

- (1) Minimum historical dam inflows (2.3 GL) from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023 and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (0.2 GL) from 1 April 2023 to 30 June 2023.
- (2) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2023/24. Calculated as: system losses of 60.7 GL plus Essential Requirements of 154.8 GL minus 52.7 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the first 12 months of the 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2023. Essential Requirements includes 75% High Security opening allocation and 100% to all other higher priority licences.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2024/25. Calculated as: system losses of 54.9 GL plus Essential Requirements of 154.8 GL minus 82.6 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the second 12 months of the 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2024. Essential Requirements include minimum 75% High Security opening allocation and 100% to all other higher priority licences.
- (4) 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.
- (5) 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 2022/23

Table 1: Water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	2022/23 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

Date	License Category	Increment	2022/23 Cumulative
1-Jul	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
21-Sep	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	2.00 ML/unit share*

* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan.

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 Hunter 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 Hunter 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 NSW Department of Planning and Environment website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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