

17 July 2020

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Allocation update

This is the first Water Allocation Statement after the opening 1 July 2020 allocations for the 2020-21 water year were announced. There is no change to allocations from this latest assessment.


High Security water access licence holders received an allocation of 90 per cent of entitlement and General Security water access licence holders received an allocation of 30 per cent of entitlement on 1 July 2020. All other categories of licence in the Hunter Regulated River Water Source (except the alluvial water sources that are dependent on the regulated high security allocation) received their maximum allocation for the 2020-21 water year.

Rainfall in June 2020 was average in the Hunter catchment. Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam received about 36 mm and 48 mm of rainfall respectively in June 2020. Net inflow into Glenbawn Dam was 5,181 ML in June 2020 and into Glennies Creek Dam it was 1,018 ML.

All high priority needs along with allocated general security water are estimated secure until at least June 2022. The resource assessment at this time of year extends the assessment horizon by another 12 months. The extension shows that additional inflow of 13 GL (refer graph), in excess of the minimum budgeted, will be needed to secure all high priority commitments to June 2023.

There is **no increase to High Security or General Security allocation at this time**. They remain unchanged at 90 per cent and 30 per cent of entitlement, respectively.

Current allocations

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Hunter Regulated River Water Source	90%	30%	 Stage 1

Dam levels (as at 17 July 2020)

Glenbawn Dam is about 39 per cent full – rising – holding about 292 gigalitre (GL). It was about 51 per cent full at this time last year.

Glennies Creek Dam is about 37 per cent full – steady – holding about 105 GL. It was about 52 per cent full at this time last year.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Hunter regulated river water source is in Stage 1 - meaning normal regulated river operations.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal rainfall outlook for September to November shows a good chance of exceeding median rainfall conditions. Day time temperatures are likely to be above average and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. However, the ENSO outlook is at La Niña WATCH, indicating that the chance of La Niña forming in 2020 is around 50% - about double the average likelihood. La Niña typically increases the chance of above average rainfall across much of Australia during spring.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Further information

Water Allocation Statements for the Hunter regulated river water source are usually only published annually on 1 July when full allocations have been granted, or quarterly if there is a possibility of an allocation increase. More recently, due the drying conditions, uncertain outlooks and reduced allocations, statements have been published monthly.

Due to the reduced allocations on 1 July 2020, the Hunter statements will continue to be updated monthly throughout the 2020-21 water year. The next water allocation announcement will therefore be in late August 2020.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

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

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage volume ⁽¹⁾ (as at 1 July 2020)		393
Minimum storage & tributary inflows (7/20 to 6/21) ⁽²⁾		53
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	6	
Domestic and Stock 100%	2	
Local Water Utility 100%	11	
Major utility carryover	32	
Major Utility 2020-21 allocation (100%)	36	
Environmental Water Allowance (100%)	20	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta	20	
HS (2020-21 allocation of 90% + carry over) max 100%	22	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation)	57	
Storage Reserve for 2021-22 ⁽³⁾	107	
Storage Reserve for 2022-23 ⁽⁴⁾	77	
GS carryover	31	
GS 2020-21 allocation (30%)	39	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾		(13)

Notes:

- (1) Available Resource in the dams – is the total active storage volume in Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam combined as at 1 July 2020.
- (2) Minimum forecast dam inflows (26.9 GL) and minimum forecast usable tributary inflows (25.8 GL) from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses of 107.3 GL in 2021-22 (after accounting for the first 12 months of the 24-month minimum combined inflows starting 1 July 2021 of at least 52.7 GL in 2021-22). The essential supplies (107.3 GL) include 75% allocation to High Security as a minimum requirement of the WSP CI 29 & 48.
- (4) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses of 77.4 GL in 2022-23 (after accounting for the second 12 months of the 24-month minimum combined inflows starting 1 July 2021 of at least 82.6 GL in 2022-23). The essential supplies (77.4 GL) include 75% allocation to High Security as a minimum requirement of the WSP CI 29 & 48.
- (5) Surplus or deficit of water after accounting for all commitments. The deficit of 13 GL signifies the additional water required to secure the system to June 2023. There will be no deficit during 2020, 2021 or 2022, if budgeted minimum inflow arrives.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023 Hunter Regulated River Water Source

