

27 September 2019

NSW Border Rivers

Water allocation update

Allocations for general security entitlements in the NSW Border Rivers water source remain **unchanged at zero percent**.

Although all high priority licences in the regulated river system have received their maximum allocation for the 2019-20 water year and general security A Class and B Class water access licence holders can access 50 per cent of their carryover account balance at 1 July 2019, deliverability of this water is challenging. Only rainfall and inflows will assist deliverability and allows restrictions to be eased.

The temporary water restriction can be viewed at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions

The catchment has been experiencing extreme dry conditions, particular over the last six months. There has been a total of around 30 gigalitres (GL) flow into Pindari and Glenlyon storages over the past year, equalling the worst inflow period on record.

Following the current release from Glenlyon Dam to replenish town weir pools ahead of summer, the remaining water in storages will be held for critical purposes while we wait for rainfall.

2019-20	High Security	General Security A Class	General Security B Class	Drought Stage
NSW Border Rivers	100%	0%	0%	 Stage 4

Dam levels (27 September 2019)

- Pindari Dam is currently 5 per cent full – steady – holding 15 GL. This compares with about 50 per cent at this time last year.
- Glenlyon Dam is currently 7 per cent full – falling – holding 19 GL. This compares with about 45 per cent 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. Last month, the NSW Border Rivers entered into maximum Stage 4 critical water shortage. Generally, as the drought deepens, tougher measures are needed to protect critical human needs.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for spring suggests a likely drier and warmer than average period through to at least December 2019.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to remain at neutral for the remainder of 2019. The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) remains a key climate driver for the coming months. A prolonged period of negative Southern Annual Mode (SAM) is also forecast. This typically acts to enhance the drier signal across parts of eastern Australia.

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

Further information

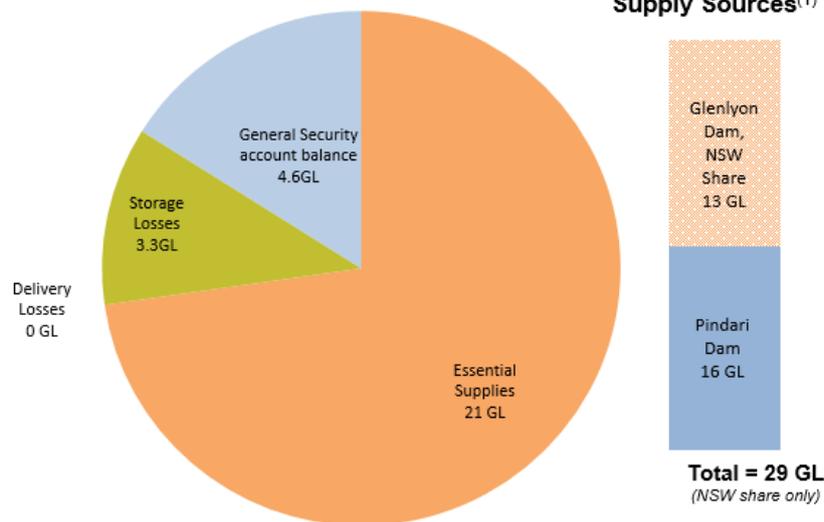
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

NSW Border Rivers Resource Assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 1 July 2019)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾		28.9
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	3.3	
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	21.0	
General security account balance ⁽⁴⁾	4.6	
General security delivery losses ⁽⁵⁾	0.0	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		0.0

See notes below

Distribution of NSW Resources as at 1 July 2019 NSW Border Rivers



Notes:

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, at the time of the assessment. In accordance with the *New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008* NSW has access to 57% of available resources in Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Storage evaporation loss 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, delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage.
- (4) The general security account balance is inclusive of about 0.9 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. The HEW volume is indicative only and prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) General security delivery losses – to be budgeted at 30 per cent to deliver the existing general security account water. Currently there is no water in this account. Zero balance means that water must be borrowed from other accounts to continue the delivery of general security water.

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