

9 March 2021

## Peel Regulated River Water Source and Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

### Water allocation update

The Peel regulated river catchment saw approximately average rainfall in February. This has produced a small improvement in resources that has allowed for the following:

- **Increase General Security (GS) allocation in the Peel regulated river water source by 4%**, resulting in a cumulative allocation of 24% for the current water year.
- **Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account also increases by the same percentage**, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- **Increase Aquifer General Security (Aquifer GS) allocation in the Peel alluvium groundwater source by 1.96%**, resulting in a cumulative allocation of 62.8% for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Peel regulated river water source have already received full allocations and remain unchanged.

### Announced water allocations for the Peel Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2020/21	Drought Stage
Local Water Utility	100%	
Domestic and Stock	100%	Stage 1
High Security	100%	
General Security	24%	
Environmental Contingency Allowance	1.2 GL	

### Announced water allocations for the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Access licence type	2020/21
Aquifer (general security)	62.8%

General security water users are reminded that under certain circumstances they can order and take water from uncontrolled flows (declared supplementary events) without a corresponding debit from their account.

## Drought stage

The Peel Regulated River catchment is in Drought Stage 1. The catchment returned to normal river operation in January and allocated water can be delivered under normal regulated river operations.

Further information on drought stages can be found at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought)

## Key facts

- As of 8 March, Chaffey Dam is holding approximately 44.8 gigalitres (GL) of water, about 42.2% full.
- With Chaffey Dam holding more than 20% capacity, Phase 1 of the authorisation under the *Water Supply Critical Needs Act 2019* is currently in place.
- Delivery of all allocated water, including usage for Tamworth, is secure for the next 24 months based on the budgeted minimum inflows.
- The Peel Regulated River catchment is currently being run under normal operations and order on-demand has resumed.

## Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for March to May indicates that the catchment is likely to be wetter than average. Maximum temperatures over this period show a higher chance of being below median maximum temperatures. Minimum temperatures for this period are likely to be above the long-term average across the catchment.

The Bureau of Meteorology's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook indicates that the La Niña event has passed its peak. However, impacts associated with La Niña, such as above-average rainfall, are expected to persist across eastern and northern Australia into autumn. Climate model outlooks indicate, however, that the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) will return to neutral during autumn.

Details can be found at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/)

## Further information

The department will continue to closely monitor water availability in the Peel regulated river water source and will produce monthly statements while conditions are improving. The next statement will be on **14 April 2021**, or earlier, if conditions change significantly beforehand.

From April 2021, the monthly statements will communicate potential water availability on 1 July 2021 for the 2021-22 water year for a range of inflow scenarios to assist water users to plan ahead for the new water year.

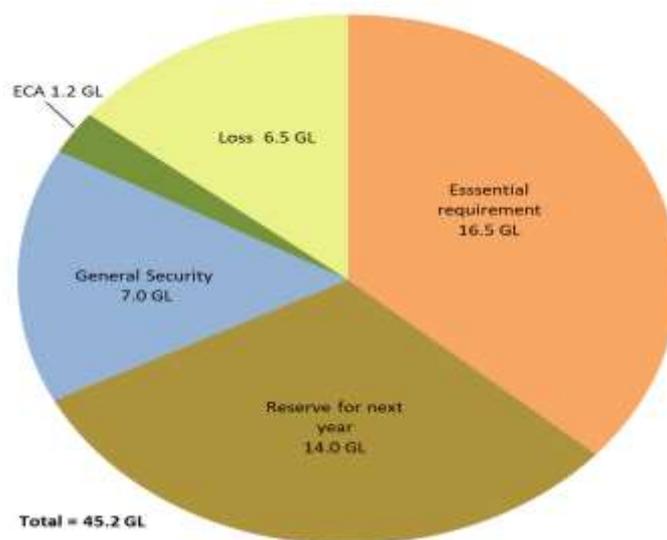
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 March 2021)	Volumes (GL)
Available Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	45.2
<b>less</b>	
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	16.5
Reserve for 2021-2022 <sup>(3)</sup>	14.0
General security balance	7.0
ECA balance <sup>(4)</sup>	1.2
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss <sup>(5)</sup>	6.5
<b>equals</b>	
Uncommitted Resources	0.0

See notes below.

**Resource Distribution (as at 1 March 2021)**



**Notes:**

- (1) Chaffey Dam above dead storage, Dungowan Dam above 50% and minimum inflow expected to June 2021.
- (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 have been allocated 100%, LWU entitlements have been allocated 100%, and HS entitlements have been allocated 100% for the current water year.
- (3) Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation of 2021-22 under the water sharing plan (WSP) obligation at the repeat of the worst drought since the implementation of the WSP. This 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 2021-22.
- (4) Total ECA account balance (GS allocation in ML/share multiplied by 5000).
- (5) Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is to run the river to deliver water orders based on current conditions and forecasts. ECA water delivery is measured at the dam wall therefore incurs no transmission loss.

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