

22 January 2020

NSW Border Rivers

Water allocation update

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

On 1 July 2019, 50% of carryover water in general security accounts was restricted while all high priority licences in the regulated river system received a full allocation for the 2019/20 water year. The current temporary water restriction in place can be viewed at this [link](#).

Lack of rain has severely restricted water availability. The valley is experiencing record dry conditions, and has been deteriorating particularly since early 2018. Both Pindari and Glenlyon storages are experiencing their lowest 18-month inflow period on record.

Over the span of three days last week some places across the catchment saw rainfall totals reaching up to 100mm. While helpful locally, river response and inflow into the main storages in response to this rainfall was minimal due to the prevailing extreme dry catchment conditions.

With rainfall forecast in January, and to protect potential natural flows from extraction, a temporary water restriction was announced to remain effective until the end of January. It affects water users including regulated river (general security and high security access licences) and unregulated river access licence holders accessing water. Details of the temporary water restriction can be viewed at this [link](#).

Remaining water in storages is being held for critical purposes. Just 13 megalitres per day is being released from Pindari Dam for Ashford town water supply.

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

Dam levels (21 January 2020)

- Pindari Dam is currently 4.1 per cent full – falling – holding 12.7 GL.
- Glenlyon Dam is currently 3.4 per cent full – falling – holding 8.6 GL.

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. The NSW Border Rivers water source escalated to maximum Stage 4 drought criticality in August 2019.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought>

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook to May shows no strong tendency towards wetter or drier than average conditions across the catchment. Both daytime and overnight temperatures are likely to be above average.

The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and the negative Southern Annular Mode (SAM) have ended, meaning most climate influences are now neutral.

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 Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

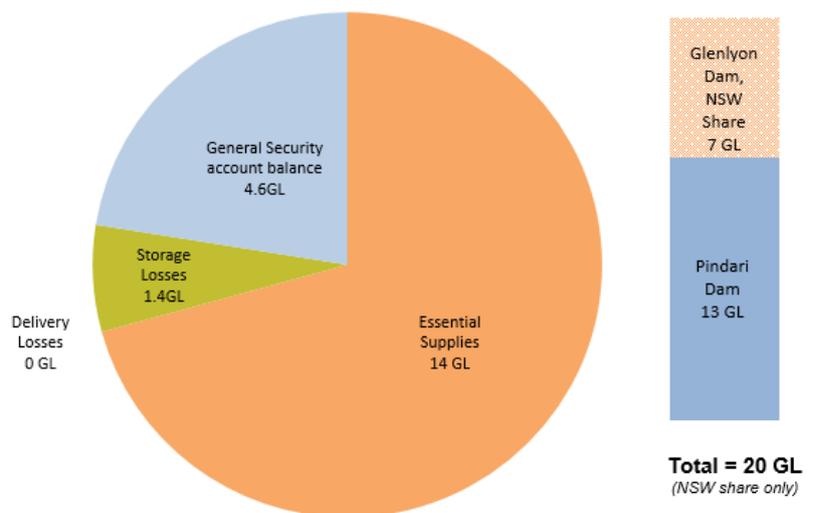


NSW Border Rivers Resource Assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 1 December 2019)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾		20.0
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	1.4	
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	14.0	
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 December 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 environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW environmental water holder - Environment, Energy and Science (EES), 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. No delivery is occurring under Stage 4 drought operations.