

14 April 2021

Peel Regulated River Water Source and Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Water allocation update

There have been significant improvements in water availability in the Peel catchment since the last resource assessment allowing for the following allocation increases:

- **General security allocation to increase by 37%** resulting in a total allocation of 61% for the current water year.
- **Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA)** account also increases by the same percentage, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- **Aquifer general security allocation to increase by 18.1%** resulting in a total allocation of 80.9% for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Peel Regulated River Water Source have been given full allocations and remain unchanged.

Table 1. 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	61%	
Environmental Contingency Allowance	3.0 GL	

Table 2. Announced Water Allocations for the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Access licence type	2020/21
Aquifer (general security)	80.9%

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

Water availability outlook 2021-22

This forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. This outlook for the likely 1 July 2021 water availability is conservatively based on assumed historical minimum inflows for the remainder of this water year and into the future.

- **Town water, domestic and stock, and high security** entitlements are likely to receive 100% allocation on 1 July 2021.
- The allocation for **general security** entitlement holders and the ECA account will depend on account usage, as well as inflow to Chaffey for the remainder of this water year, but will likely start low on 1 July.

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.

Key facts

- As of 14 April, Chaffey Dam is holding approximately 60.0 gigalitres (GL) of water, about 57.3% full.
- Inflow into Chaffey Dam was about 15 GL in March. Any improvement since March will be included in the next assessment.
- 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.
- The Peel Regulated River catchment is currently being run under normal operations and water delivery on-demand has resumed.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall is likely to be drier than average. Maximum temperatures over this period are likely to be warmer and minimum temperatures having roughly equal chances of being warmer or cooler than average across the catchment.

Details can be found at: 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 **11 May 2021**, or earlier, if conditions change significantly beforehand.

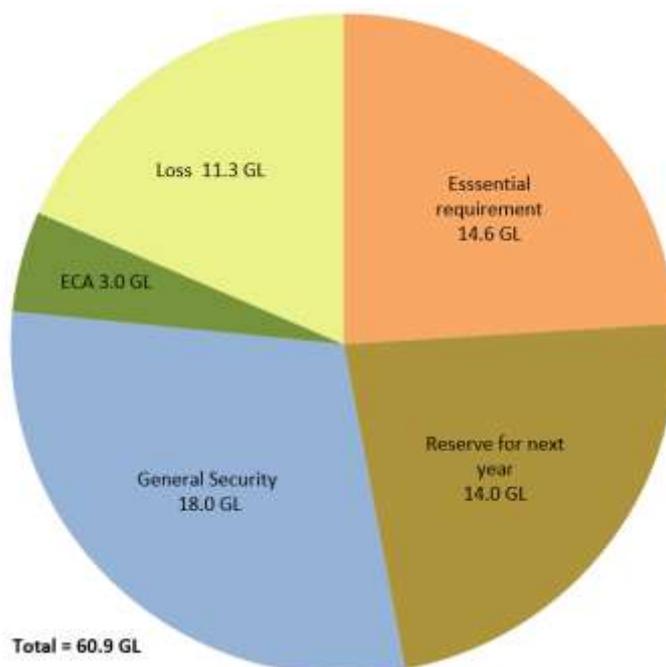
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 April 2021)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	60.9
less	
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	14.6
Reserve for 2021-2022 ⁽³⁾	14.0
General security balance	18.0
ECA balance ⁽⁴⁾	3.0
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁵⁾	11.3
equals	
Uncommitted Resources	0.0

See notes below.

Resource Distribution (as at 1 April 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 thus incurs no transmission loss.

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