

22 May 2020

Bega-Brogo Regulated River Water Source

Allocations

This water allocation statement for the Bega-Brogo regulated river water source is to update water users on water availability. It is the last water allocation statement for the 2019-20 water year.

The Bega-Brogo catchment received significant rainfall in the second week of February 2020 and has continue with near average rainfall in the 3 months to 30 April 2020. Brogo Dam storage filled in February and has remained full or near full since then. Recent water usage has been low against this year's 60% allocation for general security licence holders.

Apart from general security entitlements, all other categories of licence in the regulated river water source have received their maximum allocation for the 2019-20 water-year.

With the recent and forecast weather conditions indicating a possible shift in weather patterns from dry to wetter conditions, the usual 40% opening allocation on 1 July for the 2020-21 water year for general security water users appears likely.

Resource outlook for 2020-21

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local utilities, are secure to at least June 2021, assuming the budgeted (minimum) future inflows arrive.
- All higher priority licence holders, including **Local Water Utilities**, **High Security**, and **Domestic** and **Stock** water access licenses can expect full (100%) allocations.
- **General Security** licences holders can expect an opening allocation on 1 July of 40% of entitlement.
- **Supplementary** entitlement holders can expect a full (100%) allocation, however; access to this water is subject to declared supplementary flow events.

Current allocations

| 2019-20 | High Security | General Security | Drought Stage |
|---|---------------|------------------|---|
| Bega-Brogo Regulated River Water Source | 100% | 60% |  Stage 1 |

Dam levels (as at 22 May 2020)

Brogo Dam is currently about 99% full, holding about 9,000 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was 100% full.

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 Bega-Brogo regulated river water source is at Stage 1 – normal regulated rivers operations.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for June to August shows wetter than average conditions for the catchment are likely. Day time temperatures are likely to be above average and night time temperatures are very likely to be above average.

While the Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is most likely to remain neutral over winter, the tropical Pacific Ocean is likely to cool and there is some chance that ocean temperatures could reach La Niña levels in late winter or early spring.

Furthermore, while the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also currently neutral, the outlook suggests a negative IOD could develop from mid-winter. However, caution should be exercised when using IOD forecasts issued during autumn, as they are less accurate than forecasts made at other times of the year. Nevertheless, it should be noted all other international models surveyed by the Bureau also indicate a negative IOD is likely to form during 2020. A negative IOD generally means wetter conditions for south-eastern Australia.

The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) has recently been negative, but is forecast to briefly rise into positive values before becoming neutral for the next three weeks. During autumn, SAM has little influence on Australian rainfall, though winter marks the time of the year when a positive SAM can mean more rainfall over parts of eastern Australia.

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

Further information

The next water allocation announcement for the Bega-Brogo regulated river water source will be on 1 July 2020 with the opening allocation for all licence categories for the 2020-21 water year.

Quarterly water allocation statements, commencing late August 2020, will then be issued for this water source unless conditions change significantly, in which case updates will be promptly issued.

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

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

| Resource Distribution (1 May 2020 – 30 June 2021) | Volume (ML) | Volume (ML) |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Brogo Dam Volume ⁽¹⁾ (1 May 2020) | | 8,856 |
| Expected Minimum inflows starting May (for May 2020 – Jun 2020 period) | | 0 |
| Expected Minimum inflows starting Jul (for Jul 2020 – Jun 2021 period) | | 2,800 |
| <i>less</i> | | |
| Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾ | 2,988 | |
| System Losses ⁽³⁾ | 4,200 | |
| General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾ (1 May 2020) | 3,530 | |
| <i>equals</i> | | |
| Additional available water ⁽⁵⁾ | | 938 |

Notes:

- (1) Total Brogo Dam *active* volume as of 1 May 2020.
- (2) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for towns, stock & domestic, high security, transparent and minimum storage releases from 1 May 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- (3) System Losses – water set aside to provide for evaporation, transmission and operational losses from 1 May 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- (4) Water allocated to general security account holders that has not been debited (remaining liability). Note that there can be delays in receiving metered water usage, therefore this number is conservative.
- (5) This water is surplus to other commitments.

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