

21 August 2020

NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available to allocate **6.9% of entitlement to General Security (A Class)** licence holders in the NSW Border Rivers. This new allocation brings General Security (A Class) allocations to 14.2% of entitlement for the current water year. All higher security licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020. The system has begun to recover from severe drought, however; further improvement is required before river operations can return to normal.

2020-21	High Security	General Security (A Class)	General Security (B Class)	Drought Stage
Border Rivers	100%	14.2%	0%	 Stage 2

The total inflow into Pindari Dam in July has been about 2,700 megalitres (ML), while Glenlyon Dam has received just 200 ML. However, catchment conditions are generally wet, meaning further rainfall in the coming few months should produce reasonable streamflow responses.

Storage levels (as at 21 August 2020)

- Pindari Dam is 16.6 per cent full – slight rise – holding about 52,000 ML
- Glenlyon Dam is 15.0 per cent full – slight rise – holding about 38,000 ML.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source has now improved to Stage 2 drought criticality. Drought contingency measures may require block releases from storage in the current water year and deliveries will continue to be met from downstream tributary flows wherever possible until normal river operations can resume.

Key facts

- General Security (A Class) licences and General Security (B Class) licences have full access to available account water. This water will be deliverable through the 2020-21 water year.
- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Demand for Ashford and Boggabilla are secure for next summer.
- Pindari releases will soon cease for a short period for planned maintenance of the outlet valve.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of the headwater storages will continue to be used to maximum effect in supplying water, in preference to dam releases.
- A single large block release for users downstream of the Macintyre/Dumaresq junction will be considered if normal river operations cannot be resumed prior to summer.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that the catchment is likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures over this period are likely to be above average and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are currently neutral. The ENSO Outlook is at La Niña WATCH, which indicates that the chance of La Niña forming in 2020 is around 50% - roughly twice the average likelihood. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is positive. In winter, a positive SAM typically reduces rainfall in southern parts of the country but can enhance rainfall in New South Wales and southern Queensland. An early onset northern Australia rainfall season is forecast.

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

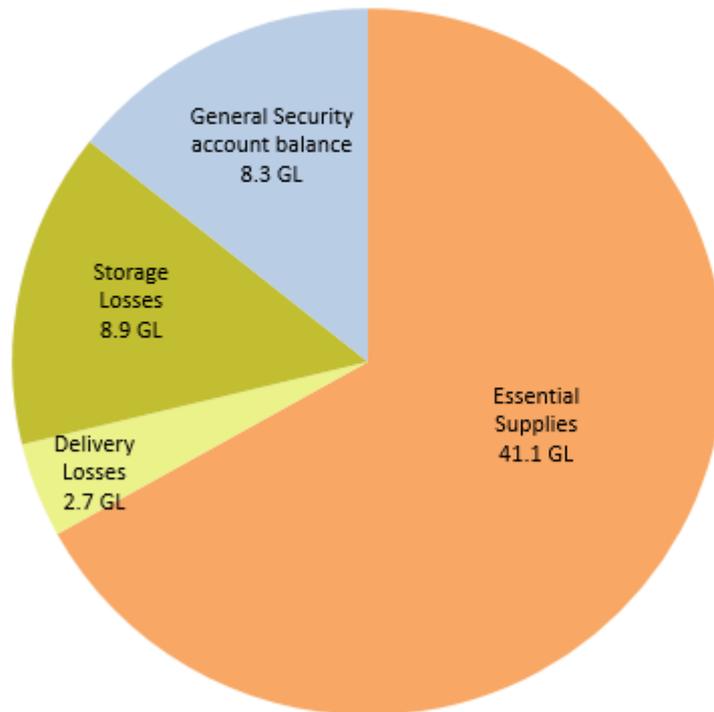
NSW Border Rivers Resource Assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 1 July 2020)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾		61.44
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	8.89	
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	41.10	
General security account balance ⁽⁴⁾	7.27	
General security delivery losses ⁽⁵⁾	2.67	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		1.51

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.

Distribution of NSW Resources as at 1 July 2020 NSW Border Rivers



Supply Sources⁽¹⁾



Total = 61 GL
(NSW share only)

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