

10 December 2021

Belubula Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

There is a 64% allocation to general security (GS) entitlements in the Belubula regulated river water source, bringing the total cumulative allocation to 76% of entitlement for this water year. All higher priority licences as well as supplementary entitlements received a full allocation at the start of the 2021-22 water year.

Wet conditions over spring have provided approximately 14,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow into Carcoar Dam, causing it to fill. Carcoar Dam began spilling on 26 November for the first time since 2016. High tributary flows have been enabling ongoing access to supplementary and uncontrolled flows and meeting most demands in the system, including end of system flow targets. Access to supplementary take will continue to be announced when available.

With wet conditions prevailing, it is expected that tributary flows will be sufficient to meet any water orders and the end of system flow target at Helensholme and that dam releases will not be required to deliver water orders until at least the end of December 2021.

Currently, the budget for essential requirements is based on very wet conditions and losses are expected to be minimal for the remainder of the water year, which has further boosted the allocation.

This increment to general security licences has caused some accounts to reach their 130% limit. Water in excess of the 130% of entitlement account limit is forfeited and becomes water available for allocation.

This increment brings total average general security water availability, including carryover, to 101% of entitlement. With water availability now above 50%, uncontrolled flow take is no longer permitted, as specified in the water sharing plan. In addition, as announced allocations increase, uncontrolled flow taken 'without debit' earlier this year will start converting to debit take in individual accounts.

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Belubula River	100%	76%	 Stage 1

Storage level (as at 9 December 2021)

Carcoar Dam – 100% full – steady – 36,200 ML.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for December 2021 to February 2022 indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be below average, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



The Bureau has declared La Niña conditions and the Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is positive. These are both contributing to above median rainfall outlooks for eastern Australia.

Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Belubula resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (December 2021 to June 2022)	Volume (ML)	Volume (ML)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾		38,000
<i>less</i>		
High Security ⁽²⁾	200	
General Security balance ⁽³⁾	9,174	
Domestic and Stock ⁽²⁾	200	
Evaporation from storage	3,500	
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁴⁾	4,700	
Storage reserve for 2022/23, 2023/24 ⁽⁵⁾	5,700	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁶⁾		14,526

Notes:

- (1) Predicted volume of Carcoar Dam volume at 30 November 2021, minus 300 ML dead storage, plus minimum historical dam inflows and usable tributary flows budgeted from December 2021 to June 2022.
- (2) Domestic, Stock and High Security: volume required to meet these high priority entitlements to 30 June 2022 in full.
- (3) The balance includes the current available balance, adjusted for any trade, minus 400 ML of uncontrolled flow usage (as of 15th August 2021), as per cl 48(7) of the WSP. This does not include the allocation announced in this statement.
- (4) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to June 2022 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises of natural transmission losses as water soaks into river bed, end of system flows and operational surpluses.
- (5) A minimum storage volume of 6,200 ML in Carcoar Dam on 30 June 2022 is required to ensure critical needs can be met through the 2022/23 and 2023/24 water years.
- (6) The volume of the current surplus enabling the 64% allocation.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Belubula regulated river water source will be issued in **March 2021**. However, conditions will be closely monitored and an earlier statement for the Belubula system will be provided if conditions change significantly before March.

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