

15 December 2021

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

The allocation to supplementary access licences in the Hunter regulated river water source has been increased to the maximum 200% of entitlement in accordance with the water sharing plan.

Rainfall this water year has been above average, with some parts of the upper catchment receiving up to 400mm during November. Storages continue to rise slowly. Combined inflows to headwater storages in November 2021 were around 94 gegalitres (GL).

The persistent wet conditions have seen good natural inflows throughout the system. The annual high-flow tally at Greta has exceeded the 36.4GL trigger allowing the increased allocation to supplementary access licence holders.

All other licence categories were fully allocated on 1 July 2021 and remain unchanged. The Environmental Water Allowance has not been called so far this water year and the 20 GL allowance remains fully available.

Current allocations for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2021-22
Domestic and Stock	100%
Local and Major Water Utilities	100%
High Security	100%
General Security	100%
Supplementary	200%

Dam levels (as at 14 December 2021)

Glenbawn Dam is about 81% full – rising – holding 609 (GL).

Glennies Creek Dam is about 75% full – rising – holding 212 GL.

Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for December 2021 to February 2022 indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median.

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

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



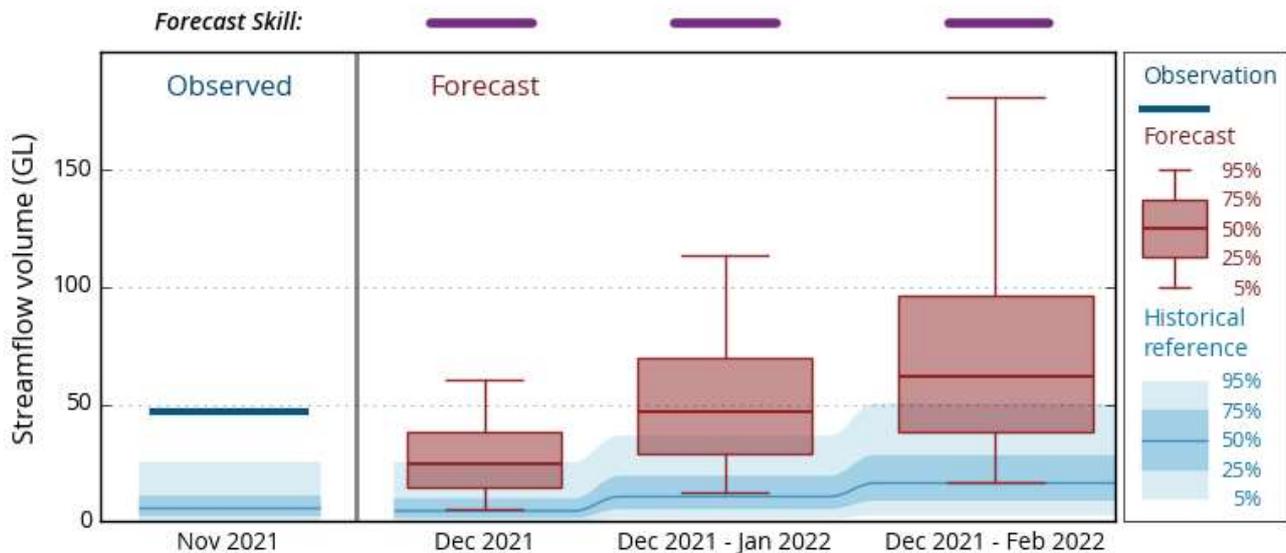
The Bureau also issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Hunter River upstream of Glenbawn Dam at Moonan (figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam.

All forecast quartiles of total streamflow volumes from December 2021 to February 2022 are above historical volumes, indicating a potential for higher than historical storage inflows in this period.

Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9

Hunter River at Moonam Dam Site (ID: 210018)

Forecast for Dec 2021 – Feb 2022



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Resource Distribution (1 December 2021 to 30 June 2024)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage volume (1/12/21)		780.3
Minimum storage & tributary inflows (12/21 to 6/22) ¹		12.8
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	3.2	
Domestic and Stock 100%	1.8	
Local Water Utility 100%	8.9	
Major utility account balance	68.4	
Environmental Water Allowance 100%	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta (including losses)	18.6	
High Security (HS) account balance	19.7	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) (12/21 to 6/22)	38.0	

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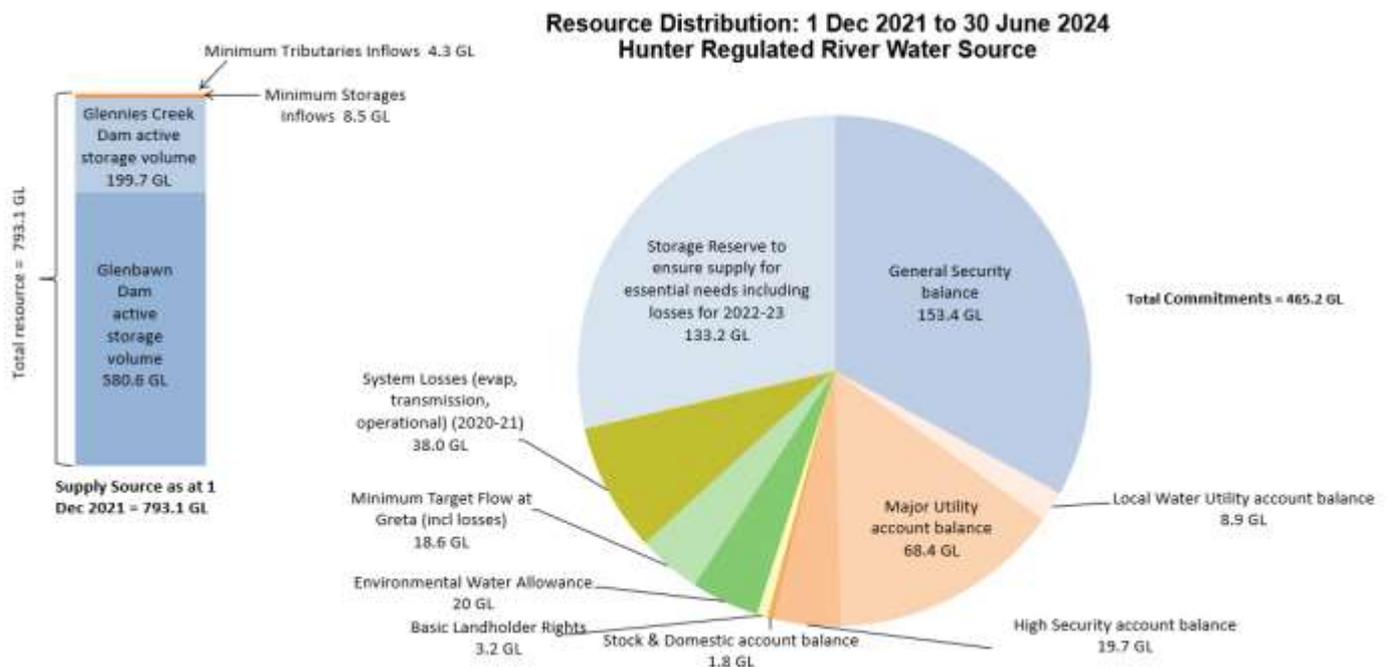
Storage Reserve for 2022-23 ²	133.2
Storage Reserve for 2023-24 ³	97.7
General Security (GS) balance ⁴	153.4

equals

Surplus (or deficit) ⁵	230.2
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Notes:

- (1) Minimum historical dam inflows (8.5 GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (4.3 GL) from 1 December 2021 to 30 June 2022.
- (2) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2022/23. Calculated as: system losses of 58.0 GL plus Essential Requirements of 127.9 GL minus 52.7 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the first 12 months of 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2022. Essential Requirement includes minimum 75% High Security (HS) opening allocation and 100% to all other high priority licences.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2023/24. Calculated as: system losses of 52.4 GL plus Essential Requirements of 127.9 GL minus 82.6 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the second 12 months of 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2022. Essential Requirement includes minimum 75% High Security (HS) opening allocation and 100% to all other high priority licences.
- (4) The water remaining in General Security accounts yet to be ordered and delivered. It is calculated by subtracting the usage (inclusive of Uncontrolled Flow takes) from the water already allocated to GS.
- (5) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. The surplus of 230.2 GL signifies the additional resources available. As all accounts are allocated in full, this volume remains unallocated, improving the allocation reliability of next water year.



Water allocation guide

The department is publishing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methodology for all major NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source is now available at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

As water resources have been fully allocated for 2021-22, no further routine water allocation statements are being published. However, a statement is planned for April 2022 to provide a water availability outlook and potential opening allocations on 1 July 2022 for the 2022-23 water year.

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

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