

20 September 2022

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Water availability and allocation update

The allocation to supplementary water 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 average to very much above average, with some parts of the catchment receiving highest on record totals of up to 400mm in July 2022. Both Glenbawn Dam and Gennies Creek Dam remain effectively full. Combined inflows into these two headwater storages since 1 July 2022 has been around 125 gigalitres (GL).

The persistent wet conditions have seen good natural inflows throughout the system. The cumulative flow at Greta this water year has exceeded 75% of the allocated supplementary water access licence entitlement. The exceedance, known as the 'high flow tally', triggers an increase in supplementary allocation, in accordance with the water sharing plan. Therefore, an allocation increment of 100% of entitlement to supplementary water access licences has been provided. The cumulative supplementary Available Water Determination (AWD) for the current water year therefore increases to 200% of entitlement from the opening allocation of 100% given on 1 July 2022.

All other licence categories were fully allocated on 1 July 2022 and remain unchanged.

Current Allocations for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2022/23
Domestic and Stock	100%
Local Water and Major Utilities	100%
High Security	100%
General Security	100%
Supplementary	200%

Storage levels (as at 19 September 2022)

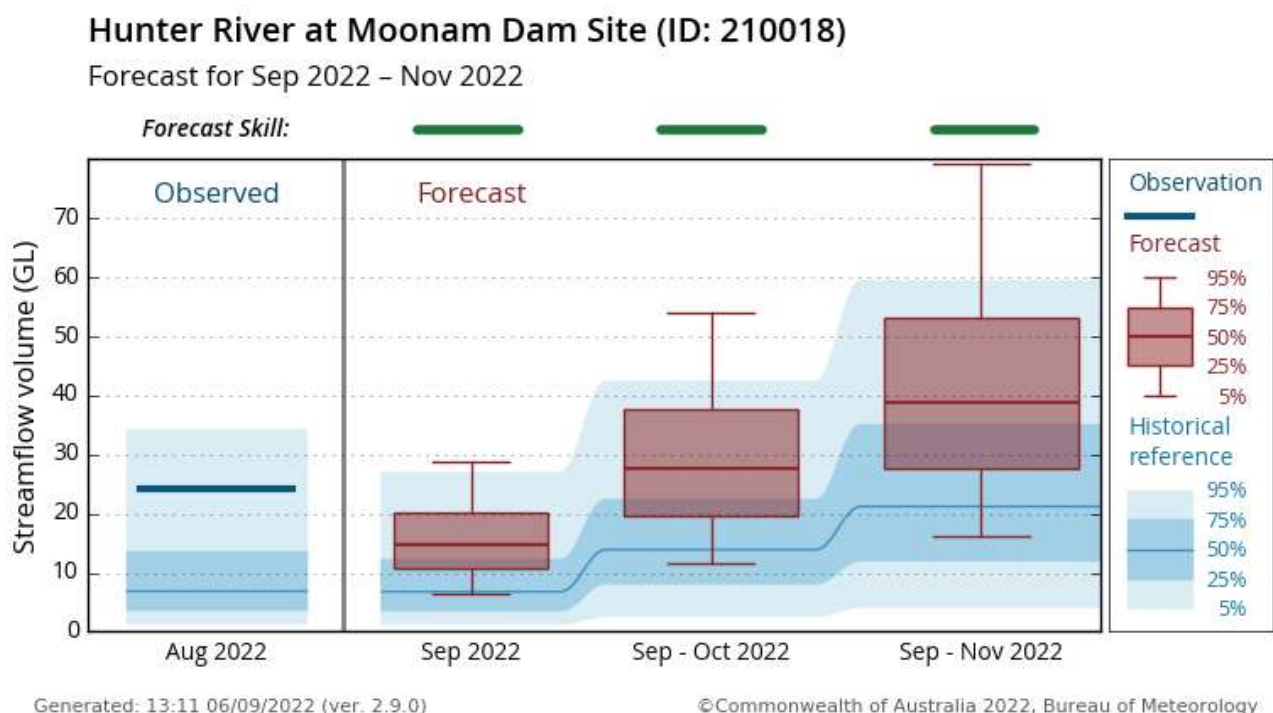
- Glenbawn Dam is about 102% full – holding about 762 GL.
- Glennies Creek Dam is about 102% full – holding about 290 GL.

Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for October to December indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median across the catchment. Minimum temperatures are likely to be median or cooler and maximum temperatures are likely to be cooler than median. Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

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 September 2022 to November 2022 are above historical volumes, indicating a potential for higher than historical storage inflows in this period.

Further details at: http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9



Resource assessment

Resource availability at 1 September 2022 is shown below:

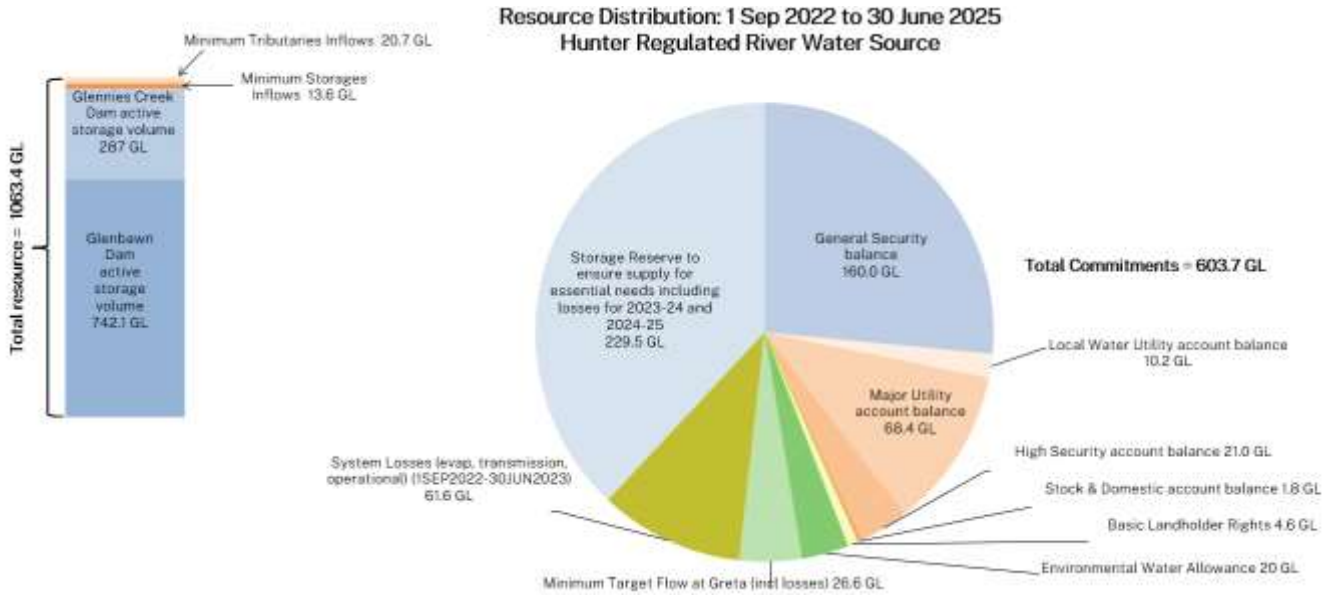
Resource Distribution (1 September 2022 to 30 June 2025)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage volume (as at 1 Sep 2022)		1,029.1
Minimum storage and tributary inflows (Sep 2022 to Jun 2023) ¹		34.3
less		
Basic Land Holder (BLR) Rights	4.6	

Domestic and Stock (D&S)	1.8	
Local Water Utility (LWU)	10.2	
Major utility (MU)	68.4	
Environmental Water Allowance (EWA)	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta (including losses)	26.6	
High Security (HS)	21.0	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) (Sep 2022 to Jun 2023)	61.6	
Storage Reserve for 2023/24 ²	133.3	
Storage Reserve for 2024/25 ³	96.2	
General Security (GS) balance ⁴	160.0	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) ⁵		459.7
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Maximum water that can be allocated for GS		128.6
Water already allocated to GS accounts (100% allocated)		128.6
Water available for GS allocation		0.0
Water remains unallocated as accounts reached maximum		459.7
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Notes:

- (1) Minimum historical dam inflows (13.6 GL) from 1 October 2022 to 30 June 2023 (September inflows may not be captured due to full storages) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (20.7 GL) from 1 September 2022 to 30 June 2023.
- (2) 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 63.6 GL plus Essential Requirements of 122.4 GL minus 52.7 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the first 12 months of the 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2023. 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 2024/25. Calculated as: system losses of 56.4 GL plus Essential Requirements of 122.4 GL minus 82.6 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the second 12 months of the 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2023. 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 about 460 GL signifies the additional resources available. As all accounts are allocated in full, this volume remains unallocated, improving the allocation reliability for the next water year.

The table above shows that essential requirements, including river operation requirements (system losses) are secure until at least 30 June 2025, with a surplus of about 460 GL. General Security allocation for the 2022/23 water year is already at 100% (128.6 GL), with the balance (460 GL) remaining unallocated and contributing to future water security.



Water allocations in 2022/23

Table 1 : Water allocation history for 2022/23

Date	License Category	Increment	2022/23 Cumulative
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Major Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
1-Jul	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
21-Sep	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	2.00 ML/unit share*

* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment – Water has published 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 available at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process

Further information

Water allocation statements for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source are usually only published annually on 1 July when full allocations have been granted, or quarterly to provide an update on catchment conditions for water users.

This water allocation statement for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source is being published to coincide with the new AWD for supplementary water access licences, triggered by the high flow tally and to provide an update on current conditions.

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

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