

15 December 2016

Belubula Valley

Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

Sufficient water resources are available to announce **an allocation of 46 per cent of entitlement to general security licence holders in the Belubula regulated river**, the first general security allocation this water year.

Consistent rainfall in winter and early spring has resulted in the filling of Carcoar Dam on 1 October 2016. This follows four years of relatively dry conditions since the last dam spill and general security allocation in October 2012.

This assessment has considered the very high transmission losses experienced in recent years and sets aside reserves in accordance with the rules in the water sharing plan.

DPI Water will continue to assess available water resources and if additional usable inflows are received, then a further allocation improvement may be announced at a later date.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Belubula Valley	100%	46%	54%

Dam levels

- Carcoar Dam is currently 99 per cent full, holding 35,700 megalitres.
- The storage volume has remained near capacity since it first began to spill in early October 2016.
- The catchment has begun to dry as temperatures increase. With an effectively full dam, additional inflows cannot be captured; however, any rainfall will continue to defer the transition back to regulated river conditions downstream.

Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology has forecast a **less than 30 per cent chance of median rainfall** being exceeded in the Belubula Valley during the three month period December 2016 to February 2017.

The current outlook reflects a negative Southern Annular Mode, which forces weather systems further north than usual, and is typically associated with reduced rainfall and higher temperatures.

Next announcement

The next water outlook update is scheduled for March 2017, unless additional water resource availability allows for an earlier announcement.

Further information

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au