

9 October 2019

Peel Valley

Water allocation update

There has been extreme dry conditions this year and inflows to storage have been minimal. Water allocations announced on 1 July 2019 remain unchanged.

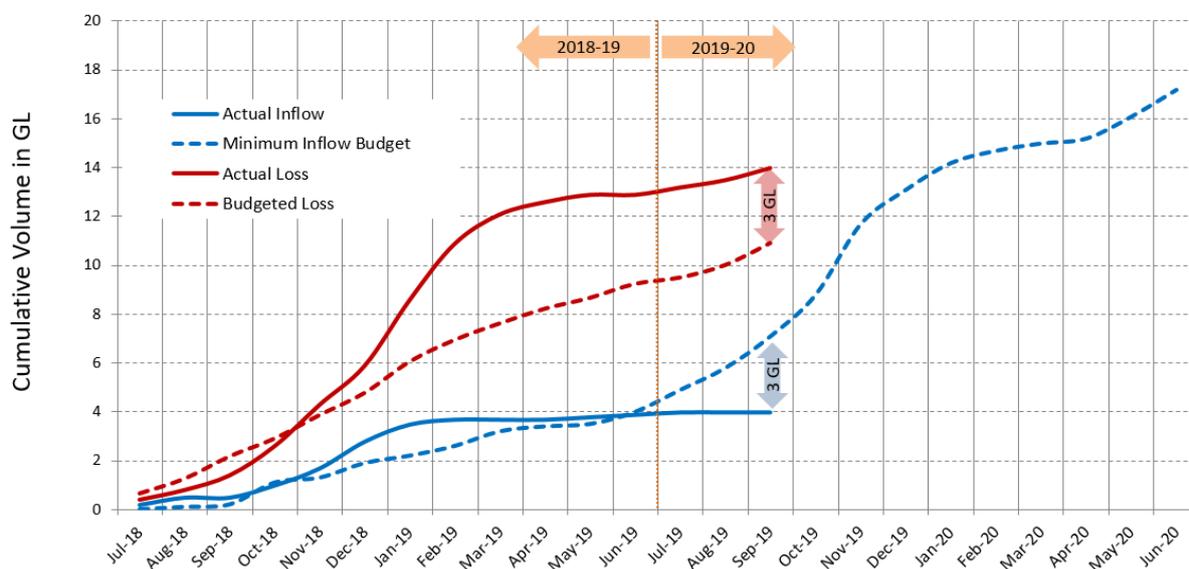
Table 1 Announced Water Allocations for the Peel Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2019/20	Drought Stage
Local Water Utility	70%	
Domestic and Stock	70%	Stage 4
High Security	50%	
Aquifer (general security)	51%	
General Security	0%	
Environmental Contingency Allowance	0%	

Chaffey dam is 19 % full – steady – currently holding about 21,800 megalitres (ML).

Chaffey dam has entered into a new record low inflow spell since July 2018, showing 3 GL lower than the previous minimum inflow (Figure below). The usual winter inflow has not eventuated. Transmission loss exceeded the budgeted amount by 3 GL, further exacerbating water shortage.

Figure 1: Cumulative Inflow to Chaffey Dam and Transmission Loss since July 2018



Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Peel regulated river water source is at maximum Stage 4 criticality and remaining resources are committed to meeting only the highest priority needs.

Further information on drought stages can be found by clicking [here](#).

Key facts

- Storage inflows since July 2018 have been just 4 GL. This is less than the previous historical minimum of 7.1 GL (July 1965 to September 1966).
- Chaffey Dam has released about 2.9 GL since 1 July 2019 to provide 1.9 GL essential supplies.
- Implementation of emergency contingency measures, including a temporary weir at Dungowan and a pipeline from Chaffey to the Dungowan to Tamworth pipeline, will save precious water.
- Water held behind Chaffey dam is securing critical human needs.

Climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology climate outlook is suggesting that rainfall is likely to be below average across the Peel valley for the remainder of 2019 with high chances of a drier October and November in particular. Daytime temperatures are very likely to be above average.

A prolonged negative phase of the Southern Annual Mode (SAM) is expected to persist in October and November which doubles the chance of spring heatwaves. The positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) has strengthened in recent weeks and is forecast to continue until at least the end of spring. The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is expected to remain neutral until at least early 2020.

Details can be found in: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/>

Further information

The department will continue to closely monitor Peel water resource availability and will provide a routine statement update in January 2020; earlier if conditions change significantly beforehand.

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

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.