

14 June 2019

Hunter Valley

Water availability outlook for 2019-20

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2019 water availability is conservatively based on assumed historical minimum inflows for the remainder of this water year and all of 2019-20. This outlook is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk.

- Critical human and stock needs are secured into the next water year and beyond.
- Full allocation can be expected for domestic and stock, towns, major utilities and high security entitlements.
- Major water utilities and general security water users may carry their maximum allowable volume into 2019-20.
- General security users may expect 95 per cent allocation, if conditions do not worsen.

The Hunter Valley has been drought affected like most of NSW and the storage levels have been falling. Water users are advised to adopt water conservation measures in this critical period. In the unlikely event of inflows dropping below the planned historical minimum, delivering all allocated water will be difficult.

Dam levels (as at 13 June 2019)

Glenbawn Dam is 51 per cent full – falling – holding about 387,000 ML.

Glennies Creek Dam is 53 per cent full – falling – holding about 152,000 ML.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook suggests a drier than average May; however, the three month period for May to July suggests no clear indication of drier or wetter than average conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook is now at El Niño WATCH. There is a 50 per cent chance of El Niño conditions developing in 2019. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral; however, indications are that it could develop into a positive IOD in winter.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Further information

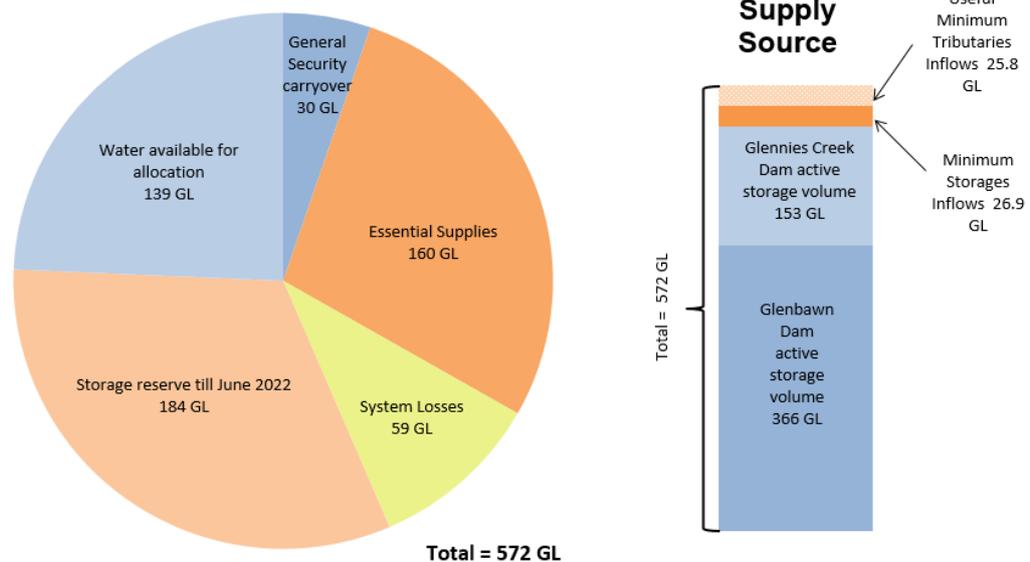
The usual water allocations for the Hunter regulated river will be provided on 1 July 2019.

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

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		571.7
<i>less</i>		
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	160.1	
System Losses ⁽³⁾	59.0	
Storage reserve till June 2022 ⁽⁴⁾	183.8	
General Security carryover ⁽⁵⁾	30.0	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		138.8

**Resource Distribution: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020
Hunter Valley**



Notes:

- (1) Total Available Resource – is the *predicted* total active storage volume in Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam combined as at 1 July 2019 of 519 GL **plus** minimum forecast inflows from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 of 26.9 GL **plus** minimum forecast drought tributary inflows from downstream tributaries from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 of 25.8 GL.
- (2) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Town Water, Major Utility, High Security, Basic Landholder Rights, Environmental Water Account, Stock & Domestic and minimum flow targets at Greta, from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. NOTE: Major utility requirements for 2019-20 include maximum carryover of 32 GL from 2018-19 water year **plus** maximum allocation of 36 GL for the 2019-20 water year.
- (3) System Losses – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for storage evaporation, transmission, and operational losses from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

- (4) Storage reserved to ensure essential requirements and system losses for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 can be met.
- (5) General Security Carryover forecasted to be carried over from the 2018-19 water year to the 2019-20 water year.

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