

16 October 2020

NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available to allocate **an increase of 9.1% of entitlement to General Security (A Class)** licence holders in the NSW Border Rivers. This new allocation brings General Security (A Class) allocations to 23.3% of entitlement for the current water year. All higher priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020. The system has begun to recover from severe drought, however; further improvement is required before river operations can return to normal.

2020-21	High Security	General Security (A Class)	General Security (B Class)	Drought Stage
Border Rivers	100%	23.3%	0%	 Stage 2

The total inflow into Pindari Dam since 1 July is approximately 18,000 megalitres (ML). The environmental stimulus flow required under water sharing plan rules commenced this month and will deliver about 4,400 ML downstream of Pindari Dam throughout October and early November.

There is also an under-release of the transparency commitment required under the water sharing plan that accrued due to faulty discharge valves at Pindari Dam. Design for the release of this water is expected to be finalised shortly and details will be provided in the next water allocation statement, along with any further resource improvement. The next statement will be brought forward to mid-November 2020 to provide this information.

Storage levels (as at 15 October 2020)

- Pindari Dam is 16.3% full – holding about 50,925 ML.
- Glenlyon Dam is 15.0% full – holding about 37,983 ML.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source is currently at Stage 2 drought criticality. Drought contingency measures may require block releases from storage in the current water year and deliveries will continue to be met from downstream tributary flows, wherever possible, until normal river operations can resume.

Key facts

- General Security (A Class) licences and General Security (B Class) licences have full access to available account water. This water will be deliverable through the 2020-21 water year.

- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Demand for Ashford and Boggabilla are secure for next summer.
- Pindari Dam low level valves have recently been replaced, with new valves commissioned and now in operation.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of the headwater storages will continue to be used to maximum effect in supplying water, in preference to dam releases.
- A single large block release for users downstream of the Macintyre/Dumaresq junction will be considered if normal river operations cannot be resumed prior to summer.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2020 to January 2021 indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be wetter than average across the catchment, while temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is at La Niña, meaning La Niña is underway in the tropical Pacific. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index value is currently neutral, though models suggest negative values may return in late October and persist in November. La Niña and a negative IOD typically increase the likelihood of above average rainfall across much of Australia during spring and early summer.

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

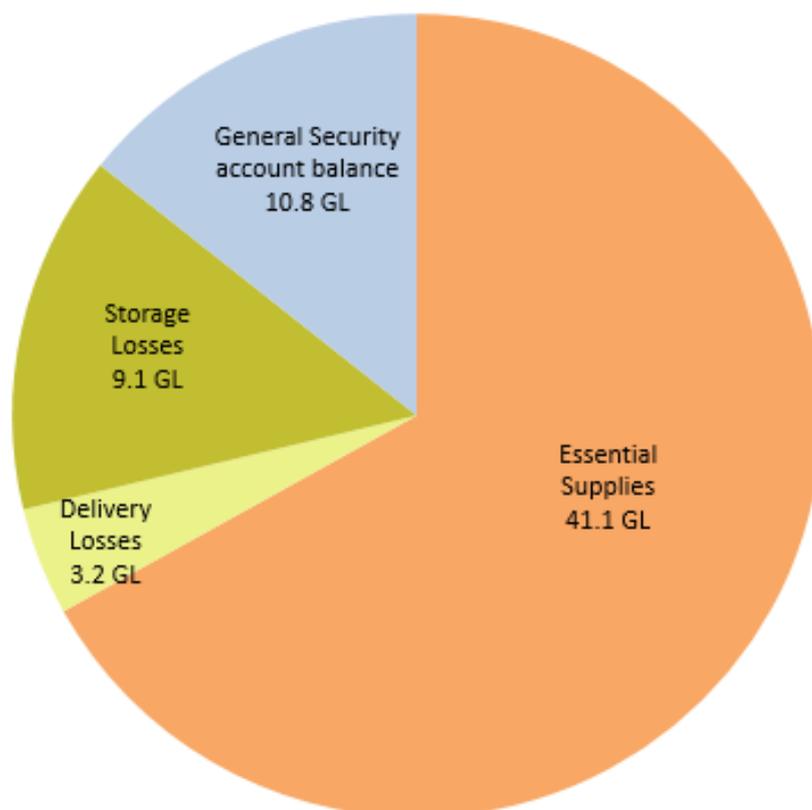
NSW Border Rivers Resource Assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (as at August 2020)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾		64.21
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	9.09	
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	41.10	
General security account balance ⁽⁴⁾	8.78	
General security delivery losses ⁽⁵⁾	3.24	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		2.00

Notes:

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, at the time of the assessment. In accordance with the *New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008* NSW has access to 57% of available resources in Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Storage evaporation loss is based on forecast storage depletion over the next 24 months.
- (3) Water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for domestic, stock, towns, high security, replenishment, delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage. Includes 4.4 GL stimulus flow currently in progress.
- (4) The general security account balance is inclusive of about 0.9 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. The HEW volume is indicative only and prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW environmental water holder - Environment, Energy and Science (EES), and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) General security delivery losses – budgeted at 30 per cent of remaining general security account water.

Distribution of NSW Resources as at 1 August 2020 NSW Border Rivers



Supply Sources⁽¹⁾



Total = 64.2 GL
(NSW share only)

Notes:

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, at the time of the assessment. In accordance with the *New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008* NSW has access to 57% of available resources in Glenlyon Dam.

Further information

The next Border Rivers water allocation statement will be issued on **Wednesday 18 November 2020**.

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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