

1 April 2021

NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source

Interim water allocation update

Widespread rainfall during March has resulted in a rapid increase in available resources and seen significant recovery in the regulated Border Rivers system. This interim allocation update is published ahead of the formal Border Rivers Commission allocation to states. It is to inform NSW water users of the minimum allocation improvements that can be anticipated in the next water allocation statement and thereby assist in forward planning.

Initial estimates indicate that there will be sufficient resource to **allocate fully (100%) to General Security (A Class) licence holders** plus an opening allocation of at least **40% to General Security (B Class)**. These allocation predictions are subject to the formal bulk-water allocation to NSW by the Border Rivers Commission.

Surplus flows have triggered supplementary access throughout the system and a total of 117.6 gigalitres (GL) was made available to NSW supplementary access licence holders during March 2021.

The total inflow into Pindari Dam during March was approximately 115,000 megalitres (ML), with over 100,000 ML observed during the 72 hour period of 23 to 25 March.

The total inflow into Glenlyon Dam during March was approximately 89,500 ML, with over 62,000 ML observed during the 48 hour period of 23 to 24 March.

Storage levels (as at 31 March 2021)

- Pindari Dam is about 48% full – holding 151,000 ML.
- Glenlyon Dam is about 46% full – holding about 118,000 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 Border Rivers regulated system has now recovered and has been eased from Drought Stage 2 to Stage 1, representing normal river operations ahead for the next irrigation season.

Further information

The next Border Rivers water allocation statement and allocation increment will be promptly issued after receipt of the next formal resource assessment from the Border Rivers Commission. 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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