

30 March 2022

## Belubula Regulated River Water Source

### Water availability and allocation update

There is a 7% allocation to general security (GS) entitlements in the Belubula regulated river water source bringing the total cumulative allocation to 83% of entitlement for this water year. Including carryover, total water availability is at 110% of entitlement. All higher priority licences, as well as supplementary entitlements, received a full allocation at the start of the 2021-22 water year.

Wet conditions during January and low demand have resulted in Carcoar Dam remaining near full capacity. Dam spills, along with relatively high tributary flows, have enabled ongoing access to supplementary flows and have allowed all demands in the system, including end of system flow targets, to be met. Access to supplementary take has now ceased as entitlements have been fully utilised.

It is expected that tributary flows will be sufficient to meet any water orders, as well as the end of system flow target at Helensholme, and that dam releases will not be required to deliver water orders in near future. Currently, the budget for essential requirements is based on dry years following wet periods.

The previous allocation increment in December 2021 caused some general security licences to reach their 130% limit. Water in excess of the 130% entitlement account limit was forfeited and has become available for allocation. Any general security account water forfeited as a result of this allocation will be allocated in the next assessment.

With effective available general security water above 50% (as of 10 December 2021), uncontrolled flow take is not permitted, as specified in the water sharing plan. Uncontrolled flow taken 'without debit' earlier this year has been converted to debit take in individual accounts, which effectively increases the usage and has resulted in more water becoming available for allocation in this assessment.

It is likely that access to uncontrolled flows will not be available in the 2022-23 water year as general security carryover may exceed 50% of share component.

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Belubula Regulated River Water Source	100%	83%

### Storage levels (as at 29 March 2022)

Carcoar Dam – 98% full – falling – 35,500 megalitres (ML).

## Seasonal climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall is likely to be about average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about average and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

## Belubula resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (April 2022 to June 2024)	Volume (ML)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	35,900
<i>less</i>	
High Security <sup>(2)</sup>	150
General Security balance <sup>(3)</sup>	21,982
Domestic and Stock <sup>(2)</sup>	220
Evaporation from storage	3,500
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(4)</sup>	2,300
Storage reserve for 2022/23, 2023/24 <sup>(5)</sup>	6,100
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(6)</sup>	1,648

### Notes:

- (1) Predicted volume of Carcoar Dam volume at 31 March 2022, minus 300 ML dead storage, plus minimum historical dam inflows and usable tributary flows budgeted from April 2022 to June 2022.
- (2) Domestic, Stock and High Security: volume required to meet these high priority entitlements to 30 June 2022 in full.
- (3) The balance includes the current available balance, adjust for any trade, minus 1,005 ML of account forfeits, minus 724 ML of uncontrolled flow usage (as of 23 March 2022), as per cl 48(7) of the WSP. This does not include the allocation announced in this statement.
- (4) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to June 2022 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises of natural transmission losses as water soaks into the riverbed, end of system flows and operational surpluses.
- (5) A minimum storage volume of 6,100 ML in Carcoar Dam on 30 June 2022 is required to ensure critical needs can be met through the 2022/23 and 2023/24 water years.
- (6) The volume of the current surplus enabling the 7% allocation with 76 ML remaining unallocated.

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement will be issued in **May 2022**, or earlier if conditions change significantly.

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