

4 October 2018

Peel Valley

Water availability and allocation update

The Peel regulated river general security allocation **has increased by two per cent, bringing the total this water year to 38 per cent of entitlement.**

An additional environmental contingency allowance of two per cent or 100 megalitres (ML) is also made available, in accordance with the water sharing plan, bringing the total this year to 1,900 ML.

In the Peel alluvium water source, aquifer general security access licence holders receive an **increase of one per cent, bringing the total allocation this year to 69 per cent of entitlement.**

Showers in September reduced system transmission and evaporation losses from those budgeted for the month, thereby providing a little more water for allocation.

Access licence type	2018/2019
Regulated River (General Security)	0.38 ML/share
Aquifer (General Security)	0.69 ML/share
Environmental Contingency Allowance	1,900 ML

Apart from those listed above, all other licence categories in the Peel regulated river, unregulated river and alluvium water sources have received their full allocation for 2018/19.

Dam levels (as at 3 October)

Chaffey Dam is about 50 per cent full – falling – currently holding about 52,500 ML.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal rainfall outlook for October to December at Tamworth suggests an even chance of median rainfall conditions. However, the valley is likely to experience very much above average temperature for the same period.

The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) remains neutral, but El Niño conditions may develop by late spring. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also neutral, although a positive event may be emerging. A positive IOD and El Niño during spring typically means below average rainfall for southern, eastern and central Australia.

Further information

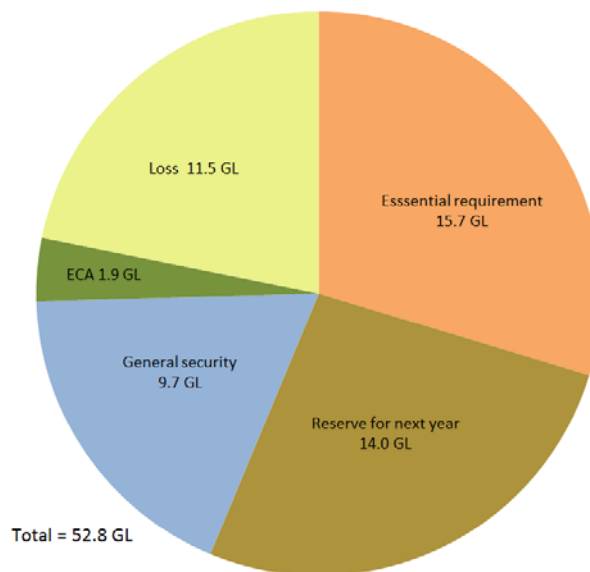
The department monitors the resources regularly and the water allocation statement for the Peel regulated river will be revised again if resource availability improves.

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 (October 2018 to June 2019)		Volumes (GL)
Available Resources ⁽¹⁾		52.8
less		
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾		15.7
Reserve for 2019-2020 ⁽³⁾		14.0
General security balance ⁽⁴⁾		9.7
ECA balance ⁽⁴⁾		1.9
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁵⁾		11.5
equals		
Uncommitted resources		nil

Resource Distribution (October 2018 to June 2019)



Notes:

- (1) Chaffey above dead storage, Dungowan above 50% and minimum inflow expected to June 2019.
- (2) Water set aside to provide for basic landholders rights, domestic and stock, local water utility, high security and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. All the relevant licenses high priority licences received a full (100%) allocation on 1 July 2018. However, for this year only, the estimate for Essential Supplies is reduced by 4.9GL, being 30% of the TRC full Local Water Utility entitlement of 16.4GL.
- (3) Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation of 2019-2020 under the water sharing plan obligation at the repeat of the worst drought. This includes basic landholders rights, 70% domestic and stock, 70% local water utility, 50% high security and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. This also considers minimum inflow expected post drought offset by evaporation over 2019-2020.
- (4) Includes increments of 0.1GL and 0.6GL to ECA and General Security (GS) accounts respectively after this announcement less GS usage to date of 1.9GL. GS accounts include 0.47GL of Held environmental water (HEW).
- (5) Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is to run the river to deliver water orders based on current conditions and forecasts. ECA water delivery is measured as released from the dam wall therefore incurs no transmission loss.