

14 October 2019

## Hunter Regulated River

### Allocation update

This is the first quarterly Water Allocation Statement for the Hunter regulated river water source since the 1 July 2019 opening allocations.

Allocation for general security licence holders in the Hunter regulated river water source commenced the 2019-20 water year at 95 per cent of entitlement.

The last three months from July to September has been mostly dry with scattered rainfall in the valley. Glenbawn Dam receiving almost no rain, but Glennies Creek Dam recorded 106 mm.

**Overall there has been insufficient resource improvement to provide an allocation increase.**

The Hunter Valley has been experiencing generally dry conditions and like most of NSW water storage levels have been falling. Water users are advised to adopt water conservation measures during this period in anticipation of possible severe dry conditions ahead. In the unlikely event that inflows drop below the planned historical minimum, delivering all allocated water may be difficult.

Apart from general security, all other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have already received their maximum allocation for the 2019-20 water year.

2019-20	High Security	General Security
Hunter Valley	100%	95%

### Dam levels (as at 14 October 2019)

Glenbawn Dam is 47 per cent full – falling – holding 357,000 ML.

Glennies Creek Dam is 48 per cent full – falling – holding about 137,000 ML.

At this time last year Glenbawn was 63 per cent full and Glennies Creek 66 per cent full.

### Key facts

- Net inflow for Glenbawn Dam was negative 3,000 ML in the July 2019 to September 2019 period and for Glennies Creek Dam it was negative 1,700 ML for the same period. This means that evaporation loss has been higher than any inflow or rainfall on to the storages.
- Some releases from Glenbawn and Glennies Creek Dams were required in the July to September period to meet downstream essential requirements and irrigation demand.
- Essential supplies are secure.

### Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for October 2019 to December 2020 shows drier conditions for this catchment. Temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral and is expected to remain neutral into early 2020. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently positive and has strengthened in recent weeks. The positive IOD is forecast to continue till the end of spring. A positive IOD typically means drier than average conditions for southern and central Australia during winter-spring. However, IOD events, typically have little influence over Australia's climate during the December to April period, which means that its drying influence should start to reduce in early summer.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary)

### Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Hunter regulated river will be in January 2020 or earlier if water availability conditions change significantly.

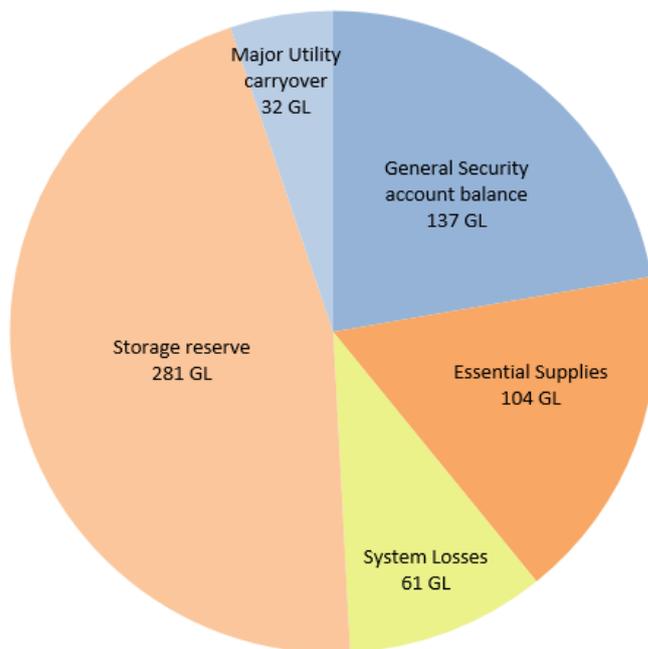
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

## Resource Assessment Data Sheet

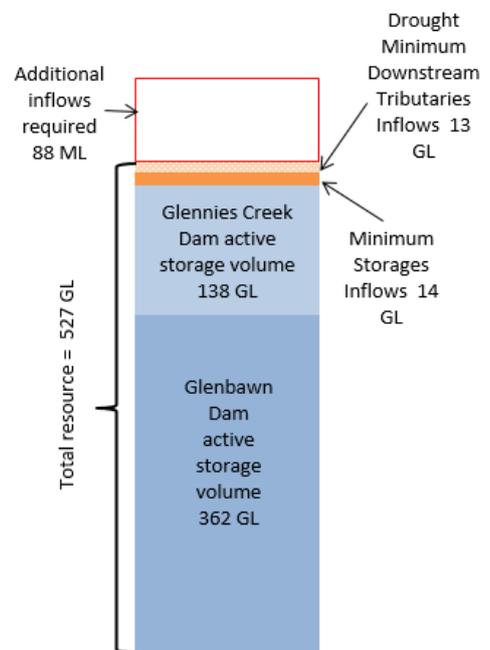
Resource Distribution (1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>		526.8
<i>less</i>		
Essential Supplies <sup>(2)</sup>	104.1	
System Losses <sup>(3)</sup>	61.5	
Storage reserve <sup>(4)</sup>	281.1	
General Security Account Balance <sup>(5)</sup>	136.9	
Major Utility carryover <sup>(6)</sup>	31.7	
<i>equals</i>		
Additional inflows required <sup>(7)</sup>		(88.5)

See notes below.

### Resource Distribution: 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020 Hunter Valley



Total Commitments = 615 GL



Supply Source = 527 GL

### Notes:

- (1) Total Available Resource – is the total active storage volume in Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam combined as at 1 October 2019 of 500.4 GL **plus** minimum forecast inflows from 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020 of 13.6 GL **plus** minimum forecast drought tributary inflows from downstream tributaries from 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020 of 12.8 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 October 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 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 October 2019 to 30 June 2020.
- (4) Storage reserved to ensure essential requirements and system losses for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 water years can be met.
- (5) Water allocated to general security accounts that has not been used (incl. carryover from 2018/19 of 25.6 GL).
- (6) Carryover of Major Utility account water from 2018/19.
- (7) Additional inflows required to meet general security account balance.

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