

17 August 2020

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Allocation update


There is an **allocation increase to high security, general security and aquifer access licence holders** announced in this statement.

Rainfall in July 2020 was mostly above average in the Hunter catchment. Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam received about 111 mm and 137 mm of rainfall respectively in July 2020, with net inflow in July into Glenbawn Dam about 38 gegalitres (GL) and 7 GL for Glennies Creek Dam.

The resource improvement enables allocation to high security and aquifer access licences to increase by 10 per cent to 100 per cent of entitlement in accordance with the water sharing plan. There is also enough water to increase allocation to general security licences by 23 per cent to a total of 53 per cent of entitlement.

All high priority water access licence holders in the Hunter Regulated River Water Source have now received their full (100%) allocation for this 2020-21 water year.

Current allocations

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Hunter Regulated River Water Source	100%	53%	 Stage 1

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from one to four to manage extreme circumstances such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Hunter regulated river water source is classed at Stage 1 - meaning normal regulated river operations.

Dam levels (as at 14 August 2020)

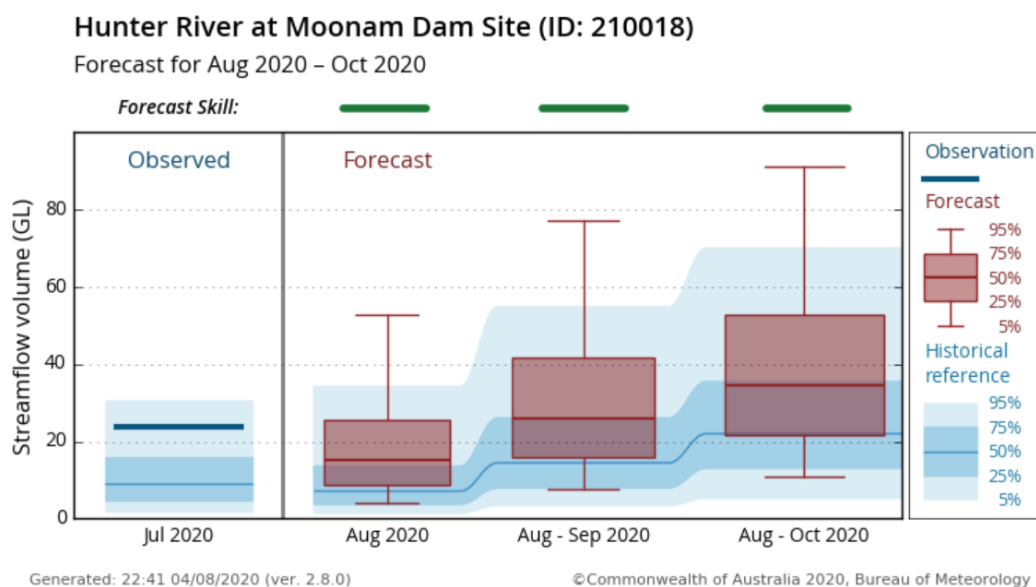
Glenbawn Dam is about 45 per cent full – rising – holding about 338 GL. It was about 50 per cent full at this time last year.

Glennies Creek Dam is about 39 per cent full – rising – holding about 112 GL. It was about 51 per cent full at this time last year.

Seasonal inflow and rainfall forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology climate outlook for September to November shows a good chance of exceeding median rainfall conditions.

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Hunter River upstream of Glenbawn Dam to provide an indication of potential inflows. The forecast total median flow from August to October is of similar volume to the historical 75th percentile flow. This indicates a welcoming shift to wetter than normal inflow conditions for the next two months. The forecast dry quartile volume has climbed to the historical median volume, which is also encouraging.



For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary & http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9

Further information

Water allocation statements for the Hunter regulated river water source are usually only published annually on 1 July when full allocations have been granted. However, while general security allocations remain less than full, the Hunter resource assessments and allocation statements will continue to be updated monthly.

The next Hunter water allocation statement will be released on Friday 18 September 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

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (1 August 2020 to 30 June 2023)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage volume ⁽¹⁾		434.7
Minimum storage & tributary inflows (8/20 to 6/21) ⁽²⁾		49.6
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	5.1	
Domestic and Stock 100%	1.8	
Local Water Utility balance	10.5	
Major Utility account balance	68.4	
Environmental Water Allowance (100%)	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta	17.8	
High Security account balance	20.9	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) (8/20 to 6/21)	53.1	
Storage Reserve for 2021-22 ⁽³⁾	108.9	
Storage Reserve for 2022-23 ⁽⁴⁾	77.6	
General Security account balance	68.1	
<i>Equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾		32.1

Notes:

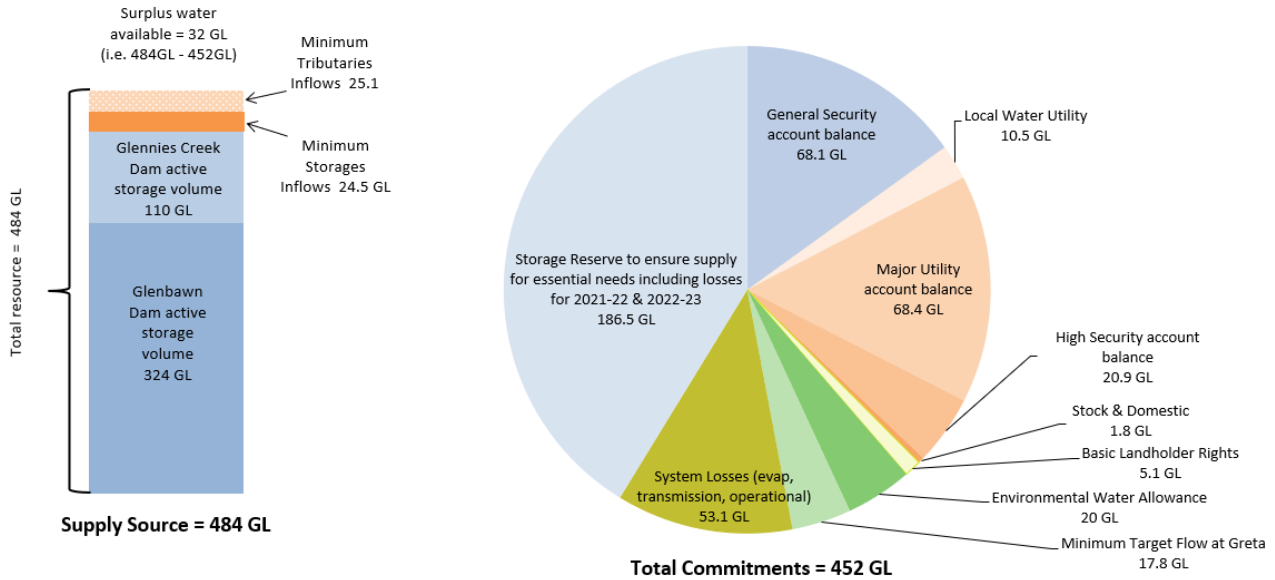
- (1) Available Resource in the dams – is the total active storage volume in Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam combined as at 1 August 2020.
- (2) Minimum historical dam inflows (24.5GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (25.1GL) from 1 August 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses of 108.9GL in 2021-22. Calculated as: system losses of 51.7GL plus Essential Requirements of 109.9GL minus 52.7GL of minimum storage & tributary inflows for the first 12 months of 24-month minimum inflows starting 1 July 2021. Essential Requirement includes minimum 75% HS opening allocation and all other high priorities.
- (4) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses of 77.6GL in 2022-23. Calculated as: system losses of 50.2GL plus Essential Requirements of 109.9GL minus 82.6GL of minimum storage & tributary inflows for the second 12 months of 24-month minimum inflows starting 1 July 2021.
- (5) Surplus or deficit of water after accounting for all commitments. The surplus of 32.1 GL signifies the additional water available for allocation.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution: 1 August 2020 to 30 June 2023 Hunter Regulated River Water Source



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