


18 November 2020

NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available **to allocate 41.3% of entitlement to General Security (A Class) licence holders in the NSW Border Rivers regulated river water source**. This new allocation brings General Security (A Class) allocations to 64.6% of entitlement for the current water year. All higher priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.

The system continues to recover from severe drought, however; further improvement in dam levels is required before normal regulated river operations can resume

2020-21	High Security	General Security (A Class)	General Security (B Class)	Drought Stage
Border Rivers	100%	64.6%	0%	 Stage 2

The total inflow into Pindari Dam since 1 July is approximately 19,000 megalitres (ML). The environmental stimulus flow required by the water sharing plan has now been completed. About 4,560 ML was released from Pindari Dam throughout October. Some small general security orders and replenishment of Boggabilla Weir were also met during this release.

There is an under-release of the transparency commitment required under the water sharing plan that accrued due to faulty discharge valves at Pindari Dam. The valves have been replaced and catch-up of the under-release has commenced within the steady 50 megalitres per day flow currently from Pindari Dam. Final reconciliation of the under-release will depend on rainfall and flow conditions over coming months and may even be delayed to create a late year 'fresh', if not released beforehand. Details will be provided as they become known.

Storage levels (as at 13 November 2020)

- Pindari Dam is 15.6% full – holding about 49,000 ML.
- Glenlyon Dam is 14.9% full – holding about 38,000 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 NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source is currently at Stage 2 (Recovering) drought criticality. Drought contingency measures can be expected while the system recovery continues, including the need for block release deliveries from storage. Maximum use of downstream tributary inflows will be made to reduce the call on Pindari Dam and assist the recovery.

Key facts

- General Security (A Class) licences and General Security (B Class) licences have full access to available account water. WaterNSW can be contacted for details on delivery arrangements.
- All higher priority licence categories received a full allocation for the water year on 1 July 2020.
- Critical demand for the towns of Ashford and Boggabilla are secure for at least 2 years.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of the headwater storages will continue to be used to maximum effect in supplying water, in preference to dam releases.
- A single large block release for users downstream of the Macintyre/Dumaresq junction will commence from 21 December 2020 if normal river operations cannot be resumed prior.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for December 2020 to February 2021 indicates likely wetter than average conditions across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about average, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

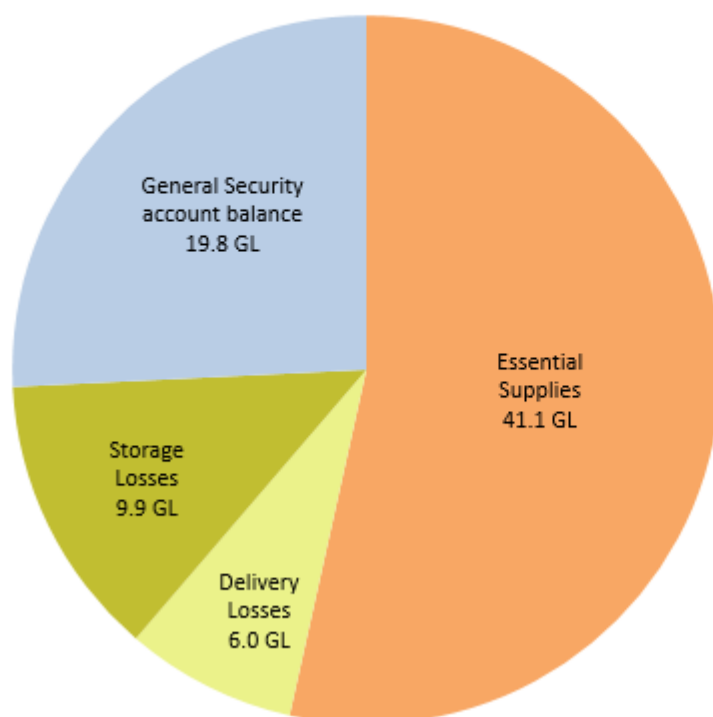
NSW Border Rivers resource assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 1 September 2020)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾		76.85
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	9.94	
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	41.10	
General security account balance ⁽⁴⁾	10.76	
General security delivery losses ⁽⁵⁾	6.00	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		9.05

Notes:

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, at the time of the assessment. In accordance with the *New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008* NSW has access to 57% of available resources in Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Storage evaporation loss is based on forecast storage depletion over the next 24 months.
- (3) Water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for domestic, stock, towns, high security, replenishment, delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage.
- (4) The general security account balance is inclusive of about 0.9 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. The HEW volume is indicative only and prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW environmental water holder - Environment, Energy and Science (EES), and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) General security delivery losses – budgeted at 30 per cent of remaining general security account water (includes any general security allocation from this assessment).

Distribution of NSW Resources as at 1 September 2020 NSW Border Rivers



Supply Sources⁽¹⁾



Total = 76.8 GL
(NSW share only)

Further information

The next Border Rivers water allocation statement will be issued soon after the receipt of the next assessment from the Border Rivers Commission. In the meantime, interim statements will be used to keep water users informed of any significant changes in water availability or forecasts.

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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