

15 December 2020

Hunter Regulated River Water Source


Allocation update

General security water users in the Hunter regulated river water source have received an allocation increase of 4%, bringing their total allocation to 62% of entitlement for this 2020-21 water year. The improvement comes on the back of minor storage inflows during November 2020.

All other high priority water access licence holders in this water source have already received their full (100%) annual allocation.

Rainfall in November 2020 was a bit drier than average across most of the Hunter catchment. Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam received 31 mm and 39 mm of rainfall respectively and net inflow in November into these storages was just 4 gigalitres (GL) and 0.6 GL respectively.

Current allocations

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Hunter Regulated River Water Source	100%	62%	 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. The Hunter regulated river water source is currently at Stage 1 - meaning normal regulated river operations.

Dam levels (as at 14 December 2020)

Glenbawn Dam is about 47% full – falling – holding about 350 gigalitres (GL). It was about 42% full at this time last year.

Glennies Creek Dam is about 40% full – steady – holding about 113 GL. It was about 42% full at this time last year.

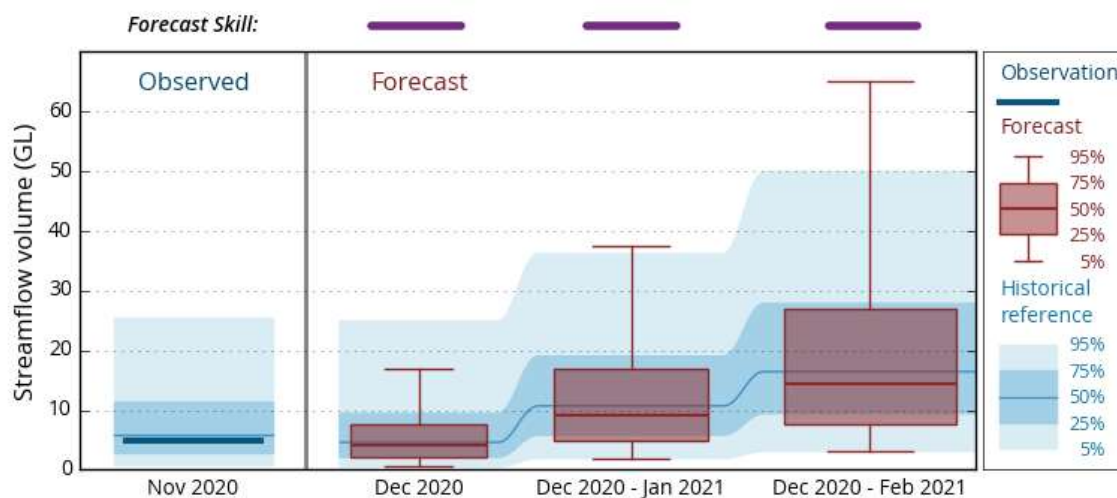
Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology climate outlook for December 2020 to February 2021 shows a good chance of exceeding median rainfall conditions around Singleton.

The Bureau also issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Hunter River upstream of Glenbawn Dam at Moonan. Despite the good rainfall forecast, the forecast median streamflow volumes from December 2020 to February is below the historical streamflow volumes, indicating a lower inflow during this period.

Hunter River at Moonam Dam Site (ID: 210018)

Forecast for Dec 2020 – Feb 2021



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For further details: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018&product_type=FC_9

Further information

Hunter resource assessments and allocation statements will continue to be updated monthly, while general security allocations remain less than full. The next Hunter water allocation statement will be released on **Tuesday 19 January 2021**.

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 December 2020 to 30 June 2023)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage volume		464.2
Minimum storage & tributary inflows (12/20 to 6/21) ⁽¹⁾		12.8
less		
Basic Land Holder Rights	3.2	
Domestic and Stock	1.8	
Local Water Utility balance	9.0	
Major Utility account balance	68.3	
Environmental Water Allowance	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta (including losses)	18.6	
High Security account balance	20.8	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) (12/20 to 6/21)	33.3	

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update

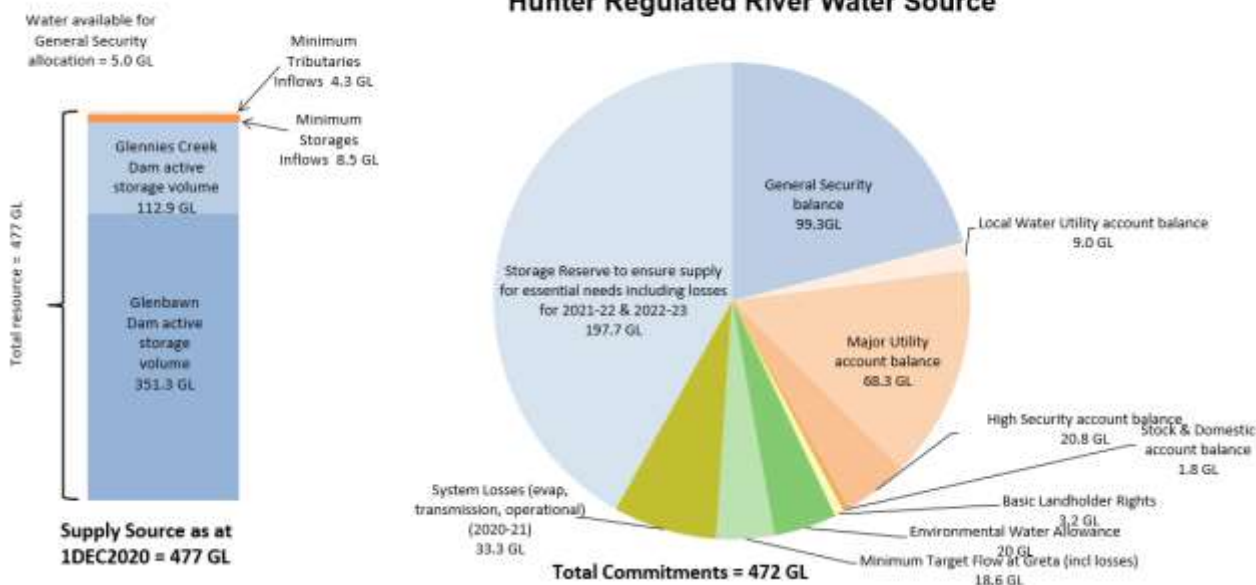


Storage Reserve for 2021-22 ⁽²⁾	120.2
Storage Reserve for 2022-23 ⁽³⁾	77.5
General Security balance ⁽⁴⁾	99.3
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	5.0

Notes:

- (1) Minimum historical dam inflows (8.5 GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (4.3 GL) from 1 December 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- (2) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses of 120.2 GL in 2021-22. Calculated as: system losses of 50.4 GL plus Essential Requirements of 122.4 GL minus 52.7 GL 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 100% to all other high priorities.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses of 77.5 GL in 2022-23. Calculated as: system losses of 50.2 GL plus Essential Requirements of 109.9 GL minus 82.6 GL of minimum storage & tributary inflows for the second 12 months of 24-month minimum inflows starting 1 July 2021. Essential Requirement includes minimum 75% HS opening allocation and 100% to all other high priorities.
- (4) The water remaining in GS accounts yet to be ordered and delivered. It is calculated by subtracting the usage (inclusive of Uncontrolled Flow takes) from the water already allocated to GS.
- (5) Surplus or deficit of water after accounting for all commitments. The surplus of 5 GL signifies the additional resources available for General Security allocation at this time.

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



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