

25 March 2021

## Belubula Regulated River Water Source

### Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations in the Belubula regulated river water source**, including zero allocation for general security this water year. Carcoar Dam has not captured significant inflows since the last statement in October 2020.

An additional 4,200 megalitres (ML) of inflow into Carcoar Dam is required to secure all current commitments and high priority needs until June 2023, which would enable an allocation to general security licences.

Tributary inflows downstream of Carcoar Dam have been meeting the end of system flow target and water orders, including from general security water users accessing uncontrolled flows. Access to uncontrolled flows and supplementary take will continue to be announced when available. The Belubula regulated river operation normally involves some releases from storage, however; with the main irrigation season ending, no large dam releases are expected over winter.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Belubula River	100%	0%	 Stage 2

### Storage level (as at 25 March 2021)

Carcoar Dam – 31% full – steady – currently at about 11,000 ML.

### Drought stage

The Belubula system is at Stage 2 (recovering) drought criticality level because of the current low level of water in storage and lack of general security allocation. Conditions will be closely monitored going forward and advice provided accordingly.

Further information on the NSW Extreme Events Policy and drought stages can be found at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events)

### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about average or cooler, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The current La Niña event is predicted to end during Autumn with conditions returning to neutral, however; it is still expected to have a lingering effect throughout April. A neutral ENSO outlook has little influence on the Australian climate.

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

## Belubula resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (March 2021 to June 2021)	Volume (ML)	Volume (ML)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>		12,200
<i>less</i>		
High Security <sup>(2)</sup>	600	
General Security balance	6,800	
Domestic and Stock <sup>(2)</sup>	200	
Evaporation from storage	500	
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(3)</sup>	2,400	
Storage reserve for 2021/22, 2022/23 <sup>(4)</sup>	5,900	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation (deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>		(4,200)

### Notes:

- (1) Carcoar Dam volume as of 1 March 2021, plus minimum historical dam inflows and usable tributary flows budgeted from March to June 2021.
- (2) Domestic, Stock and High Security: volume required to meet these high priority entitlements to 30 June 2021 in full.
- (3) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to June 2021 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises of natural transmission losses as water soaks into river bed, end of system flows and operational surpluses.
- (4) A minimum storage volume of 5,900 ML in Carcoar Dam on 30 June 2021 is required to ensure critical needs can be met through the 2021/22 and 2022/23 water years.
- (5) The volume of current deficit. Resource assessment needs to overcome any deficit to enable an allocation to general security entitlements.

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Belubula regulated river water source will be issued within the state-wide opening allocation statements on **1 July 2021**. However, an earlier statement for the Belubula system will be provided if conditions change significantly before July.

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