

9 July 2021

Peel Regulated River Water Source and Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Water allocation update

There has been an improvement in water availability in the Peel catchment since the last resource assessment allowing for the following water allocation increases:

- **General security allocation to increase by 24%**, resulting in a total allocation of 67% for the current water year.
- **Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) account to increase by 24%**, to a total of volume of 3.35 gegalitres (GL) for the current water year
- **Aquifer general security allocation to increase by 11.7%**, resulting in a total allocation of 83.8% for the current water year.

All other categories of water licence in the Peel Regulated River Water Source have already been given their maximum allocations for the year on 1 July 2021.

Total water allocations for the Peel Regulated River Water Source in 2021-22

Access licence type	2021-22
Domestic and Stock	100%
Local Water Utility	100%
High Security	100%
General Security	67%
Environmental Contingency Allowance	3.35 GL

Total water allocations for the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source in 2021-22

Access licence type	2021-22
Aquifer* (general security)	83.8%

* Increments to this licence category are related to increments to regulated river (general security) licences.

General security water users are reminded that under certain circumstances they can order and take water from uncontrolled flows without a corresponding debit from their account.

Drought recovery year 2020-21

A major improvement in water resources across the state has been observed since January 2021. Significant rainfall in the catchment resulted in the regulated river system returning to normal operations by mid-January. Chaffey Dam and Dungowan Dam volumes increased from approximately 18.6 GL to 83 GL and 4 GL to 6.3 GL respectively by the end of the water year. By January 2021 general security water users received their first allocation since October 2018, some 16% of entitlement. Thereafter, monthly incremental increases continued accumulating to reach a total closing general security allocation of 84% for the year. General security users extracted about 1.7 GL and the local water utility use was about 4.0 GL from the regulated system in 2020-21.

Key facts

- At 9 July, Chaffey Dam was holding 86 GL of water - about 83% full.
- Inflow into Chaffey Dam in June was about 22.7 GL. Any improvement in July will be included in the next resource assessment.
- With Chaffey Dam holding more than 20% capacity, Phase 1 of the authorisation under the *Water Supply Critical Needs Act 2019* is currently in place, meaning that water is being delivered by the river rather than the new pipeline.
- Normal regulated river operations and water ordering are available for the Peel river system.

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for winter indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Both daytime and overnight temperatures are also likely to be above average for winter.

Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/

Resource assessment data sheet

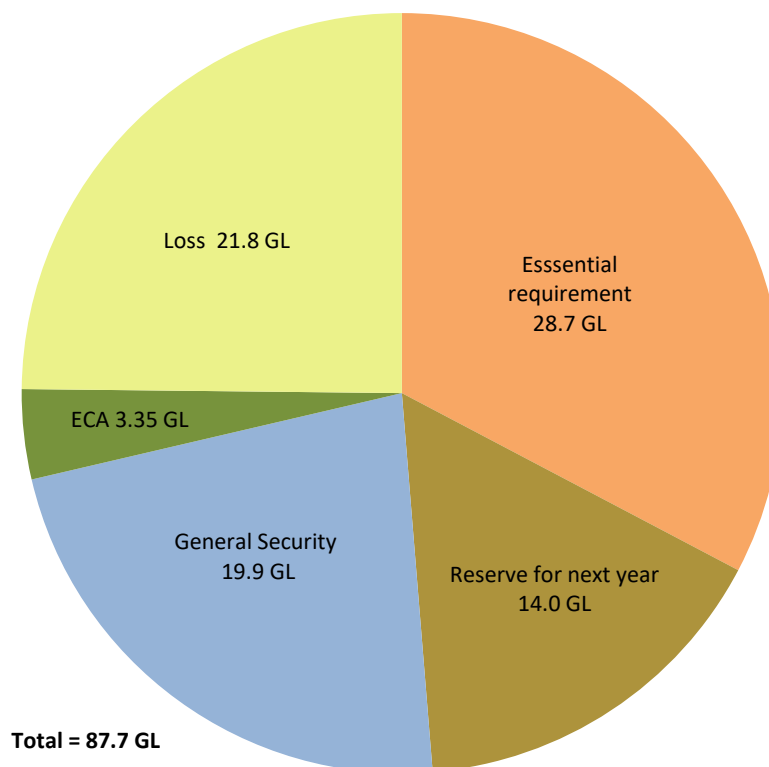
Resource Distribution (as at 1 July 2021)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	87.75
<i>less</i>	
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	28.70
Reserve for 2022-2023 ⁽³⁾	14.00
General security balance	19.90
ECA balance ⁽⁴⁾	3.35
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁵⁾	21.80
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁶⁾	0.00

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Chaffey Dam above dead storage, Dungowan Dam above 50% and minimum inflow expected to June 2022.
- ⁽²⁾ Water set aside to provide for basic landholder rights, domestic and stock (D&S), local water utility (LWU), high security (HS) and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. D&S entitlements have been allocated 100%, LWU entitlements have been allocated 100%, and HS entitlements have been allocated 100% for the current water year.
- ⁽³⁾ Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation of 2022-23 under the water sharing plan (WSP) obligation at the repeat of the worst drought known prior to the commencement of the WSP. The reserve includes basic landholder rights, 70% domestic and stock, 70% local water utility, 50% high security and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. This also considers minimum inflow expected next year offset by evaporation over 2022-23.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Total ECA account balance (GS allocation in ML/share multiplied by 5000).

- ⁽⁵⁾ Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is budgeted to deliver water orders based on current conditions and forecasts. ECA water delivery is measured at the dam wall thus incurs no transmission loss.
- ⁽⁶⁾ All available resources have been fully assigned. There is no surplus or deficit. The system is secure to at least June 2023.

Resource Distribution (as at 1 July 2021)



Further information

The next monthly water allocation statement for the Peel Regulated River Water Source will be available on **Tuesday 10 August 2021**.

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