

NSW Border Rivers

Water allocation update

There is no change to allocations for NSW Border Rivers water access licences.

Conditions have been particularly dry since the last assessment. Inflows into the major storages were extremely low and evaporation loss has remained high.

All high priority licences in the regulated river system had previously received their maximum allocation for the 2018/19 water year on 1 July 2018.

WaterNSW advises that under continued minimum inflows, future deliveries, including essential supplies, will be grouped and delivered in block releases to reduce operational water and protect remaining supplies.

A limited volume of water has been captured in Boggabilla Weir following rainfall over the past three weeks. This much-needed resource will be useful particularly in the lower reaches of the system in coming months.

2018-19	High Security	General Security A Class	General Security B Class	Drought Stage
NSW Border Rivers	100%	32.8%	0%	 Stage 2

Dam levels (10 May 2019)

- Pindari Dam is currently 5.8 per cent full – falling – holding 18 gigalitres (GL). This compares with about 59 per cent at this time last year.
- Glenlyon Dam is currently 9.5 per cent full – falling – holding 24 GL. This compares with about 51 per cent at this time last year.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. Currently, the Border Rivers are in Stage 2 drought, as contingency measures are needed to manage the water shortage.

As the drought is deepening, tougher measures will be needed to protect critical human needs, and the criticality level is expected to escalate to Stage 3. Management action will focus on ensuring water is available for critical needs for as long as possible.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology three months from May to July outlook shows an even chance of median rainfall conditions. Days and nights in this time are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau's climate model suggests a short-lived El Niño may develop in the coming months. An El Niño would increase the chance of drier conditions in Australia's east.

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

Water availability outlook for 2019-20

This forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. The outlook for likely 1 July 2019 water availability is conservatively based on small, assumed future inflows until June 2020.

- Critical human and stock needs are secure for next water year (2019-20).
- Full allocation can be expected for towns, domestic and stock access licences, and high security entitlements.
- Access to general security (Class A and B) carryover water could be significantly restricted in 2019/20, by as much as 50%, if runoff in May and June is insufficient.
- Such a restriction would escalate drought criticality from Stage 2 to Stage 3.
- General security (A and B Class) may not receive additional allocation on 1 July 2019.
- If extreme dry conditions continue in coming months, deliverability will become more challenging and restrictions during 2019-20 on delivering account water, replenishment flows and minimum releases, or a combination of these, will be needed to secure critical human needs for 2020-21.

Further information

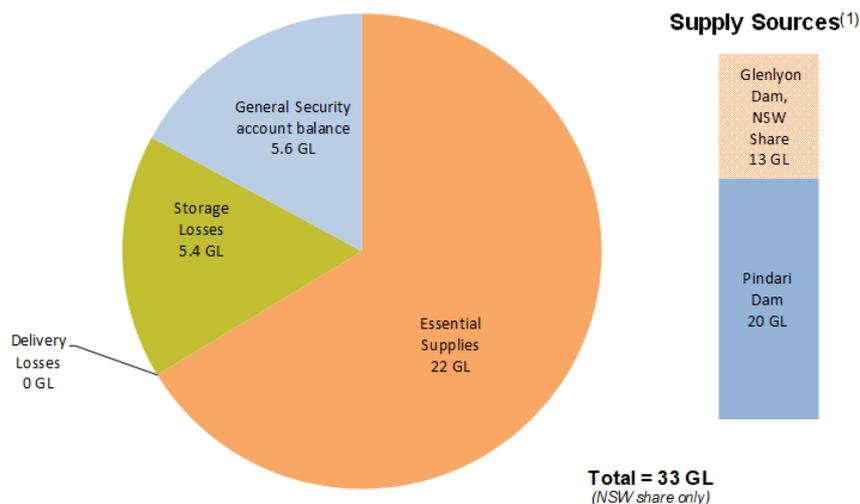
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

NSW Border Rivers Resource Assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 1 March 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) ⁽¹⁾	33
Less	
Storage losses ⁽²⁾	5.4
Essential supplies ⁽³⁾	22
General security account balance ⁽⁴⁾	5.6
General security delivery losses ⁽⁵⁾	0

See notes below

Resource Distribution as at 1 March 2019 NSW Border Rivers



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 1 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 entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (5) General security delivery losses – to be budgeted at 30 per cent to deliver the existing general security account water. Currently no water in this account. Zero balance means that water must be borrowed from other accounts to continue the delivery of general security water.