

20 December 2019

Bega-Brogo Valley

Allocations and water availability update

This water allocation statement for the Bega-Brogo regulated river water source is being published to update users on emerging drought and water shortage in the catchment.

Allocation for general security licence holders in the Bega-Brogo regulated river water source commenced the 2019-20 water year at 40 per cent of entitlement.

The last two months from (October 2019 to November 2019) has seen below average rainfall in the catchment, with Brogo Dam receiving just 41.2 mm of rainfall in that period. As a result, there has been no resource improvement and therefore **no allocation increase at this time**.

Apart from general security, all other categories of licence in the regulated river valley have received their maximum allocation for the 2019-20 water-year.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Bega-Brogo Valley	100%	40%	 Stage 2

Dam levels (as at 18 December 2019)

Brogo Dam is 29 per cent full – falling – holding about 2,700 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 66 per cent full.

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 in the Murray-Darling Basin. As the drought is now extending beyond the Basin and into coastal valleys, regulated coastal rivers are now being reported on the drought map on the DPIE website, despite not yet being covered by the Extreme Events Policy.

Currently, the Bega-Brogo Valley is classified as Stage 2 criticality, indicating that there is a risk of an emerging water shortage. Contingency measures may be required in 2020 to protect high priority water needs including town water supply security.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

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

Key facts

- Losses from Brogo Dam exceeded inflows in October and November by 35 megalitres (ML).
- Dry conditions have meant increased release from Brogo Dam to meet downstream demands.
- About 40 per cent on average of allocated general security water has been used so far this year, some 2,166 ML. However active water users have used a far greater proportion of their water.
- The department is exploring drought contingency measures to protect high priority needs, including town water supplies, through deteriorating drought conditions.
- Water availability can change rapidly in coastal catchments, therefore conditions will be closely monitored and monthly statements will be issued until there is significant system recovery.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for January 2020 to March 2020 shows drier conditions for this catchment. Temperatures are also likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral and is expected to remain neutral into early 2020. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently strongly positive, but is expected to ease in coming months to be neutral by February 2020. A positive IOD typically means drier than average conditions for southern and central Australia. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is negative and is expected to continue into early January 2020. A negative SAM in summer tends to bring drier conditions to parts of eastern Australia.

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

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Bega-Brogo regulated river water source will be issued in late January 2020.

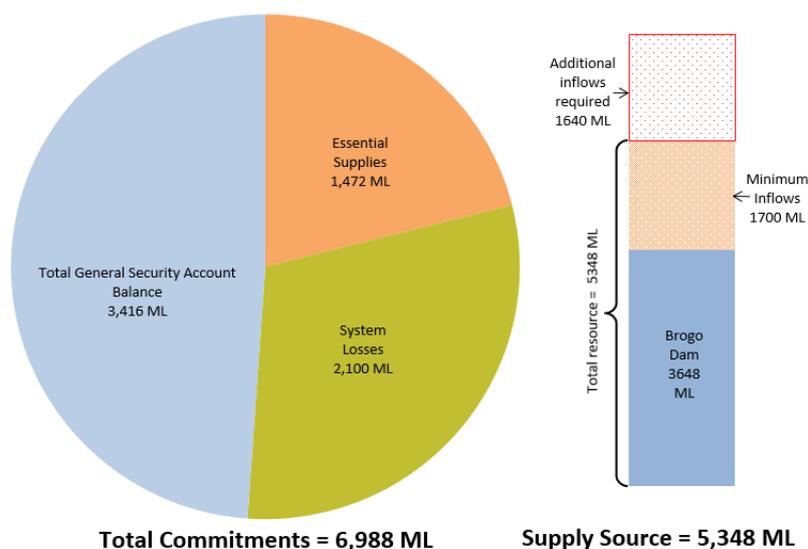
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 30 November 2019)	Volume (ML)	Volume (ML)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		5,348
<i>less</i>		
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	1,472	
System Losses ⁽³⁾	2,100	
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾	3,416	
<i>equals</i>		
Additional inflows required ⁽⁵⁾		(1,640)

See notes below.

Resource Distribution & Commitments
1 December 2019 to 30 June 2020
Bega-Brogo Valley



Notes:

- (1) Total Available Resource – is the total active storage volume in Brogo Dam as 1 December 2019 of 3,648 ML plus minimum forecast inflows from December 2019 to June 2020 of 1,700 ML.
- (2) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Towns, Stock & Domestic, High Security, transparent releases and minimum storage releases from December 2019 to June 2020.
- (3) System Losses – water set aside to provide for evaporation, transmission and operational losses from December 2019 to June 2020.
- (4) Water allocated to general security account holders that has not been debited (remaining liability). Note that there can be delays in receiving metered water usage.
- (5) This negative value means additional inflows are required to meet the entire general security account balance.

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