

24 February 2020

Bega-Brogo Regulated River Water Source

Allocations

This water allocation statement for the Bega-Brogo regulated river water source is being published to update water availability after a significant improvement in catchment conditions.

Brogo Dam storage has filled and this year's allocation for general security licence holders has **increased by 20 per cent to 60 per cent of entitlement.**

After months of drought and bushfires, Brogo Dam has filled after drenching rain fell across the region. On 8 February 2020, the dam was 10 per cent capacity, but after 145 mm of rain over three days, the dam was 112 per cent full and spilling. With water security restored, temporary restrictions on general security water use was lifted on 12 February 2020.

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

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Bega-Brogo Regulated River Water Source	100%	60%	 Stage 1

Dam levels (as at 21 February 2020)

Brogo Dam is about 103 per cent full, holding about 9,245 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was also full, but fell to around 10 per full in early February 2020.

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. When the drought extended beyond the Basin and into coastal catchments, regulated coastal rivers were also categorised on the NSW drought map shown on the DPIE website.

The Bega-Brogo regulated river water source has now been revised from Stage 4 to Stage 1 – normal regulated rivers operations, following the significant improvement in water availability.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought>

Key facts

- Brogo Dam (as at 21 February 2020) is spilling and is about 103 per cent full, holding about 9,245 megalitres (ML). Full supply capacity is around 9,000 ML.
- This time last year the storage was also full.
- Brogo Dam volume increased from about 1,100 ML (10% full) to spill (>100% full) on 10 February 2020 as a result of significant rainfall from 8 February 2020.
- The temporary water restriction on general security water take was lifted on 12 February 2020.
- The drought stage criticality level was revised from Stage 4 to Stage 1 – normal river operations.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for March to May shows that median rainfall conditions are likely for the catchment. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is neutral and is expected to remain neutral until the end of autumn. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is also neutral.

With both the ENSO and IOD indicators now in the neutral range, Australia's weather can be influenced by more local or short-term climate drivers.

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 May 2020, or earlier if further water availability conditions change significantly.

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 (13 February 2020 – 30 June 2021)	Volume (ML)	Volume (ML)
Brogo Dam Volume ⁽¹⁾ (12 February 2020)		9,650
Minimum inflows		2,800
<i>less</i>		
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	3,467	
System Losses ⁽³⁾	4,950	
General Security Account Balance ⁽⁴⁾ (12 February 2020)	1,148	
<i>equals</i>		
Additional available water ⁽⁵⁾		2,885

Notes:

- (1) Total Brogo Dam *active* volume as of 12 February 2020. Note: the dam has been spilling.
- (2) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for towns, stock & domestic, high security, transparent and minimum storage releases from 12 February 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- (3) System Losses – water set aside to provide for evaporation, transmission and operational losses from 12 February 2020 to 30 June 2021.
- (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, therefore this number is conservative.
- (5) This water is surplus to other commitments and can be allocated to general security access licence holders.

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