

10 September 2020

Macquarie-Bogan Unregulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

Following rainfall in recent weeks, Chifley Dam storage has risen sharply to its highest level since January 2017. The dam depleted to critically low levels over summer – less than 30% full. To protect critical human needs, unregulated river access licence holders upstream of the Bathurst town water supply off-take were restricted to just 20% of their entitlement.

There is now enough water to allocate fully to unregulated river access licence holders without risk to town water supply security. Accordingly, unregulated river access license holders in the following management zones have been allocated an additional 0.8 megalitres per unit share, bringing their total allocation for this 2020-21 water-year to the maximum 1 megalitre per unit share or 100% of entitlement:

- CAMPBELLS RIVER DOWSTREAM MANAGEMENT ZONE IN CAMPBELLS RIVER WATER SOURCE
- FISH RIVER WATER SOURCE DOWNSTREAM OF LAKE OBERON
- MACQUARIE RIVER ABOVE BATHURST MANAGEMENT ZONE IN MACQUARIE RIVER ABOVE BURRENDONG WATER SOURCE

Catchment conditions are generally wet and further rainfall over the Upper Macquarie River catchment is forecast in the coming weeks.

Storage levels (as at 8 September 2020)

- Ben Chifley Dam is 95.5% full – rising – holding about 28,760 megalitres (ML).
- Winburndale Dam is 80.9% full – rising – holding about 1,375 ML.

This announcement brings water allocations for all unregulated river access licences in the Macquarie-Bogan Unregulated Rivers Water Source to a full 100% of entitlement. Therefore no further water allocation statements are likely to be needed for this water source in 2020-21.

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