

4 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 users on the drought condition 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.

December 2019 saw very much below average rainfall in the catchment, with Brogo Dam receiving just 6 mm of rainfall. There was no inflow of consequence into Brogo Dam.

Due to the continuing dry conditions in the catchment, **a Temporary Water Restriction Order was gazetted on 8 January 2020, prohibiting take of water of the remaining general security access licence accounts**, in order to conserve water for critical human needs for the 2020-21 water year. This restriction prohibits water users from accessing their water in general security accounts until 30 June 2020 or until conditions improve such that the restriction can be repealed before then.

More information on the restriction can be found at:

<https://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/temporary-water-restrictions/bega-brogo-reg-rivers-water-sources>

The catchment has been facing extremely dry conditions; however, Brogo Dam is a small storage and can rise from near empty to full overnight from heavy rainfall, typically from an East Coast Low weather system.

Apart from general security, 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%	40%	 Stage 4

Dam levels (as at 29 January 2020)

Brogo Dam is about 11 per cent full – falling – holding about 1,160 megalitres (ML). This time last year the storage was about 85 per cent full.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach from 1 to 4 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 catchments, 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 Regulated River Water Source is classified as Stage 4 criticality, the highest drought stage, indicating that severe restrictions are required to prioritise remaining supplies for critical human water needs.

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

- Losses from Brogo Dam exceeded inflows in December 2019 by 242 megalitres (ML).
- Dry conditions meant increased release from Brogo Dam of about 1,119 ML, to meet downstream demands in December 2019.
- About 4,082 ML or 73% of the allocated general security water has been used in the 2019-20 water year to 31 December 2019.
- On 8 January 2020, a Temporary Water Restriction Order was gazetted, prohibiting take of water from the remaining general security access licence accounts in order to conserve water for critical human needs for the 2020-21 water year.
- The Bega-Brogo Regulated River Water Source is at Stage 4 drought stage.
- If water availability conditions continue to deteriorate, it may become necessary to shorten the regulated river system. Options for how and when this may be implemented is currently being investigated.
- 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 February to April shows neither drier nor wetter conditions for the catchment. Temperatures are very 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 now also neutral. The positive IOD in the last half of 2019 contributed to the warm and dry conditions experienced across much of Australia.

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

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

Further information

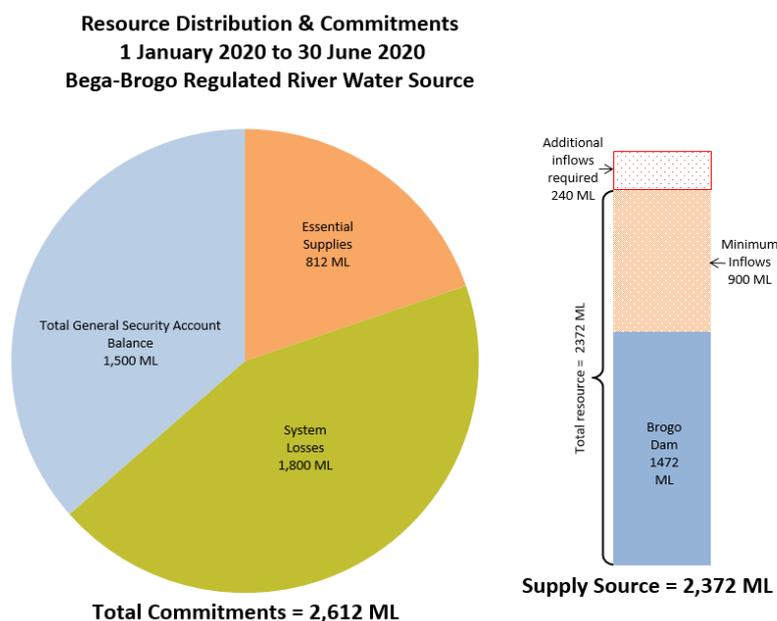
The next water allocation statement for the Bega-Brogo Regulated River Water Source will be issued in late February 2020.

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 31 December 2019)	Volume (ML)	Volume (ML)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		2,372
<i>less</i>		
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	812	
System Losses ⁽³⁾	1,800	
General Security Account Balance (100% of 1,500 ML in accounts restricted from access) ⁽⁴⁾	0	
<i>equals</i>		
Additional inflows required ⁽⁵⁾		(240)

See notes below.



Notes:

- (1) Total Available Resource – is the total *active* storage volume in Brogo Dam as 1 January 2020 of 1,472 ML plus forecast minimum inflows from January 2020 to June 2020 of 900 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 January 2020 to June 2020.
- (3) System Losses – water set aside to provide for evaporation, transmission and operational losses from January 2020 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. Currently 100% of this volume is prohibited to be taken as per the s324 Temporary Restriction Order Gazetted on 8 January 2020.
- (5) This negative value means additional inflows are required into the system to meet commitments.

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