

22 April 2022

# Hunter Regulated River Water Source

## Water allocation update

Rainfall this water year has been very much above average, with some parts of the catchment receiving up to 400 mm during March. Storages continue to rise. Combined inflows to headwater storages in March 2022 were around 128 gigalitres (GL).

For the 2021-22 water year ending 30 June 2022, all licences have been fully allocated in accordance with the Hunter regulated river water sharing plan.

This water year has seen good natural inflows throughout the system. The annual high flow tally at Greta was exceeded and allowed a further allocation to supplementary access licence holders of 100%, for a total of 200% of entitlement on 15 December 2021.

**Table 1 : Water allocation history for 2021-22 (in % or ML/unit share)**

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2021/22	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Major Utility	100%	100%*	190%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	1.00	1.00 *	125%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00	1.00	100%
15-Dec	Supplementary	1.00	2.00 *	172%

\*maximum possible

## Resource and allocations outlook for 2022-23

The system is well placed to meet water security commitments and provide water for productive use in the new water year, commencing 1 July 2022. The seasonal outlook from the Bureau of Meteorology is for likely wetter than median conditions over next three months. Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including for major utility and local water utility, is secure to at least 30 June 2024, based on minimum future inflows.

- All high priority water access licence holders including, **major utility, local water utility, domestic and stock** and **high security** can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2022.
- The **environmental water allowance** will be credited with 20 GL, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Unused water in accounts can be carried forward from the 2021-22 water year into the 2022-23 water year on 1 July 2022, subject to allowable limits, in accordance with the rules of the water sharing plan and will be fully deliverable in 2022-23.
- **General security** licences likely to get their maximum 100% allocation on 1 July 2022.
- **Supplementary** water access licence holders can expect a full (100%) opening allocation on 1 July 2022.

Water users are reminded to check their account limits and the carryover provisions for their entitlements and be aware of potential forfeiture of water from accounts at the end of the water year.

### Dam levels (as at 20 April 2022)

Glenbawn Dam is about 97% full – rising – holding 727 gigalitres (GL).

Glennies Creek Dam is about 100% full – falling – holding 285 GL.

### Climate and streamflow outlooks

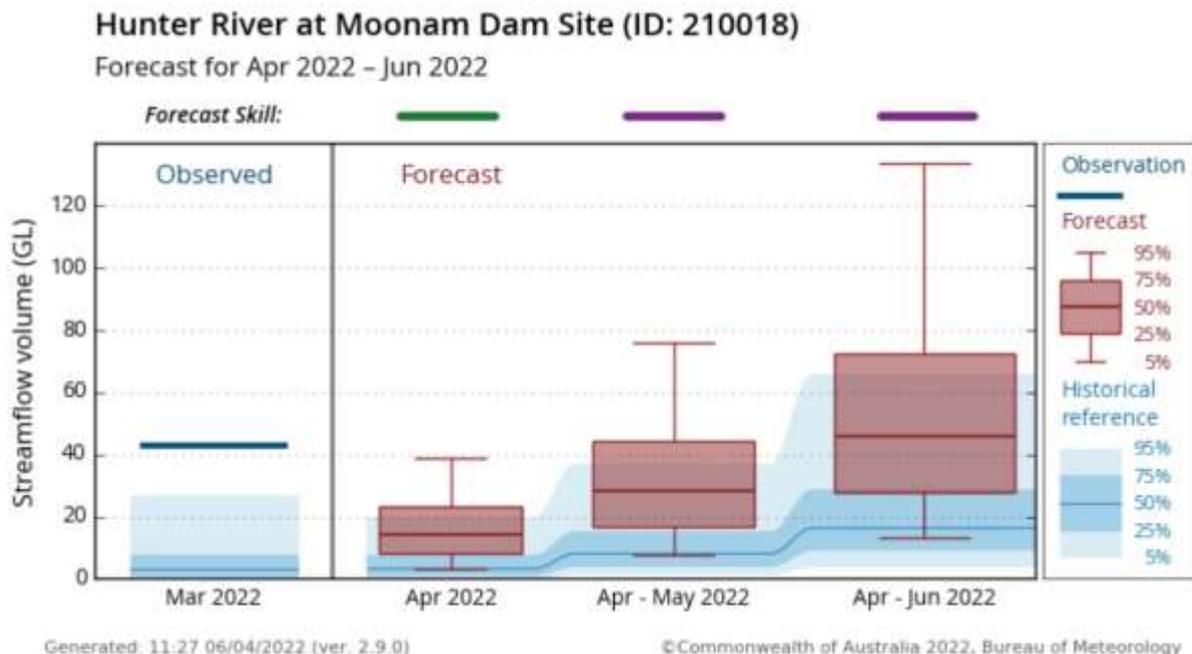
The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that rainfall is likely to be median to above median across the Hunter catchment. Maximum temperatures are likely to be neither cooler nor warmer than median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the catchment.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Hunter River upstream of Glenbawn Dam at Moonan (see the figure below). This may provide an indication of potential inflows into the dam.

All forecast quartiles of total streamflow volume from April to June are remarkably higher than the historical quartile references, indicating very likely higher flow than historical streamflow conditions for the next few months.

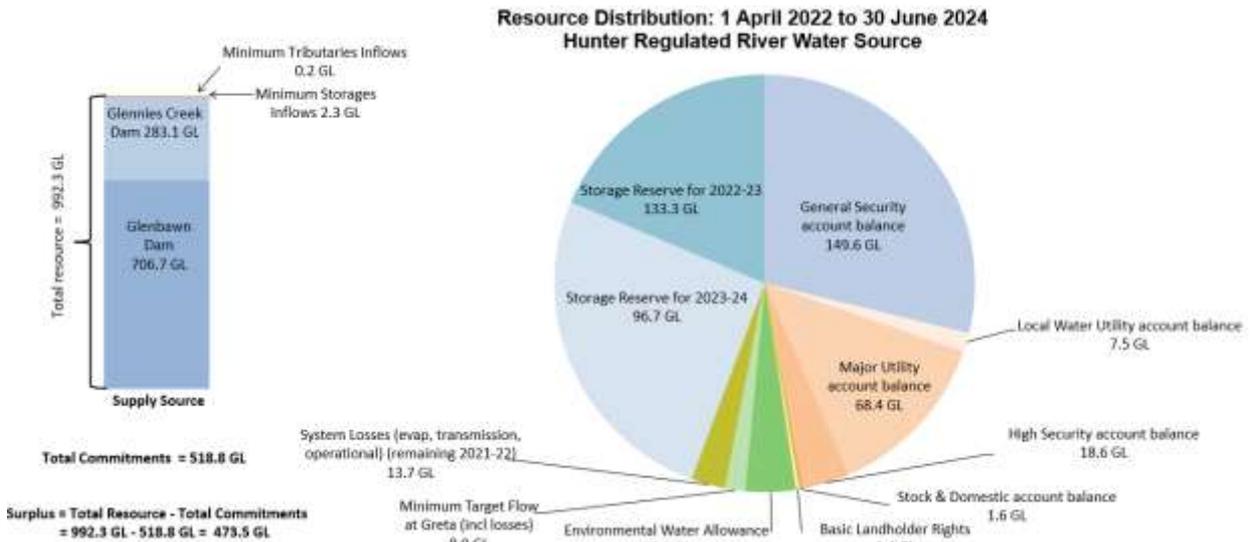
Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=210018)



<b>Resource Distribution (1 April 2022 to 30 June 2024)</b>	<b>GL</b>	<b>GL</b>
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage volume (1/04/22)		989.8
Minimum storage & tributary inflows (4/22 to 6/22) <sup>1</sup>		2.5
<i>less</i>		
Basic Land Holder Rights	1.4	
Domestic and Stock account balance	1.6	
Local Water Utility account balance	7.5	
Major utility account balance	68.4	
Environmental Water Allowance (100%)	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta (including losses)	8.0	
High Security account balance	18.6	
Losses (evaporation, transmission, operation) (4/22 to 6/22)	13.7	
Storage Reserve for 2022-23 <sup>2</sup>	133.3	
Storage Reserve for 2023-24 <sup>3</sup>	96.7	
General Security balance <sup>4</sup>	149.6	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>5</sup>		473.5

**Notes:**

- (1) Minimum historical dam inflows (2.3 GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (0.2 GL) from 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022.
- (2) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2022/23. Calculated as: system losses of 63.5 GL plus essential requirements of 122.5 GL minus 52.7 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the first 12 months of the 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2022. Essential requirement includes minimum 75% high security (HS) opening allocation and 100% to all other high priority licences.
- (3) Water required to be set aside in storages as reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2023/24. Calculated as: system losses of 56.9 GL plus essential requirements of 122.5 GL minus 82.6 GL of minimum storage & usable tributary inflows for the second 12 months of the 24-month minimum inflow period starting 1 July 2022. Essential requirement includes minimum 75% high security (HS) opening allocation and 100% to all other high priority licences.
- (4) The water remaining in general security accounts yet to be ordered and delivered.
- (5) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all minimum commitments. The surplus of 473.5 GL signifies the additional resources available for allocation to high security to full and general security in accordance with the WSP for the next water year.



## Water allocation guide

The department is publishing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methodology for all major NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Hunter regulated river water source is available at the link below.

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

As water allocations for the 2021-22 water year have reached their maximum limit, regular allocation announcements have ceased. However, conditions will continue to be monitored for any significant changes to the resource availability or the outlook.

The next water allocation statement for the Hunter Regulated River will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statement on **1 July 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning and Environment website - [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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