

1 July 2020

## Opening water allocations 2020-21

### Regulated River water users

The NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment today announced opening water allocations for regulated river water users for the 2020-21 water year.

Some small, but welcomed improvement in water resources have been received since February. The total volume of water held in major NSW storages has increased by 3.5% from this time last year to 34.5% of full capacity. Some of the larger storages have improved by more than 10% including Menindee Lakes, Burrendong and Keepit dams.

All critical needs, including town water supplies, are secure for this 2020-21 water year. Full allocation has been made to all town supplies and domestic and stock water users, apart from in the Peel regulated river water source where maximum drought criticality Stage 4 conditions remain.

This is the second consecutive year where some higher priority water users are not starting the year with a full allocation. They include entitlement holders in the Peel, Namoi and Lachlan rivers. High security users in the Hunter water source are also receiving a small reduction in allocation this year. Each circumstance is being carefully monitored.

General security water users on several NSW regulated river systems are receiving no new allocation for a second consecutive year. While the Macquarie River has had some resource improvement and restrictions have been lifted, water availability in the Lachlan River system continues to deteriorate and access to general security water has been further tightened.

Full allocation is provided to supplementary licence holders in all applicable river systems, however; access to water is only available under periods of announced supplementary flow.

Water allocation statements for major inland regulated river systems are published and updated on the department's website at least monthly. The statements explain the latest information on the sharing of available resources.

Brief descriptions of major regulated rivers are included below, followed by a table of the current volumes stored in major dams and a list of the allocations provided to each licence category.

### Lower Darling

- The Menindee Lakes System (MLS) is currently holding around 480 gigalitres (GL) or 28% full. It has been rising in recent weeks but is near its peak as upstream the rivers return to baseflow conditions. This time last year the lakes were holding just 16 GL (less than 1% full).
- The MLS is under NSW control and is being used to meet Lower Darling requirements only. It will remain in NSW control until it rises past 640 GL, at which point it will become a shared Murray resource in accordance with the Murray Darling Basin Agreement.
- While in NSW control, trade to and from the Lower Darling remains closed. This is to provide longevity to the NSW drought reserve and protect the rights of Lower Darling water users. Trade within the Lower Darling water source is permitted.
- All high priority entitlements have received a full allocation including all local water utility, domestic, stock and high security licences, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- General security entitlements have received an opening allocation of 30% based on improvements since the last allocation announcement. Further resource improvements are required to increase general security allocations. Carryover is fully available.
- Comprehensive water allocation statements will commence on 15 July 2020.
- The valley is in Stage 2 (recovering) drought criticality.

### NSW Murray

- Combined storage volume in the major River Murray storages is around 3,460 gigalitres (GL) or around 42% full, which is similar to the total storage volume at this time last year.
- All high priority entitlements have received a full opening allocation in accordance with the water sharing plan. This includes all local water utility, domestic, stock, high security licences and specific purpose access licences (critical conveyance).
- Carryover is fully available, some 360 GL, or about 21% of general security entitlement on average.
- Conveyance licences have received their full opening allocation of 50% of entitlement.
- A resource shortfall this year has been limited to the Wakool System Allowance, some 50 GL, and will need to be filled as a priority from the first of further expected resource improvements.
- General security water users received no new allocation. Water has been borrowed from Wakool system requirements to help meet the high security, conveyance and carryover commitments. Once restored, further resource improvements can be allocated to general security water users concurrently with the need to provide for high priority commitments in 2021-22, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- The NSW Barmah-Millewa Allowance, around 300 GL, is fully borrowed. Payback will commence when general security allocation reaches 30% of entitlement.
- Trade downstream across the Barmah choke opened on 1 July but will close when the opening trade balance is exhausted. It will then only re-open to the extent of upstream (back) trades.
- Comprehensive water allocation statements will commence on 15 July 2020.
- The valley is in Stage 2 (recovering) drought criticality.

### Murrumbidgee River

- Combined storage volume in the major Murrumbidgee dams is around 1,320 gigalitres (GL) or approximately 50% full, which is about 250 GL higher than the total volume this time last year.
- All high priority entitlements have received full opening allocations as per the valley's water sharing plan. This includes all local water utility, domestic, stock and high security licences.

- General security users have received an opening allocation of 10%, based on the latest resource assessment. The next assessment will be reported in mid-July.
- Carryover is fully available, estimated to be about 340 GL or 18% of general security entitlement on average.
- Conveyance entitlements have received full opening allocations as per the water sharing plan.
- Future resource improvements will accrue to general security allocations and will commence the build for high priority categories in 2021-22, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Intervalley trade is subject to the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance, which is currently showing that trade **out** of the valley is **allowed**, but trade **into** the valley is **closed**.
- Comprehensive water allocation statements will commence on 15 July 2020.
- The valley is in Stage 1 (normal operations) drought criticality.

### Lachlan River

- Wyangala Dam is holding 198 GL (16%). The dam held 335 GL (27%) at this time last year.
- All licence categories, except high security and general security, have received full allocations.
- High security users have received a 70% allocation and there is a commensurate allocation for conveyance entitlements.
- No new allocation to general security water users is possible.
- The restriction on accessing 43% of the 1 July 2019 general security account balance remains.
- In addition a further 50% restriction is now in force for 2020-21 on the active general security account balance as at 30 June 2020.
- The first resource improvements able to be allocated to these entitlements will accrue to easing this latter restriction and high security allocation together, and then to easing the earlier (2019/20) restriction.
- Until the restrictions are lifted, no new allocation to general security water users is possible.
- The restrictions are necessary to ensure all critical needs are secure for 2020-21.
- The next water allocation statement will be on 10 August 2020.
- The valley is in Stage 3 (severe) drought criticality.
- If winter/spring inflows fail, the system will move into Stage 4 drought criticality.

### Belubula River

- Carcoar Dam is holding 6 GL (16%) and was holding 8 GL (22%) this time last year.
- All high priority users have received full allocations, as have supplementary licence holders.
- No new allocation to general security water users is possible.
- Restrictions on accessing general security account water have been lifted.
- Delivery from Carcoar Dam is subject to operational constraints and tributary inflows.
- The valley is in Stage 3 (severe) drought criticality and is being carefully monitored.

### Macquarie and Cudgegong Rivers

- Burrendong Dam (Macquarie) is currently holding 264 GL (22%). Last year it reached a low of approximately 94 GL or just over 5% full.
- Windamere Dam is holding 99 GL (27%). It was holding 120 GL (33%) this time last year.
- The system continues to experience the worst ever drought inflows to Burrendong Dam. Just 31% of the previous worst drought inflow has arrived in storage over the last 32 months.

- All licence categories, except general security, have received a full allocation.
- No new allocation to general security water users is possible.
- General security water users on the Macquarie River below Burrendong Dam are now allowed to access 40% of their 1 July 2019 account balance. These users were fully restricted during the outgoing water year. There are no restrictions on access to water in accounts for Cudgegong water users.
- Water held in the Environmental Water Allowance is available in full.
- Trade of account water is permitted, however; water subject to restriction remains restricted.
- The above measures ensure water for all critical needs is secure this (2020-21) water year.
- The next water allocation statement will be on 12 August 2020.
- The Macquarie is in Stage 3 (severe) drought criticality and the Cudgegong Stage 2.

### Namoi River

- Split Rock Dam is holding 18 GL (5%) and held around 6 GL (3%) this time last year.
- Keepit Dam is holding 61 GL (14%) and but reached a low of about 10 GL (1%) last year.
- All licence categories, except high and general security, have received a full allocation.
- High security licences have received a 90% opening allocation.
- No new allocation to general security water users in the Upper or Lower Namoi is possible.
- Restrictions on accessing general security account water have been lifted.
- Delivery of account water will depend on drought operational constraints and tributary inflows.
- The next water allocation statement will be on the first week of August 2020.
- The Lower Namoi is in Stage 3 (severe) drought criticality and the Upper Namoi stage 2.

### Peel River

- Chaffey Dam storage is currently holding approximately 15 GL (15%) of water, and this time last year it was holding approximately 25 GL, about 24% full.
- Local water utility, domestic and stock access licence categories have received a starting allocation of 70%.
- High security licences have received a starting allocation of 50% of entitlement.
- No new allocation to general security water users is possible.
- Water for the critical needs, importantly Tamworth, is secure for the 2020-21 water year.
- With Chaffey Dam so low, no allocation to general security water users is possible.
- Investment in emergency drought infrastructure is saving water and extending supplies.
- The valley is in maximum Stage 4 drought criticality.

### Gwydir River

- Copeton Dam is holding 178 GL (13%) and held about 120 GL (10%) at this time last year.
- All licence categories, except general security, have received a full allocation.
- No new allocation to general security water users is possible at this time.
- General security and environmental contingency allowance account balances operate continuously from one year to the next. Allocations are made as inflows surplus to higher priority needs are captured and regulated.
- Delivery of account water will depend on drought operational measures and tributary inflows.

- The next water allocation statement will be on 7 August 2020.
- The valley is in Stage 2 (recovering) drought criticality.

### NSW Border Rivers

- Pindari Dam is holding 39 GL (13%). The dam was holding 17 GL (5%) this time last year.
- All licence categories, except general security, have received full allocations.
- General Security A class has received a 7.3% allocation.
- No allocation to General Security B class is possible until A class receives a full (100%) allocation, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- There are no temporary water restrictions, but low storage levels mean deliverability of account water is challenging and depends on drought operational measures and tributary inflows.
- The valley is in Stage 3 (severe) drought criticality.

### Coastal rivers

- The headwater storages in the Paterson (100%) and the Richmond (68%) have good supply.
- All licence categories in the Paterson and Richmond valleys have received full allocations.
- In the Hunter system, Glenbawn Dam is holding 295 GL (39% full) and Glennies Creek Dam is currently holding 104 GL (37% full). This time last year the headwater storages were half full.
- All licence categories in the Hunter system, except general security and high security, have received full allocations.
- High security licence holders have received 90% and general security 30% allocation.
- On the south coast, Brogo Dam is holding 8.6 GL (96% full). The dam held about the same level this time last year but dropped to a critically low 15% during 2019/20.
- All licence categories in the Bega Brogo, except general security, have received full allocations.
- General security licence holders have received 40% allocation.
- These small coastal storages are highly responsive and behave quite differently to large inland ones. They typically fill multiple times per year from coastal downpours. Also they can be drawn low in a year under very dry conditions and be filled from localised storms overnight.
- Coastal valleys are in Stage 1 (normal operations) drought criticality.

# Water Allocation Statement

## NSW Regulated River Water Sources



### NSW Regulated River Allocations Table

WATER SOURCES	CATEGORIES	Amount
<b>BEGA AND BROGO REGULATED RIVERS WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.4 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
<b>BELUBULA REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
<b>BORDER RIVERS REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY A)	0.073 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY B)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
<b>GWYDIR REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre

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## NSW Regulated River Water Sources



WATER SOURCES	CATEGORIES	Amount
<b>HUNTER REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	MAJOR UTILITY [POWER GENERATION]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.3 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.9 megalitre
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
<b>LACHLAN REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.1658 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
<b>LOWER DARLING REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.7 megalitre
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.3 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
<b>LOWER NAMOI REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.9 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	90 %
SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre	

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## NSW Regulated River Water Sources



WATER SOURCES	CATEGORIES	Amount
<b>MACQUARIE AND CUDGEGONG REGULATED RIVERS WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
<b>MURRUMBIDGEE REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.8585 megalitre
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.641 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.95 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [ENVIRONMENTAL]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER (LOWBIDGEE)	1 megalitre
<b>NSW MURRAY REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	EAGLE CREEK TEMPORARY CRITICAL CONVEYANCE	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY [DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL]	100 %
	MATHOURA TEMPORARY CRITICAL CONVEYANCE	100 %



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## NSW Regulated River Water Sources



WATER SOURCES	CATEGORIES	Amount
	MOIRA TEMPORARY CRITICAL CONVEYANCE	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.5 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.97 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
	WEST CORURGAN TEMPORARY CRITICAL CONVEYANCE [CRITICAL CONVEYANCE]	100 %
<b>PATERSON REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100 %
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 megalitre
<b>PEEL REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	70 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	70 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	70 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	70 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.5 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	50 %
<b>RICHMOND REGULATED WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 megalitre
<b>UPPER NAMOI REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE</b>	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %

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## NSW Regulated River Water Sources



WATER SOURCES	CATEGORIES	Amount
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 megalitre
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.9 megalitre

# Water Allocation Statement

NSW Regulated River Water Sources



## Storage Levels – Major NSW dams as at 25 June 2020

River Valley and Storage	Current Volume		Annual Change	This time last year
	%	GL	GL	
<b>Lower Darling</b>				
Menindee Lakes, Broken Hill	29%	480	464	1%
<b>Murray Valley</b>				
Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta (Vic)	50%	1,920	-550	64%
Hume Dam, Albury	35%	1,054	356	23%
<b>Murrumbidgee Valley</b>				
Burrinjuck Dam, Yass	43%	440	126	31%
Blowering Dam, Tumut	55%	881	159	45%
<b>Lachlan Valley</b>				
Wyangala Dam, Cowra	16%	198	-127	27%
Carcoar Dam, Carcoar	16%	6	-2	22%
<b>Macquarie Valley</b>				
Burrendong Dam, Wellington	23%	264	170	8%
Windamere Dam, Mudgee	27%	99	-21	33%
<b>Namoi Valley</b>				
Keepit Dam, Gunnedah	14.5%	61	50	3%
Split Rock Dam, Manilla	5%	18	6	3%
Chaffey Dam, Tamworth	15%	15	-11	27%
<b>Gwydir Valley</b>				
Copeton Dam, Inverell	13%	178	38	10%
<b>Border Rivers</b>				
Glenlyon Dam, Stanthorpe (Qld)	14%	35	12	9%
Pindari Dam, Inverell	13%	39	22	5%
<b>Hunter Valley</b>				
Glenbawn Dam, Scone	39%	291	-94	51%
Glennies Ck Dam, Singleton	37%	104	-46	53%
Lostock Dam, Gresford	102%	20	3	84%
<b>Coastal Area</b>				
Toonumbar Dam, Kyogle	68%	7	0	67%
Brogo Dam, Bega	94%	8	0	98%
<b>Grand Total</b>	34.5%	6,118	555	31%

Legend	0%	10%	20%	30%	40%	50%	60%	70%	80%	90%	100%