

29 March 2019

Hunter Valley

Water allocation outlook for 2019-20 water year

Allocations

The Hunter regulated river water source normally receives 100 per cent allocation to general security accounts at the start of each new water year on 1 July. All other categories of licence in the regulated river valley also receive their maximum allocation at this time.

The preliminary forecast for the Hunter regulated river water source indicates that 100 per cent allocation to general security accounts can be made at the start of the 2019-20 water year. This reasonably anticipates some downstream tributary inflows (adjusted down for drought conditions) arriving in the catchment over the next 16 months.

The forecast also indicates that all other licences that comprise of essential supplies in the regulated river valley can also receive their maximum allocation at the start of the 2019-20 water year.

Dam levels (as at 26 March 2019)

Glenbawn Dam is 54 per cent full – falling – holding about 406,000 ML.

Glennies Creek Dam is 56 per cent full – falling – holding about 159,000 ML.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for April to June does not show a strong tendency toward drier or wetter than average conditions. Temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral. However, the ENSO Outlook is now at El Niño ALERT. Sea surface temperatures have warmed and have touched El Niño thresholds in recent weeks. There is a 70 per cent chance of an El Niño event forming in 2019. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which has little influence on the Australian climate from December to April, is neutral. However, the IOD outlook suggests positive values may form in winter. A positive IOD generally indicates drier than average conditions in southern and central Australia during winter/spring.

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

Further information

The usual water allocations for the Hunter regulated river will be provided on 1 July 2019 and any further statement will only be issued if there is a change to this allocation advice.

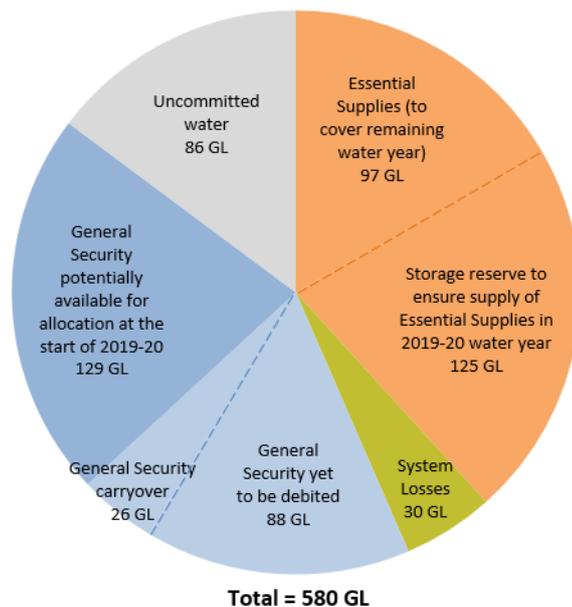
Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry website: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water

Resource Assessment Data Sheet

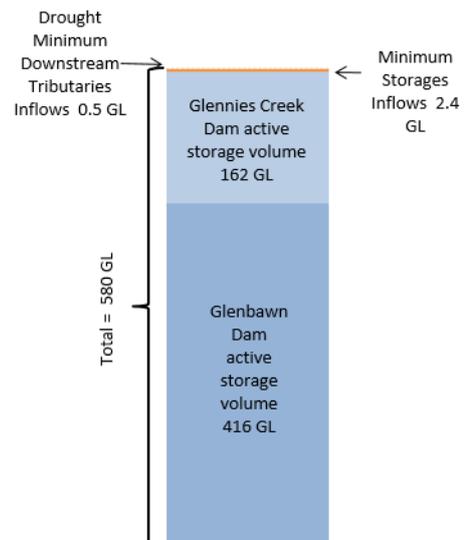
Resource Distribution (1 March 2019 to 30 June 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	580.40
<i>less</i>	
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	97.38
System Losses ⁽³⁾	30.14
Storage reserve to ensure supply of essential supplies in next water year	125.03
General Security already allocated but yet to be debited	87.84
General Security carryover ⁽⁴⁾	25.80
<i>equals</i>	
Water available at the end of the water year	214.20
<i>less</i>	
Water available to potentially allocated 100% General Security allocation at the commencement of the 2019-20 water year	128.54
<i>equals</i>	
Uncommitted water ⁽⁵⁾	85.66

See notes below.

Resource Distribution: 1 March 2019 to 30 June 2019 Hunter Valley



Supply Source



Notes:

- (1) Total Available Resource – is the total active storage volume in Glenbawn Dam and Glennies Creek Dam combined as at 1 March 2019 of 577.5 GL **plus** minimum forecast inflows from March 2019 to June 2019 of 2.4 GL **plus** minimum forecast drought tributary inflows from downstream tributaries from March 2019 to June 2019 of 0.5 GL.
- (2) Essential Supplies – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for Town Water, Major Utility, High Security, Basic Landholder Rights, Environmental Water Account, Stock & Domestic and minimum flow targets at Greta, from March 2019 to June 2019.
- (3) System Losses – water required to be set aside under the water sharing plan to provide for storage evaporation, transmission, and operational losses from March 2019 to June 2019.
- (4) General Security Carryover forecasted to be carried over from the 2018-19 water year to the 2019-20 water year.
- (5) Water remaining after accounting for all requirements and General Security allocation for the 2019-20 water year.

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