

4 February 2021

## NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source

### Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available to allocate **a further 13.4% of entitlement to General Security (A Class) licence holders in the NSW Border Rivers**. This new allocation brings General Security (A Class) allocations to 78% of entitlement for the current water year. All higher priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020 for the 2020-21 water year.

Despite this small allocation increase, the system is yet to properly recover from severe drought, and further improvement is required before river operations can return to normal. Water users are advised to liaise with WaterNSW to confirm the delivery of water orders.

2020-21	High Security	General Security (A Class)	General Security (B Class)	Drought Stage
Border Rivers	100%	78%	0%	 Stage 2

The total inflow into Pindari Dam since 1 July 2020 is approximately 37,000 megalitres (ML). A steady release of 52 ML/day is currently being made from Pindari Dam to meet transparent release obligations under the water sharing plan. Environmental water managers will likely call the balance of some undelivered volume in conjunction with a natural flow event or, in the absence of a natural event, create a late flow to freshen the upper Border reaches.

### Storage levels (as at 1 February 2021)

- Pindari Dam is 11.9% full – holding 37,124 ML.
- Glenlyon Dam is 13.7% full – holding about 34,783 ML.

### Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The NSW Border Rivers Regulated Rivers Water Source is currently at Stage 2 drought criticality. Drought contingency measures may require block releases from storage in the current water year, and deliveries will continue to be met from downstream tributary flows wherever possible until normal river operations can resume.

## Key facts

- Increase in General Security (A Class) AWD by 13.4% bringing the total to 78% of entitlement in the current water year.
- There are no restrictions - General Security (A Class) licences and General Security (B Class) licences currently have full access to available account water.
- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Critical supplies, notably Ashford and Boggabilla town water, is secure for 24 months.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of the headwater storages will continue to be used to maximum effect in supplying water, in preference to dam releases.

## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April indicates likely wetter than average conditions across the catchment. Mean maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be above average.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary)

## NSW Border Rivers resource assessment

Distribution of NSW Resources (as at 14 January 2021)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total available resource (NSW) <sup>(1)</sup>		59.45
<i>less</i>		
Storage losses <sup>(2)</sup>	8.76	
Essential supplies <sup>(3)</sup>	41.10	
General security account balance <sup>(4)</sup>	4.45	
General security delivery losses <sup>(5)</sup>	2.19	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation		2.95

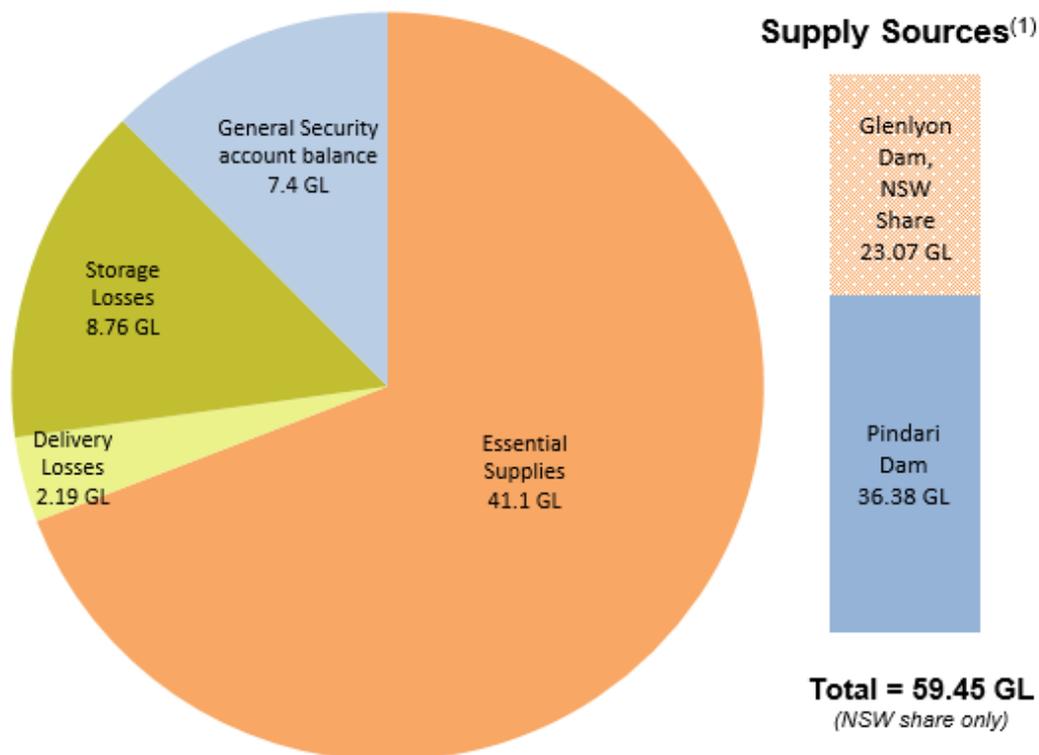
### Notes:

- (1) This includes Pindari Dam and the NSW share of Glenlyon Dam, at the time of the assessment. In accordance with the *New South Wales - Queensland Border Rivers Intergovernmental Agreement 2008* NSW has access to 57% of net inflows into Glenlyon Dam.
- (2) Storage evaporation loss is based on forecast storage depletion over the next 24 months.
- (3) Water required to be set aside under water sharing plans to provide for domestic, stock, towns, high security, replenishment, delivery loss and operational requirements. This commitment is assisted by the minimum forecast inflows to storage.
- (4) The general security account balance is inclusive of about 0.9 GL of held environmental water (HEW) administered by environmental water holder/s. The HEW volume is indicative only and prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. These environmental entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental water holder groups including the NSW environmental water holder - Environment, Energy and Science (EES), and

the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).

(5) General security delivery losses – budgeted at 30 per cent of remaining general security account water.

### Distribution of NSW Resources as at 14 January 2021



### Further information

Border Rivers water allocation statements are normally produced monthly. The next one will be issued in March, soon after receipt of the next assessment from the Border Rivers Commission.

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

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