

9 February 2021

Peel Regulated River Water Source and Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Water allocation update

The Peel catchment saw below average to average rainfall in January, receiving about 25 mm to 100 mm of rain. Net inflow into Chaffey Dam for the month of January was approximately 1.3 gigalitres (GL), with storage volume increasing to 44.5 GL or 41.9% capacity.

The resource assessment to the end of January 2021 shows water can be allocated as follows:

- **General Security (GS)** allocation in the Peel regulated river system **increases by 4%** resulting in a 20% allocation for the current water year. The Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) also increases by this amount, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- **Aquifer General Security (Aquifer GS)** allocation in the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source **to increase by 2%** resulting in a 60.8% allocation for the current water year.

All other categories of licence in the Peel Regulated River Water Source have been given full allocations and remain unchanged.

Table 1. Announced water allocations for the Peel Regulated River Water Source

Access licence type	2020/21	Drought Stage
Local Water Utility	100%	
Domestic and Stock	100%	Stage 1
High Security	100%	
General Security	20%	
Environmental Contingency Allowance	1.0 GL	

Table 2. Announced water allocations for the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Access licence type	2020/21
Aquifer (general security)	60.8%

General security water users are reminded that under certain circumstances they can take water from uncontrolled flows (declared supplementary events) that have not been credited to the water allocation accounts of their licences.

Drought stage

The Peel regulated river system is in Drought Stage 1. The system returned to normal river operation in January with allocated water being delivered under normal regulated river operations.

Further information on drought stages can be found at: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought

Key facts

- As of 9 February, Chaffey Dam is holding approximately 44.6 GL of water, about 42% full.
- With Chaffey Dam holding more than 20% capacity, Phase 1 of the authorisation under the Water Supply Critical Needs Act 2019 is currently in place.
- Delivery of all allocated water, including usage for Tamworth, is secure for the next 24 months based on the budgeted minimum inflows.
- The Peel Regulated River catchment is currently being run under normal operations and water ordering on-demand has resumed.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that the catchment is equally likely to be wetter than average. Maximum and minimum temperatures over this period are likely to be above median temperatures.

La Niña remains active in the tropical Pacific. The event has likely reached its peak strength but is expected to continue to influence Australian rainfall patterns until at least early autumn.

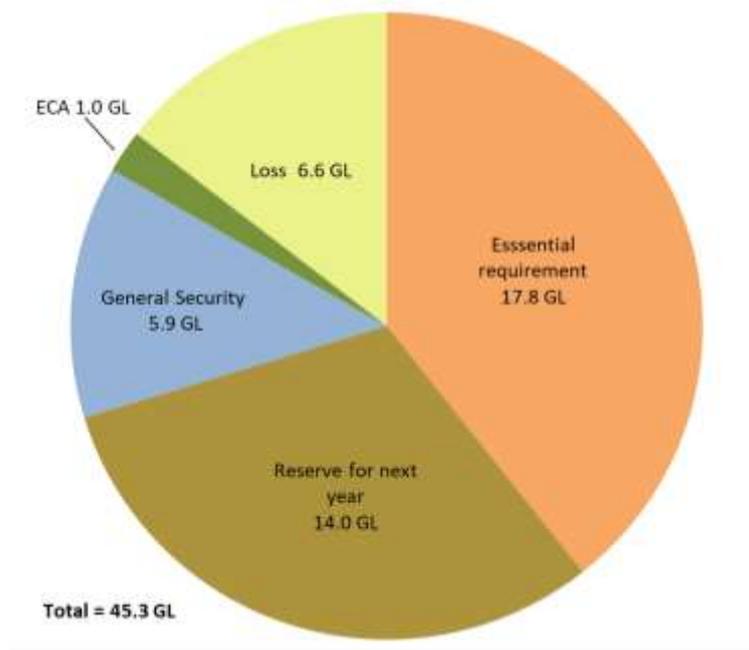
Details can be found at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/ahead/outlooks/

Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 1 February 2021)	Volumes (GL)
Available Resources ⁽¹⁾	45.3
less	
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾	17.8
Reserve for 2021-2022 ⁽³⁾	14.0
General security balance	5.9
ECA balance ⁽⁴⁾	1.0
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁵⁾	6.6
equals	
Uncommitted Resources	0.0

See notes below.

Resource Distribution (as at 1 February 2021)



Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Chaffey Dam above dead storage, Dungowan Dam above 50% and minimum inflow expected to June 2021.
- ⁽²⁾ Water set aside to provide for basic landholder rights, domestic and stock (D&S), local water utility (LWU), high security (HS) and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. D&S entitlements have been allocated 100%, LWU entitlements have been allocated 100%, and HS entitlements have been allocated 100% for the current water year.
- ⁽³⁾ Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation of 2021-22 under the water sharing plan (WSP) obligation at the repeat of the worst drought since the implementation of the WSP. This includes basic landholder rights, 70% domestic and stock, 70% local water utility, 50% high security and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. This also considers minimum inflow expected next year offset by evaporation over 2021-22.
- ⁽⁴⁾ Total ECA account balance (ECA allocation is linked GS allocation, namely GS ML/share multiplied by 5000).
- ⁽⁵⁾ Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is to run the river to deliver water orders based on current conditions and forecasts. ECA water delivery is measured at the dam wall hence incurs no transmission loss.

Further information

The department continues to closely monitor Peel regulated river water availability and will issue monthly water allocations statements while conditions are improving. The next statement will be on Tuesday **9 March 2021**, or earlier, if conditions change significantly beforehand.

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

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