

16 August 2018

Peel Valley

Water availability and allocation update

The Peel regulated river general security allocation has **increased by 7 per cent, bringing the total this water year to 36 per cent of entitlement.**

Additional environmental contingency allowance of 7 per cent or 350 ML is also made available, in accordance with the water sharing plan, bringing the total this year to 1800 ML.

In the Peel alluvium water source, the aquifer general security allocation has also **increased by 3 per cent, bringing the total allocation this water year to 68 per cent of entitlement.**

The improvement in the regulated river has been tempered by large observed loss rates and the need to set aside water to ensure account water can be delivered.

The improvement is not the result of rainfall or inflows, rather Council's willingness to guaranteed some under-use in 2018/19 and support its re-allocation to assist farmers. Such allocation of potential under-use cannot be assumed beyond this year.

Access Licence Type	2018/2019
Regulated River (General Security)	0.36 ML/share
Aquifer (General Security)	0.68 ML/share
Environmental Contingency Allowance	1,800 ML

Apart from those listed above, all other licence categories in the Peel regulated river, unregulated river and alluvium water sources have received their full allocation for 2018/19.

Dam levels (as at 13 August)

Chaffey Dam is about 54 per cent full – falling – currently holding about 56,500 ML.

Key facts

- The Chaffey Dam enlargement has improved water availability by capturing an extra 40,000 ML of water. Otherwise, there would now be no general security allocation.
- All climate indicators are forecasting a dry winter – spring season.
- Peel water delivery experienced very high transmission loss and evaporation rates in 2017/18. Similar conditions are forecast for 2018/19.
- The inflow to Chaffey Dam in 2017/18 was in the lowest five out of 100 years of inflows.
- Water usage by irrigators in 2017/18 was high and is expected to be high again in 2018/19.

Seasonal climate outlook

The outlook suggests areas currently experiencing drought are unlikely to get respite in the coming three months.

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that rainfall is unlikely to exceed median conditions during August to October for the catchment. Forecasts also suggest that day and night-time temperatures are very likely to be above median during this period.

Most international climate models show El Niño is likely to develop before the end of 2018. El Niño typically means below average rainfall during winter-spring for northern and eastern Australia. About half of the models indicate a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event could develop in the coming months. A positive IOD typically means below average rainfall during winter-spring for southern and central Australia.

In summary, all indicators are suggesting a dry winter – spring season.

Further information

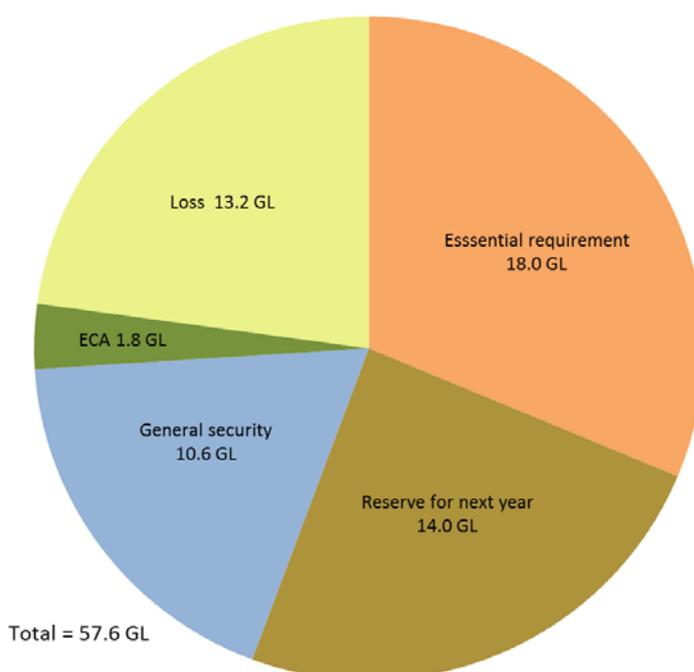
The department monitors the resources regularly. Allocations in the Peel regulated river will be revised if resource availability improves.

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 (August 2018 to June 2019)		Volumes (GL)
Available Resources ⁽¹⁾		57.6
less		
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾		18.0
Reserve for 2019-2020 ⁽³⁾		14.0
General security balance ⁽⁴⁾		10.6
ECA balance ⁽⁴⁾		1.8
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁵⁾		13.2
equals		
Uncommitted resources		nil

Resource Distribution (August 2018 to June 2019)



Notes:

- (1) Chaffey above dead storage, Dungowan above 50% and minimum inflow expected to June 2019.
- (2) Water set aside to provide for basic landholders rights, domestic and stock, local water utility, high security and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. All the relevant licenses high priority licences received a full (100%) allocation on 1 July 2018. However, for this year only, the estimate for Essential Supplies is reduced by 4.9GL, being 30% of the TRC full Local Water Utility entitlement of 16.4GL.
- (3) Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation of 2019-2020 under the water sharing plan obligation at the repeat of the worst drought. This includes basic landholders 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 post drought offset by evaporation over 2019-2020.
- (4) Includes increments of 0.3GL and 2.1GL to ECA and general security accounts respectively after this announcement.
- (5) Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is to deliver general security water and based on current forecast. ECA water delivery is measured at dam wall without transmission loss.