

17 May 2019

Peel Valley

Allocations

Allocations for the Peel regulated river general security **remain unchanged at 38 per cent of entitlement**. Conditions have been particularly hot and dry since the last assessment in March 2019.

Similarly, the aquifer general security allocation remains unchanged at 69 per cent of entitlement.

Access licence type	2018-2019	Drought Stage
Regulated River (General Security)	0.38 ML/share	
Aquifer (General Security)	0.69 ML/share	Stage 2
Environmental Contingency Allowance	1,900 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 14 May)

Chaffey Dam is about 25 per cent full – falling –holding about 27,000 megalitres (ML).

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Peel Valley has progressed to Stage 2, as some operational measures will be required to further conserve water in the coming water year if no significant inflows arrive.

Further information on drought stages can be found at:

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Key facts

- As anticipated in previous assessments, transmission and operational losses have remained very high during this irrigation season.
- Chaffey Dam has received only 3,800 ML of inflow since July 2018. For context, less than 5 out of every 100 years will experience this low level of inflow.
- System delivery will be managed for high priority needs including town water, domestic, stock and high security water through 2019-20.
- Water supply for Tamworth can be maintained based on minimum historical inflows with the assistance of town water restrictions and other water conservation measures.

Seasonal climate outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook suggests a drier than average May; however, the three month period for May to July suggests no clear indication of drier or wetter than average conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

The El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is currently neutral, but the Bureau's climate model suggests a short-lived El Niño may develop in the coming months. Eastern Australia typically experiences below average winter-spring rainfall during El Niño.

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

Water availability outlook 2019-20

This forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. This outlook for the likely 1 July 2019 water availability is conservatively based on assumed historical minimum inflows for the remainder of this water year and into the future.

- **Town water, domestic and stock** entitlements are likely to receive at least 70 per cent allocation on 1 July 2019. Water is also set aside for at least 70 per cent allocation for these categories on 1 July 2020.
- **High security** entitlements are likely to receive at least 50 per cent allocation.
- There is likely to be no allocation for **general security** entitlement holders on 1 July.
- With no opening allocation for surface water general security, aquifer general security access licence can get 51 per cent of opening allocation based on the water sharing plan.
- The small remaining ECA balance will not carry forward into 2019-20.
- Conditions are being closely monitored and water conservation measures will be introduced to reduce the risk of Chaffey Dam returning to the record low levels experienced in 2007 by the end of this year.
- Restrictions will be eased and allocations increased in priority order in the event of significant rainfall and system inflows.

Further information

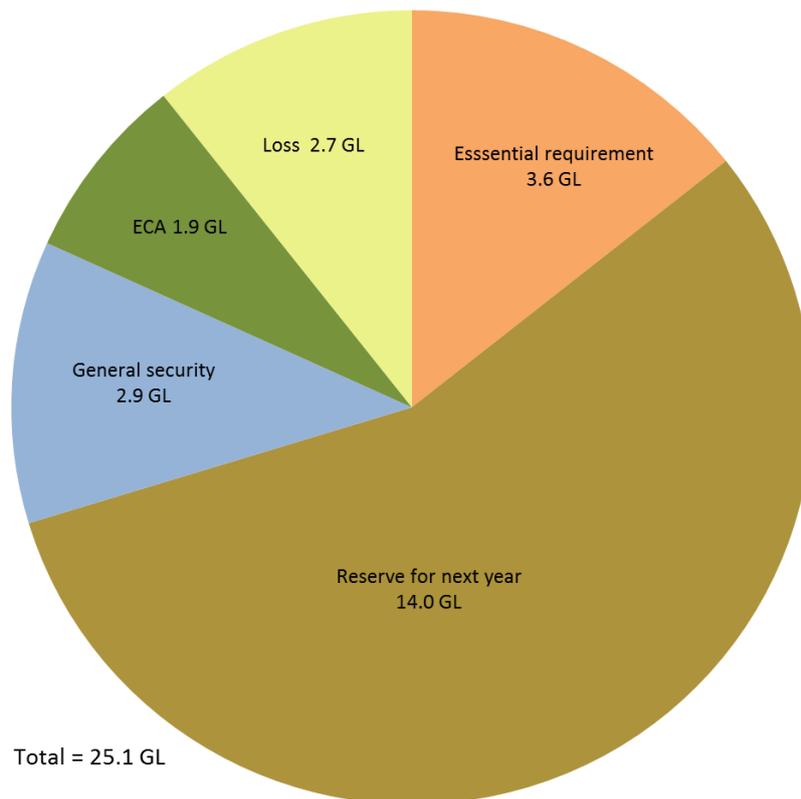
The department is constantly monitoring resources and will update the water allocation statement for the Peel regulated river water source quarterly or more frequently if circumstances change significantly.

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 (May 2019 to June 2019)		Volumes (GL)
Available Resources ⁽¹⁾		25.4
less		
Essential Supplies ⁽²⁾		3.6
Reserve for 2019-2020 ⁽³⁾		14.0
General security balance		2.9
ECA balance ⁽⁴⁾		1.9
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁵⁾		2.7
equals		
Balance		0.3

Resource Distribution(May 2019 to June 2019)



Notes:

- (1) Chaffey above dead storage, Dungowan below 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 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) Total ECA account balance. GS accounts include 0.47GL of Held Environmental Water (HEW).
- (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 therefore incurs no transmission loss.

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