

27 August 2021

Belubula Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

The capture of inflows into Carcoar Dam in recent weeks has produced enough resource to issue a **12% allocation to general security entitlements in the Belubula regulated river water source**. All higher priority licences, as well as supplementary entitlements, received a full allocation at the start of the 2021-22 water year.

Rainfall throughout the autumn and winter months has boosted the storage level in Carcoar Dam by approximately 11,100 gigalitres (GL) since the last assessment, which is about a 50% increase.

Downstream tributary flows have been sufficient to enable continual access to supplementary water and uncontrolled flows for many months, meaning general security licence holders have had access to water without debit, that is, regardless of their account balance. The surplus natural flows have more than met the end-of-system flow target and water orders without release from storage.

Access to uncontrolled flows and supplementary take will continue to be announced at least weekly. Given the current river flows and seasonal rainfall outlook, releases from Carcoar Dam may not be required until the end of October 2021.

2021-22	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Belubula River	100%	12%	 Stage 1

Storage level (as at 25 August 2021)

Carcoar Dam – 61% full – rising – currently at about 22,100 megalitres (ML).

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for September to November indicates that rainfall is likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be near average, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Indian Ocean Dipole is currently negative and is forecast to remain negative during spring. Such readings can be associated with above average rainfall in the Belubula catchment.

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

Belubula resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (September 2021 to June 2022)	Volume (ML)	Volume (ML)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾		22,400
<i>less</i>		
High Security ⁽²⁾	1,095	
General Security balance ⁽³⁾	5,700	
Domestic and Stock ⁽²⁾	220	
Evaporation from storage	2,000	
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁴⁾	6,500	
Storage reserve for 2022/23, 2023/24 ⁽⁵⁾	4,200	
<i>equals</i>		
Surplus (deficit) ⁽⁶⁾		2,685

Notes:

- (1) Predicted volume of Carcoar Dam volume at 31 August 2021, minus 300 ML dead storage, plus minimum historical dam inflows and usable tributary flows budgeted from September 2021 to June 2022.
- (2) Domestic, Stock and High Security: volume required to meet these high priority entitlements to 30 June 2022 in full.
- (3) The balance includes the current available balance, adjust for any trade, minus 400 ML of uncontrolled flow usage (as of 15th August 2021), as per cl 48(7) of the WSP.
- (4) Essential Requirements and Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions through to June 2022 to meet all demands. This mostly comprises of natural transmission losses as water soaks into river bed, end of system flows and operational surpluses.
- (5) A minimum storage volume of 4,200 ML in Carcoar Dam on 30 June 2022 is required to ensure critical needs can be met through the 2022/23 and 2023/24 water years.
- (6) The volume of the current surplus enabling the 12% allocation.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Belubula regulated river water source will be issued in December 2021. However, conditions will be closely monitored and an earlier statement for the Belubula system will be provided if conditions change significantly before December.

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