26 February 2024

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

Allocations to water users remain unchanged. This statement updates the current state of water resources in the Hunter regulated system.

All licence categories received their full annual allocation of 100% on 1 July 2023. This included the 20GL allocation to the environmental water allowance (EWA). However, allocation to supplementary access entitlements can increase to a maximum 200% if there is sufficient high river flow. On 27 November 2023, the allocation to supplementary water access licence holders was increased to 130% of entitlement based on the high flow tally. Since then, the high flow tally at Greta has remained unchanged at 50,052 ML meaning no further allocation to supplementary access licenses.

Current allocation

23 February 2024	Allocation Increment	Average Account Balance
General Security	0%*	103%
Supplementary	0%	115%

*Reached maximum allowable

Storage levels (as at 26 February 2024)

- Glenbawn Dam is about 91.2% full – steady - holding about 683 GL.
- Glennies Creek Dam is about 89.2% full – steady - holding about 252 GL.

Seasonal rainfall and inflow forecast

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for March to May 2024 indicates that rainfall is likely to be below average across the catchment. Minimum and maximum temperatures are very likely to be above average for the same period. For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

The Bureau issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Hunter River at Moonam Dam Site (see the figure below), which is upstream of Glenbawn Dam. This provides an indication of potential storage inflow. All forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from February to April is lower than the historical flows, indicating a dryer inflow than the historical for the same period.

Click here for details: Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology (bom.gov.au)

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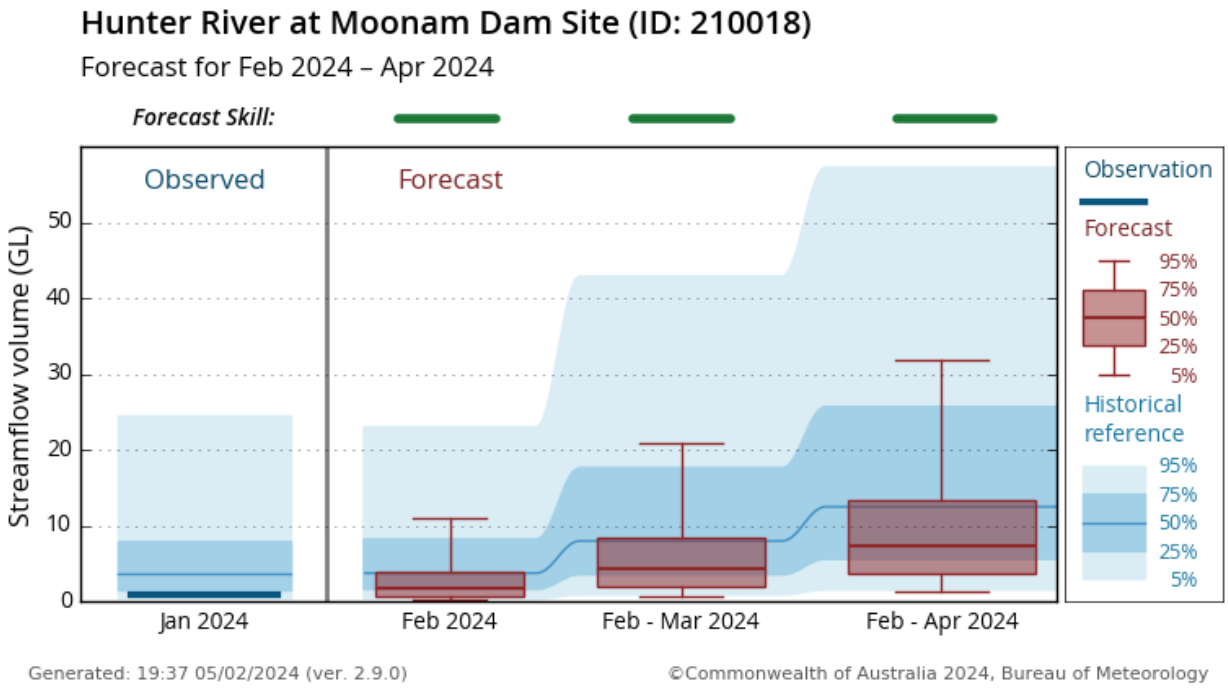
Hunter River at Moonam Dam Site (ID: 210018)
Forecast for Feb 2024 – Apr 2024
Forecast Skill:
Observed
Forecast
Streamflow volume (GL)
0
10
20
30
40
50
Jan 2024
Feb 2024
Feb - Mar 2024
Feb - Apr 2024
Observation
Forecast
95%
75%
50%
25%
5%
Historical reference
95%
75%
50%
25%
5%
Generated: 19:37 05/02/2024 (ver. 2.9.0)
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Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (February 2024 to June 2026)	(GL)	(GL)
Glenbawn plus Glennies Ck active storage (as at 1/02/24)		950.2
Minimum storage and tributary inflows (02/24 to 06/24)[1]		3.4
less		
Basic Land Holder Rights	2.3	
Domestic and Stock	1.5	
Local Water Utility	7.6	
Major Utility	66.8	
Environmental Water Allowance	20.0	
Minimum Flow Target at Greta	7.9	
High Security	18.1	
Evaporation, transmission, operation losses (2/24 to 6/24)	30.4	
Storage Reserve for 2024/25 and 2025/26[2]	187.0	
General Security (GS) balance[3]	132.1	
Equals		
Surplus (or deficit)[4]		479.9

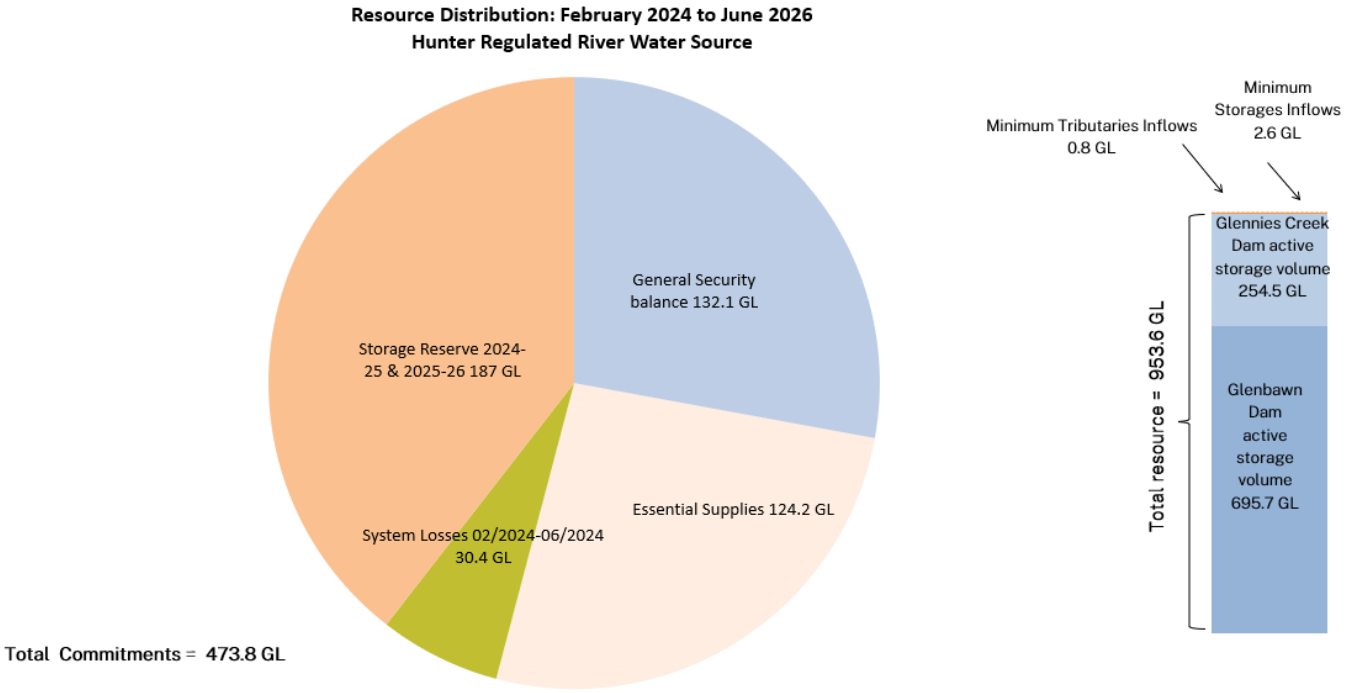
Notes:

(1) Minimum historical dam inflows (2.6 GL) and minimum historical usable tributary inflows (0.8 GL) from February to June 2024.

(2) Water required to be set aside in reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2024/25 and 2025/26. This is net of minimum reservoir inflow budgeted for next two years. The essential requirements include two opening allocations of 75% to high security, 100% to all other higher priority licences and EWA.

(3) The water remaining in General Security accounts yet to be ordered and delivered. It is calculated by subtracting the usage (inclusive of Uncontrolled Flow takes) from the water already allocated to GS.

(4) Surplus (or deficit) of water available after accounting for all commitments. The surplus signifies the additional resources available. As all relevant accounts are allocated to its maximum limit, this volume remains unallocated, improving the allocation reliability for the next water year.



Water Allocations in 2023/24

Table 1 : Water allocation history for 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Major Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share
1-Jul	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
27-Nov	Supplementary	0.30 ML/unit share	1.30 ML/unit share

* Maximum allowable as per the water sharing plan.

Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water published a series of guides to describe the water allocation methodology for all major NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the link below.

Resource assessment process | Water (nsw.gov.au)

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source will be published in three months (around mid-May 2024) or earlier if conditions change significantly.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water website - https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew.

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