

1 July 2022

Opening Water Allocations 2022/23 – NSW Regulated River Water Sources

Water availability and allocation update

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment today announced opening water allocations for regulated river water users for the 2022/23 water year.

Water year 2021/22 summary

The 2021/22 water year marked full recovery from severe drought experienced from late 2017 to early 2021, with notable improvements in state of water resources. River operation focus shifted from drought recovery to flood risk management. The Barwon-Darling River has been flowing consistently, with large flows in some months resulting in the most significant inflow to Menindee Lakes in almost a decade. All major rural storages have been near full; many spilling or releasing water for flood mitigation. Only Windemere and Split Rock dams failed to recover beyond 59% and 73% full respectively. The total volume of water held in major NSW storages has increased from an average of about 62% this time last year, to be now about 97% of full capacity.

The 2021/22 water year has seen the account balance of general security water users on several regulated river water sources reach their maximum limit. By December 2021, general security users on all regulated rivers, except two, received at least 100% allocation. The general security users on Bega-Brogo and Belubula rivers received 50% and 83% allocation. However, they had access to rain-induced events (uncontrolled flows), so had no shortage of access to water regardless of allocation.

Good rainfalls resulted in the maximum allocation to all other licence types on regulated rivers. The exception was supplementary users on the Border and Gwydir rivers, who were limited to 75% and 50% allocation respectively, yet actual usage did not reach these reduced limits. In most of the rivers, there were ample opportunities for supplementary take. Allocation to supplementary water users on Hunter River rose to 200% for a second consecutive water year.

Opening allocation 2022/23

All critical needs, including town water supplies, are secure for the 2022/23 water year. Full allocation has been made to all town supplies and domestic and stock water users.

Opening allocations (1 July) are mostly about ensuring licence categories that cannot carryover water from water year to water year, are provided with a new annual allocation. Resource assessments and allocations for general security water users will continue to their usual timetable, meaning that water allocation statements for respective regulated river water sources will be issued as scheduled in July, based on the end of June resource assessment.

General security water users on all regulated coastal rivers, except for users on the Bega-Brogo River, are receiving maximum 100% allocation. Inland, the Upper Namoi, Peel and Lower Darling users are also receiving their maximum 100% allocation. General security water users can access their unused account balance if allowed to be carried over by their relevant water sharing plan rules.

Full allocation is provided to supplementary licence holders in all applicable river systems, apart from the Border and Gwydir regulated river systems, where allocation of 74% and 21% are provided respectively. The reduced allocation is triggered by the required growth-in-use strategy outlined in the respective water sharing plans. Access to supplementary water is only available in periods of announced supplementary flow.

Water allocation statements for major inland regulated river systems are published and updated on the department's website at least monthly. The statements explain the latest information on the sharing of available resources.

NSW Border Rivers regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security (A class) licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security (B class) licence holders have received an allocation of 100%.
- Water remaining in general security (A class and B class) accounts has been carried forward in full. However, the maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.0 ML/share.
- Further allocations to general security (B class) may be announced in routine water allocation statements after 1 July 2022 as usage from general security (B class) accounts occurs.
- Supplementary access licence holders have received an allocation of 0.74 ML/share (74% of entitlement)

Gwydir regulated river

- All licence holders, except general security and supplementary, have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Water held in general security accounts accrue on a continuous basis and has been carried forward in full. The maximum volume that may be held at any time is 1.5 ML/share.
- Supplementary access licence holders have received an allocation of 0.2 1ML/share (21% of entitlement).
- The next routine water allocation statement, to be published on 7 July 2022, will be based on the end of June resource assessment.

Upper and Lower Namoi regulated rivers

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders in the Upper Namoi received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Water held in Lower Namoi general security accounts are accrued on a continuous basis and have been carried forward in full. The maximum volume that may be held in Lower Namoi general security accounts at any time is 2 ML/share.
- The estimated Lower Namoi general security account balance for 1 July 2022 is 421 GL which is 172% of share components.
- Supplementary licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.

- The next routine water allocation statement, to be published on 7 July 2022, will be based on the end of June resource assessment.

Peel regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders including domestic and stock, local water utilities, and high security water access licences, have received their maximum (100%) allocations.
- General security licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation with commensurate maximum 5 GL allocated to environmental contingency allowance (ECA).
- All license categories in this water source are accounted on an annual basis with the remaining account balances from 2021/22 being forfeited after 30 June 2022.
- As water allocations for 2022/23 have reached their maximum limit, regular allocation announcements have ceased. However, conditions will continue to be monitored and statements will be issued quarterly to update the resource availability.

Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated rivers

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Supplementary licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders commence the 2022/23 water year with a 40% allocation, with the EWA account receiving a commensurate allocation.
- The water carried over from the 2021/22 water year by general security users is estimated to total 566 GL (92% of share components). This estimate will be confirmed in July.
- The carryover from the 2021/22 water year for the Macquarie environmental water allowance (EWA) is 160 GL.
- Estimated general security carryover in the Cudgegong is likely to be about 42 GL which is equivalent to about 227% of general security entitlement.
- The next routine water allocation statement, to be published on 12 July 2022, will be based on the end of June resource assessment.

Lachlan regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Conveyance licence holders have received 100% allocation.
- Wyangala and Brewster environmental water allowances (EWAs) are fully allocated (10 GL each).
- The annual use limit for the 2022/23 water year is 100% of entitlement.
- Water carried over by general security water users is estimated to be around 747 GL (126% of entitlement). This estimate allows for water that is potentially traded in from high security and conveyance entitlements and will be confirmed in July.
- The next routine water allocation statement, to be published on 8 July 2022, will be based on the end of June resource assessment.

Belubula regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Water held in sub-accounts of general security licences has been carried forward subject to the rules of the water sharing plan.

- The estimated general security account balance for 1 July 2022 is 23.2 GL which is 104% of entitlement. The account limit for general security licences is 130% of entitlement.
- The system is currently in deficit by 2.4 GL due to high account balances. The deficit is immaterial given the current wet conditions and surplus flows.
- Supplementary licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- With effective general security water availability above 50% of entitlement due to large carryover volumes, uncontrolled flow will not be available to general security users.
- With Carcoar Dam full and high tributary flows, usage is needed to create airspace to capture more water before there can be further significant allocation to general security licenses.
- The next water allocation statement will be published in August 2022, or earlier if storage levels, stream flow conditions or water availability changes significantly.

Murrumbidgee regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders, including domestic and stock, local water utilities, and sub-category high security water access licences, have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- High security licence holders have received their full (95%) opening allocation.
- General security and conveyance carryover into the 2022/23 water year is estimated to be about 680 GL in total, equivalent to 30% of share components. The estimated carryover volume is at its maximum limit. Carryover numbers are estimates only and will be finalised by the end of July.
- General security licence holders commence the 2022/23 water year with a 35% allocation.
- Conveyance licence holders have received an allocation commensurate with the announced general security allocation in accordance with the water sharing plan
- Supplementary licence holders (including Lowbidgee) received the maximum (100%) allocation.
- Inter-valley trade is subject to the Murrumbidgee IVT account balance, which is currently showing that trade out of the valley is closed but trade into the valley is open. Trade within the Murrumbidgee valley is allowed in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- The Murrumbidgee IVT account balance on 30 June 2022 will be carried forward into the 2022/23 water year on 1 July 2022. To avoid surprises, any decision to spill the IVT balance in the 2022/23 water year will be communicated to water users and markets at least 10 days before the IVT account adjustment.
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Friday 15 July 2022.

NSW Murray regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders, including domestic and stock, local water utilities, and sub-category high security water access licences, have received their maximum (100%) allocations.
- High security licence holders have received their full (97%) opening allocation.
- General security carryover into the 2022/23 water year is estimated to be about 838 GL in total, equivalent to 50% of share components. The estimated carryover volume is at its maximum limit. Carryover numbers are estimates only and will be finalised by the end of July.
- General security licence holders are commencing the 2022/23 water year with a 43% allocation.
- Conveyance licence holders have received an allocation commensurate with the announced general security allocation, in accordance with the water sharing plan.
- Supplementary licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.

- The NSW Barmah-Millewa Allowance will be fully available on 1 July 2022. The current balance is approximately 198 GL. (Note that there is no outstanding borrow, with general security > 30%).
- The Barmah Choke trade balance will be re-set on 1 July and will reflect the volume of annual Snowy Savings below the choke that will not need to be delivered downstream.
- The Murrumbidgee IVT account balance on 30 June 2022 will be carried forward into the 2022/23 water year on 1 July 2022. The Murrumbidgee IVT balance is Murray water held in Murrumbidgee storages, as a result of trade, and is callable when needed. To avoid surprises, any decision to spill the IVT balance in the 2022/23 water year will be communicated to water users and markets at least 10 days before the IVT account adjustment.
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Friday 15 July 2022.

Lower Darling regulated river

- All water access licence holders, including domestic and stock, local water utility, high security, general security and supplementary have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Given high storage volumes, carryover in accounts is replaced by full allocations on 1 July.
- Due to significant inflows from the northern basins, the Menindee Lakes System is full and surcharged above 100% full supply level. It is expected to remain full for some months.
- The Menindee resource remains shared with other states, under the Murray Darling Basin Agreement, as the system is holding more than 640 gigalitres (GL). It will remain a shared resource until total storage next falls below 480 GL.
- Trade to and from the Lower Darling water source is open. Trade within the Lower Darling water source is also permitted.
- The Wentworth to Broken Hill pipeline is operational and supplying water to Broken Hill from the Murray River. Water availability for this is linked to NSW Murray local water utility allocations.
- Regular fortnightly water allocation statements will commence on Friday 15 July 2022.

Bega-Brogo regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders have received a 40% allocation. Note that the small storage capacity of Brogo Dam relative to entitlements held cannot support a full general security allocation at the start of the water year.
- Supplementary licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- The next water allocation statement will be published in August or earlier if conditions or forecasts change significantly.

Hunter regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Environmental water allowance (EWA) has been credited with its maximum of 20 GL volume.
- General security licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Unused water in applicable licence categories has been carried forward from 2021/22 into the 2022/23 water year, subject to allowable limits and maximum account balance rules.
- Supplementary licence holders have received a full opening allocation of 100%.

- Water resources have been fully allocated for the 2022/23 water year, apart from supplementary licence holders who may receive up to 200%. Therefore no further water allocation statements are envisaged unless the resource situation changes significantly.

Paterson regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- Supplementary licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- As water resources have been fully allocated for the 2022/23 water year, no further water allocation statements are envisaged unless the resource situation changes significantly.

Richmond regulated river

- All higher priority licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- General security licence holders have received their maximum (100%) allocation.
- All categories of licences are accounted on an annual basis. The unused account balances from 2021/22 have been forfeited after 30 June 2022 and replaced with new allocations.
- As the water resources have been fully allocated for the 2022/23 water year, no further water allocation statements are envisaged unless the resource situation changes significantly.

Water Sources	Categories	Amount
BEGA AND BROGO REGULATED RIVERS WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.4 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100 %
BELUBULA REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0 ML/share
BORDER RIVERS REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1 ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1 ML/share
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100 %
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100 %
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100 %

	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY A)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY B)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	0.74	ML/share
GWYDIR REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	0.21	ML/share
HUNTER REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	MAJOR UTILITY [POWER GENERATION]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
LACHLAN REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
LOWER NAMOI REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%

	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
LOWER-DARLING REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
MACQUARIE AND CUDGEGONG REGULATED RIVERS WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.4	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100	%
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
MURRUMBIDGEE REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	COLEAMBALLY IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.8585	ML/share
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	MURRUMBIDGEE IRRIGATION (CONVEYANCE)	0.7654	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.35	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.35	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.95	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [ABORIGINAL CULTURAL]	100	%

	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [ENVIRONMENTAL]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100	%
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER (LOWBIDGEE)	1	ML/share
NEW SOUTH WALES MURRAY REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY [DOMESTIC AND COMMERCIAL]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (CONVEYANCE)	0.6670	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	0.43	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	0.97	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100	%
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
PATERSON REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [TOWN WATER SUPPLY]	100	%
	SUPPLEMENTARY WATER	1	ML/share
PEEL REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%

	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY) [RESEARCH]	100	%
RICHMOND REGULATED WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share
UPPER NAMOI REGULATED RIVER WATER SOURCE	DOMESTIC AND STOCK	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [DOMESTIC]	100	%
	DOMESTIC AND STOCK [STOCK]	100	%
	LOCAL WATER UTILITY	100	%
	REGULATED RIVER (GENERAL SECURITY)	1	ML/share
	REGULATED RIVER (HIGH SECURITY)	1	ML/share

NSW Storage Report 17 June 2022											Legend	
River Valley	Gross Capacity	Dead storage	Current Status (Active Volume)		Annual Change	Volume Last Year (GL)	% full at same time last year	% full at 6 Months Ago	% full at 3 Months Ago	% full at a Month Ago		% full a week ago
Storage Dam	(GL)	(GL)	%	GL	(GL)							
Lower Darling												0%
Menindee Lakes, Broken Hill	1,731	0	110%	1,903	841	1,062	61%	99%	108%	113%	110%	10%
Murray Valley												20%
Dartmouth, Mitta Mitta (Vic)	3,856	71	94%	3,565	1,067	2,498	64%	87%	93%	93%	93%	30%
Hume Dam, Albury	3,005	23	95%	2,844	1,354		49%	98%	92%	90%	95%	40%
Murrumbidgee Valley												50%
Burrinjuck Dam, Yass	1,026	3	87%	885	42	843	82%	97%	93%	95%	87%	60%
Blowering Dam, Tumut	1,628	24	99%	1,595	35	1,560	96%	99%	94%	97%	99%	70%
Lachlan Valley												80%
Wyangala Dam, Cowra	1,217	1	96%	1,172	304	868	71%	98%	98%	93%	97%	90%
Carcoar Dam, Carcoar	36	0	100%	36	24	12	33%	101%	100%	101%	101%	100%
Macquarie Valley												
Burrendong Dam, Wellington	1,189	34	113%	1,301	576	725	60%	123%	115%	122%	115%	
Windamere Dam, Mudgee	368	1	59%	218	92	126	34%	42%	52%	58%	59%	
Namoi Valley												
Keepit Dam, Gunnedah	425	7	99.6%	417	105	312	73%	99%	99%	100%	100%	
Split Rock Dam, Manilla	397	3	73%	289	166	123	30%	68%	71%	73%	73%	
Chaffey Dam, Tamworth	100	2	103%	101	28	73	72%	104%	103%	103%	103%	
Gwydir Valley												
Copeton Dam, Inverell	1,364	19	99%	1,335	716	619	45%	99%	93%	97%	99%	
Border Rivers												
Glenlyon Dam, Stanthorpe (Old)	254	0	100%	255	118	137	54%	101%	100%	101%	101%	
Pindari Dam, Inverell	312	0	100%	312	143	169	54%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Hunter Valley												
Glenbawn Dam, Scone	750		100%	750	314	436	58%	82%	92%	98%	100%	
Glennies Ck Dam, Singleton	283		100%	281	116	165	58%	75%	97%	100%	100%	
Lostock Dam, Gresford	20		101%	20	0	20	102%	102%	102%	101%	101%	
Coastal Area												
Toonambar Dam, Kyogle	11		102%	11	0	11	101%	101%	102%	103%	102%	
Brogo Dam, Bega	9		101%	9	0	9	102%	104%	104%	102%	101%	
MDBA South Storages (Total)	8,592	94	98%	8,313	3,262	5,051	58%	93%	96%	96%	97%	
Grand Total	17,981	188	97%	17,299	6,041	11,258	62%	95%	95%	97%	97%	

Note the date of this storage report. For the latest information on storage volumes, please refer to WaterNSW’s Water Insights Portal at: waterinsights.waternsw.com.au/snapshot

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