

13 August 2025

Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Water allocation update

Water allocation to supplementary access licence holders in this water source has increased by 100% to the maximum 200% of entitlement for the 2025–26 water year. The increase comes from growth in the high flow tally in July 2025 which links to increments in supplementary access allocations. The high flow tally has now risen to 100 gigalitre (GL) this water year. This is reflective of flow at Greta mostly remaining high in this water year.

All the higher priorities and general security licence categories received their maximum opening allocation of 100% on 1 July 2025. This included 20 GL credit to the environmental water allowance (EWA).

This resource assessment is based on information to 1 August 2025.

Summary of last water year (2024–25)

All higher-priority licences, including domestic and stock, local water utility, major utility and high security received their maximum allocations at the start of the 2024–25 water year. Supplementary licences also received their full (100%) opening allocation, which rose to 200% by September 2024, when the high-flow tally exceeded.

General security licence holders began 2024–25 with high average account balances of 124% of entitlement, made up of an average carryover of 24% and a full (100%) opening allocation. By the end of the water year, general security account balances had decreased to an average of 87% of entitlement, reflecting average usage of about 37%.

On 3 June, Glennies Creek Dam began spilling, and Glenbawn Dam entered the flood mitigation zone. In accordance with the relevant water sharing plan rules, this event triggered the withdrawal of water from certain accounts. Refer to the [WaterNSW website](#) for more information on this event.

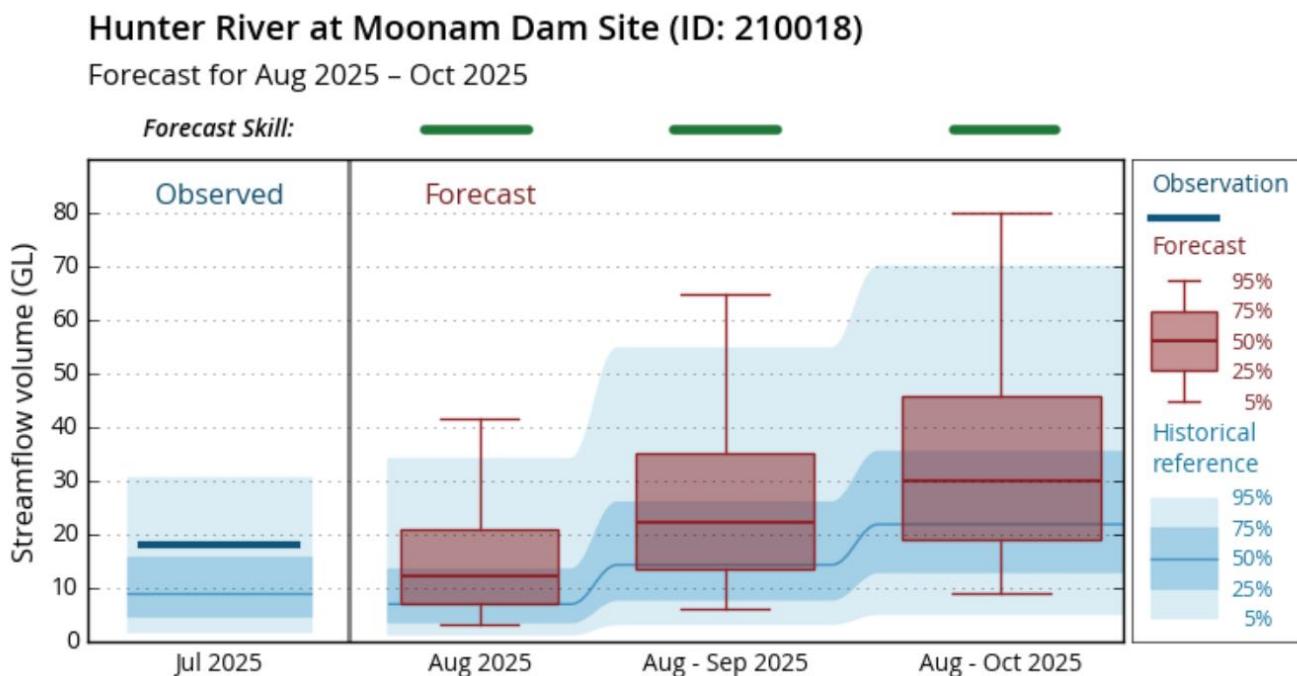
Glennies Creek Dam and Glenbawn Dam started the 2024–25 water year with healthy combined storage levels at about 90% of capacity. Storage volumes rose to greater than the full supply level for most of the water year, supported by consistent inflows from above-average rainfall conditions. The combined volume of both storages was around 100% at the end of the water year.

Regarding environmental water usage, the full 20 GL environmental water allowance (EWA) was credited at the start of the water year. However, no EWA account usage was required during the water year due to the consistently above average rainfall conditions.

Inflow outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology 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 the forecast quantiles of total flow volumes from August to October 2025 are higher than the historical flows, suggesting above-average inflows are likely for this period.

The graph from August to October 2025 is shown below and updates can be found at: [Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts: Water Information: Bureau of Meteorology](#)



Resource assessment data sheet

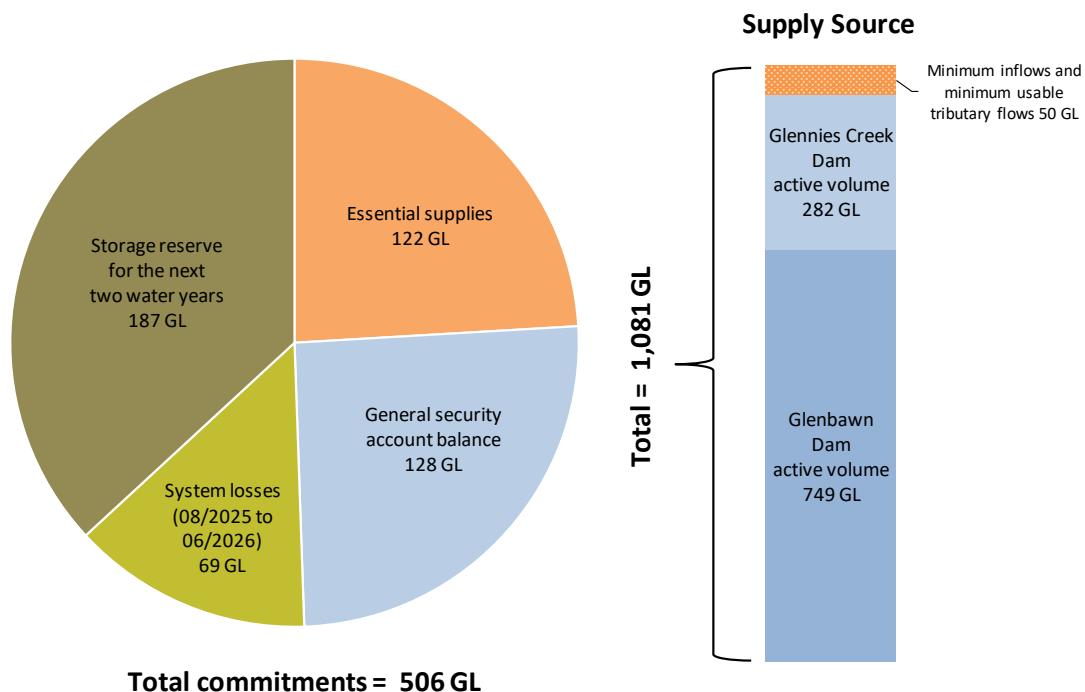
Resource distribution (August 2025 to June 2027)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources ⁽¹⁾	1,081
<i>less</i>	
Planned environmental water balance ⁽²⁾	20
Basic land holder rights	5
Domestic and stock balance	2
Local water utility balance	10
Major utility balance	36
High security balance	17
General security balance ⁽³⁾	128
Minimum flow target at Greta	32
Evaporation, transmission, operation Losses (8/2025 to 6/2026)	69
Storage reserve for 2026–27 and 2027–28 ⁽⁴⁾	187
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	575

Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Glenbawn Dam plus Glennies Creek Dam as of 1 August 2025 net of 2 GL of dead storage; plus minimum historical dam inflows and usable tributary flows budgeted from August 2025 to June 2026.
- (2) Water reserved for the environmental water allowance (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 take) from the water already allocated to GS.
- (4) Water required to be set aside in reserve to meet essential supply requirements and system losses in 2026–27 and 2027–28. This is net of minimum reservoir inflow budgeted for next two years. The essential requirements include 2 opening allocations of 75% to high security, 100% to all other higher priority licences and EWA.
- (5) The surplus signifies resources available after accounting for all commitments. As all relevant accounts are allocated to their maximum limit, this volume remains unallocated, improving the allocation reliability for the next water year.

Resource distribution as of 1 August 2025

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Allocations in 2025–26 for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source

Table 1: Water allocation history for 2025–26 (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26
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*
13-Aug	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	2.00 ML/unit share*

* Maximum allowable.

Water sharing plan rules

This statement includes plain language information on the plan rules relevant to water allocation below. This is based on our knowledge and understanding at the time of writing. Water users should verify the information as required before making any water management decision.

- Domestic and stock, and local water utility access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year and cannot carry over any unused balance into the next water year.
- Major utility access licences are to receive an allocation of 100% of entitlement at the start of the water year. Unused water, up to 90% of entitlement, can be carried over into the next water year, subject to Glenbawn Dam storage volume.
- High security opening allocation is to start at 75% of entitlement. The allocation can increase to the maximum (100%) depending on general security allocations. Unused water, up to 25% of entitlement, can be carried over into the next water year.
- Unused water in general security accounts can be carried over to the next water year, up to 25% of entitlement. The account balance at any time must not exceed 100% of entitlement.
- Some applicable account water may be withdrawn if Glenbawn Dam spills.
- The environmental water allowance is to be credited with 20,000 ML at the start of the water year.
- Supplementary water access licences are to receive 100% of entitlement at the start of each water year. Allocation can subsequently rise up to 200% of entitlement when an exceedance of the high-flow tally is met.

Useful links

- Water allocation guide – We produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for this water source is available at the following link: [Resource assessment process | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation statement – The water allocation statement for this water source can be accessed at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – We developed a dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources. The dashboard can be accessed at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water sharing plan – The water sharing plan for this water source is available at the following link: [Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source 2016](#)

Further information

All accounts have received their maximum allocation for this water year. Routine water allocation statement has ceased now and will be replaced by occasional updates.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive water allocation statements and email updates from Water Group of the department.

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