

18 April 2024

Peel Regulated River Water Source and Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source

Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Peel regulated river water source nor the Peel alluvium groundwater source. This quarterly statement provides an update on current water sharing, regulated river resource conditions, and the resource outlook for the 2024/25 water year.

All entitlements, including general security (GS) received their maximum allocations for the 2023/24 water year on 1 July 2023. At the same time, Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) was also credited its full 5 gigalitre (GL) allocation, in accordance with the water sharing plan. The EWA was formerly the Environmental Contingency Allowance (ECA) before the replacement plan of July 2022.

Current allocation

2023/24	General Security Allocation	Average General Security Account Balance
Peel regulated river water source	100%*	77%

* Maximum allowable.

Key facts:

- Since 1 July, Chaffey Dam inflow has been about 6.0 GL and release about 18.0 GL
- Inflow from tributaries below the Chaffey dam in the same period has been 38.5 GL
- The total allocation used since 1 July has been about 14.0 GL, of which 6.9 GL has been used for local water utility and about 7 GL for general security categories.

Resource Outlook for 2024/25

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2024 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that this forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs including local water utility, are secure for the 2024/25 water year.
- Higher priority water access licence holders including domestic and stock, local water utility and high security can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July.
- The allocation for general security entitlement holders and the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) will depend on factors including inflows and usage for the remainder of this water year. The preliminary forecast is indicating that the opening general security allocation could be up to 40% of entitlement subject to several assumptions. The forecast will be more accurate closer to the end of this water year.

- Aquifer (general security) and EWA will receive commensurate volumes related to the general security allocation.

Storage levels (as of 16 April 2024)

- Chaffey Dam is currently 81.5% full – holding around 84.4 GL.

Climate Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April 2024 to June 2024 indicates that rainfall in the Peel valley is likely to be below median. Over this period, maximum temperatures and minimum temperatures are likely to be above median in the catchment.

For further details: <http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary>

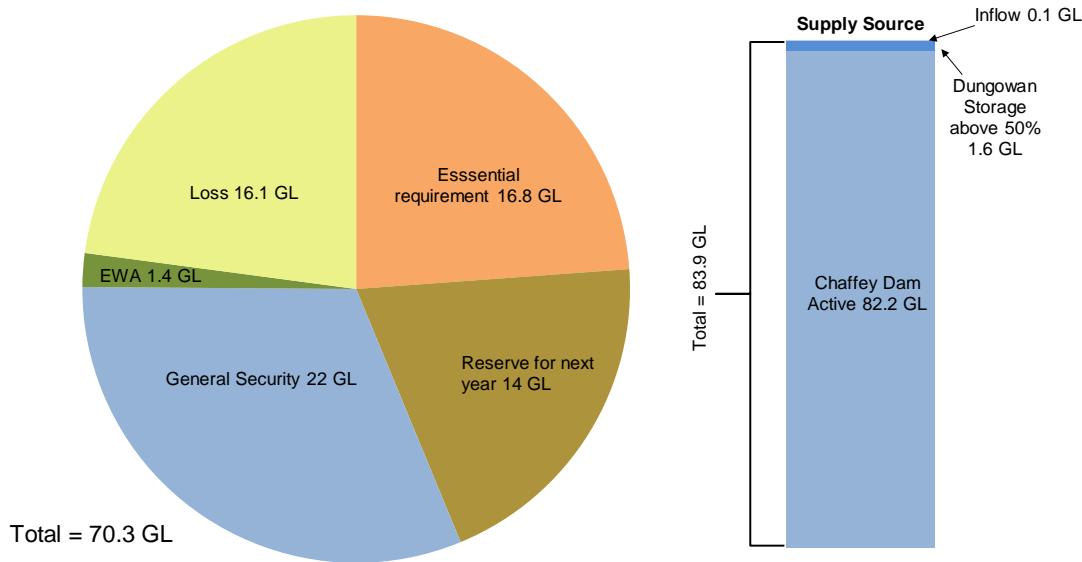
Resource assessment data sheet

Resource Distribution (as at 31 March 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	83.9
<i>less</i>	
Essential Supplies (04/24 to 06/24) ⁽²⁾	16.8
Reserve for 2024/25 ⁽³⁾	14.0
General security balance	22.0
EWA balance	1.4
Evaporation, operational and transmission loss ⁽⁴⁾	16.1
<i>Equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁵⁾	13.6

Notes:

- (1) Chaffey Dam active storage, Dungowan Dam volume above 50% full and minimum inflow expected to June 2024.
- (2) Water set aside to provide for basic landholder rights, domestic and stock (D&S), local water utility (LWU), high security (HS) and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release. D&S entitlements, LWU entitlements, and HS entitlements have all been allocated 100% for the current water year.
- (3) Reserve set aside to meet the minimum allocation for 2024/25 under the water sharing plan (WSP) obligation under a repeat of the worst recorded drought up until the commencement of the WSP. This minimum reserve includes basic landholder rights, 70% domestic and stock, 70% local water utility, 50% high security and associated transmission loss plus minimum storage release for the year. This also considers minimum inflow expected next year offset by evaporation over 2024/25. As indicated, current forecasts indicate better than minimum allocations.
- (4) Evaporation budget assumes historical high evaporation rates. The transmission loss is budgeted to deliver water orders based on current conditions and forecasts. EWA water delivery is measured at the dam wall thus incurs no transmission loss.
- (5) All categories of water license (including general security) in the Peel regulated river water source have been fully allocated this 2023/24 water year. The surplus adds to future water security.

Resource Distribution as at 31 March 2024 Peel Regulated River Water Source



The history of allocations in the 2023/24 water year is shown in the tables below.

Table 1. Water Allocations for the Peel Regulated River Water Source in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*
1-Jul	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*

* Maximum allowable

Table 2. Water Allocations for the Peel Alluvium Groundwater Source in 2023/24

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2023/24
1-Jul	Aquifer (general security)	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*

* Maximum allowable

Water Allocation Guide

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for the Peel regulated system is available at the following link:

<https://water.dpie.nsw.gov.au/our-work/allocations-availability/allocations/water-allocation-statements>

Further information

The next water allocation statement for the Peel regulated river water source and for the Peel alluvium groundwater source will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statements on 1 July 2024 or earlier if resource outlook for 24/25 changes substantially.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/departments-and-agencies/dcceew>.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

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