

11 May 2025

# Hunter Regulated River Water Source and Hunter Unregulated Water Sources

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## Water allocation update

There is **no change to allocations** in the Hunter Regulated River Water Source and Hunter Unregulated Water Sources, as all licence categories in these water sources are fully allocated for the 2025–26 water year.

This statement provides an update on the water sharing and regulated resource conditions and provides an outlook for likely water availability on 1 July 2026.

This resource assessment is based on information as of 1 May 2025.

## Resource outlook for 2026–27

The outlook for likely 1 July 2026 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that forecast allocations are not certain, may change and should be used with caution. It aims to broadly guide water users with their end of water year water management decisions.

Water users are reminded to check account limits and the carryover provisions on their entitlements, noting that water can be forfeit from some accounts after 30 June 2026.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs are secure for 2026–27.
- All higher priority water access licence holders including, major utility, local water utility, domestic and stock and high security categories can expect their maximum (100%) allocation on 1 July 2026.
- The environmental water allowance will be credited with 20 GL.
- Unused water in accounts can be carried forward into the 2026–27 water year on 1 July 2026, subject to allowable limits, in accordance with the rules of the water sharing plan.
- The allocation for general security entitlement holders will depend on factors including inflows and usage for the remainder of this water year. However, indications suggest a very high or full opening general security allocation is likely.
- Supplementary water access licence holders can expect their full opening allocation of 100% on 1 July 2026 however access to this water is subject to periods of declared supplementary flow events.

- Unregulated river access licences in the Hunter River, Paterson River, and Wallis Creek tidal pool water sources will receive their opening allocation of 75% of entitlement on 1 July 2026. Allocation of the remaining 25% which will be assessed each quarter and depends on cumulative inflows received as per the water sharing plan.

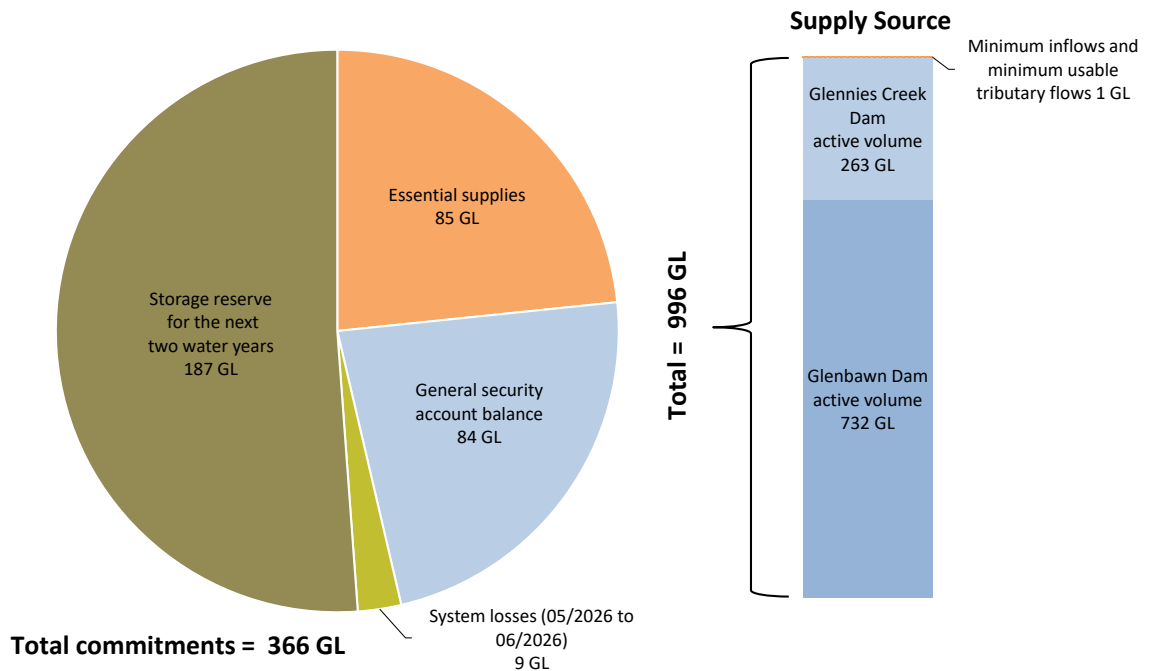
## Resource assessment data sheet

Resource distribution (May 2025 to June 2028)	Volume (GL)
Current and future resources <sup>(1)</sup>	996
<i>less</i>	
Planned environmental water balance <sup>(2)</sup>	20
Basic land holder rights	1
Domestic and stock balance	2
Local water utility balance	6
Major utility balance	34
High security balance	17
General security balance <sup>(3)</sup>	84
Minimum flow target at Greta	6
Evaporation, transmission, operation losses (5/2026 to 6/2026)	9
Storage reserve for 2026–27 and 2027–28 <sup>(4)</sup>	187
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(5)</sup>	630

### Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Glenbawn Dam plus Glennies Creek Dam as of 1 May 2025 net of 2 GL of dead storage; plus minimum historical dam inflows and usable tributary flows budgeted from May 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 the 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 May 2026 Hunter Regulated River Water Source



### 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.

## Allocations in 2025–26 for the Hunter Unregulated Water Sources

Table 2: Water allocation history for 2025–26 (in ML/unit share)

Date	Licence category	Increment	Total 2025–26
1-Jul	Unregulated river <sup>#</sup>	0.75 ML/unit share	0.75 ML/unit share
21-Nov	Unregulated river <sup>#</sup>	0.25 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share <sup>*</sup>

<sup>#</sup> Unregulated river access licences in the Hunter River, Paterson River, and Wallis Creek tidal pool water sources.

<sup>\*</sup> 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, up to 25% of entitlement, can be carried over to the next water year. 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 (EWA) 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 to 200% of entitlement when an exceedance of the high-flow tally is met.
- Unregulated river access licences in the Hunter River, Paterson River, and Wallis Creek tidal pool water sources receive 75% of entitlement at the start of each water year. Allocation can subsequently rise to the maximum (100%) of entitlement when the cumulative inflow in the

previous quarter at Greta and Gostwyck gauges, less the volume of any EWA delivery, exceeds 50,000 ML.

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## 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 all water sources is available at the following link: [Water allocation statements | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water allocation dashboard – The dashboard on water availability and allocations for regulated river water sources is available at the following link: [Allocations dashboard | NSW Government Water](#)
- Water sharing plan – The water sharing plans for these water sources can be accessed via the following links: [Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Regulated River Water Source 2016](#) and [Water Sharing Plan for the Hunter Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2022](#)

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## Further information

All accounts have received their maximum allocation for this water year.

The next water allocation statement for this water source will be included in the state-wide opening water allocation statements on **Wednesday 1 July 2026**.

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