



critical water planning for the Hunter Valley

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CURRENT WATER AVAILABILITY

Flows in the Hunter have been maintained as a result of ongoing runoff from the June flood event. However, little rainfall has been observed in catchments throughout July and into August, with only 24mm of rainfall at Moonan Brook (above Glenbawn Dam) and 30mm at Carrowbrook (above Glennies Creek Dam) being observed in July. Valves at both Glenbawn and Glennies Creek dams have recently been opened, with small releases now required to supplement the falling river levels.

Storage levels in Glenbawn Dam have risen as a result of continued inflows, with storage volumes having increased 16.8GL in July, and a further 1.7GL to date in August. Storage levels in Glennies Creek Dam have remained constant since the start of July.

The following table shows storage levels as at 13 August 2007.

Storage @ 13 August 2007	Volume (GL)	Percent of capacity	Change capacity since 1 July 2007 %
Glenbawn Dam	259	34.5	2.4
Glennies Creek Dam	95	33.4	0.0
Total	354	34.2	1.8

WHAT THIS MEANS

Sufficient water is available to meet town water supply, Major Utility (Power Generation), and Domestic and Stock (D&S) requirements for the whole of 2007-2008. Town water supplies are currently on restrictions, as decided by the relevant council. High Security (HS) licences for 2007-2008 have 75% of entitlement available. General Security (GS) users are currently on zero percent allocation; however, many users have carryover water in their accounts from last year.

Recent inflows have been set aside to meet the critical water supply needs for 2008-2009, hence increasing the security for High Security users in 2008-2009. As a result, the chances of general Security users receiving an allocation later in 2007 have also improved. At the start of August, only a further 9 GL were required before there was sufficient water for all critical needs in 2008-2009. As a result, it is now likely that an allocation will be made for General Security users in the coming months.

RIVER MANAGEMENT DURING 2007-2008

Until recently, flows from tributaries have met all the operational and environmental requirements of the water sharing plan. However, if dry conditions return, State Water will operate the Regulated Hunter River at lower than normal levels in many parts of the system. This will maximise the water available for allocations, but will require a greater level of management by water users to ensure their pumps can access the water available in the river.

Recent high flows, as a result of the June floods, have allowed the declaration of both supplementary and uncontrolled flows. State Water will continue to monitor the situation closely and notify licence holders of any further opportunities to pump.

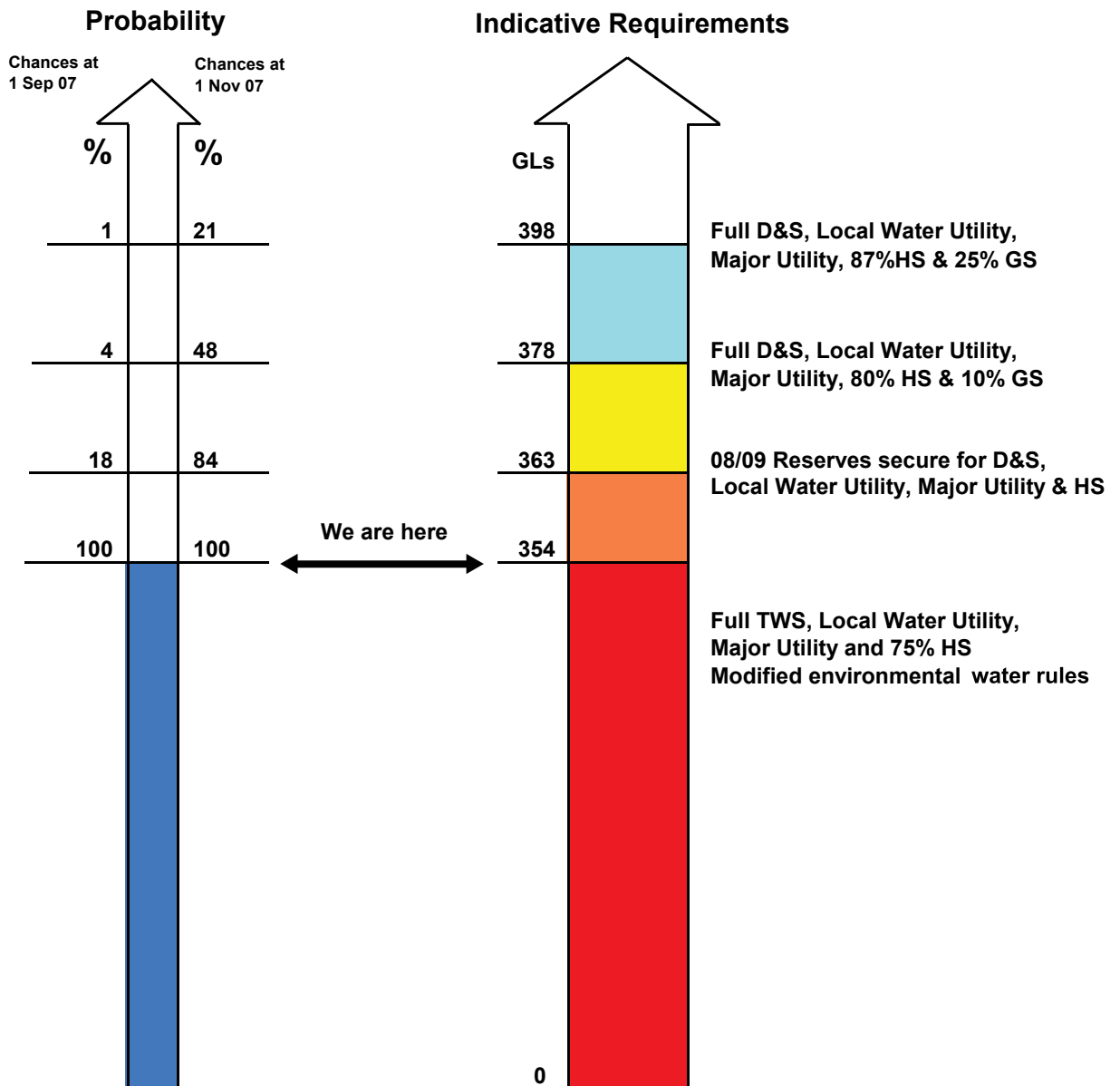
WATER TRADING IN 2007–2008

Water held in accounts may be traded. This includes all water made available in 2007-2008, as well as account water carried over from 2006-2007.

WATER AVAILABILITY OUTLOOK

The following diagram shows the approximate probabilities of improvements in water availability occurring by 1 September and 1 November 2007. As September is now very close, the probability of getting a substantial inflow in the next few weeks is low. This diagram will change throughout the season as a result of inflow conditions, patterns of usage, and loss conditions.

Hunter Valley Indicative Outlook



In this diagram, the water currently stored is shown in the blue shading on the left hand arrow. The chances of the water availability (blue shading) increasing by 1 September and 1 November 2007 are also shown on either side of the left hand arrow. These probabilities are calculated assuming a high level of losses and full utilisation of entitlement. These figures are **conservative**.

The water required to meet the various needs on the Hunter Regulated River are shown on the right hand arrow, starting with the highest priority requirement reserving critical demands for 2008-2009. When a sufficient volume has been reserved for 2008-2009, then an Available Water Determination (AWD) for General Security licence holders can be made. The probabilities of a 10% and 25% allocation are shown.

For example, there is a 4% chance of a General Security allocation of 10% being available by 1 September 2007, and a 48% chance by 1 November 2007.

As water availability increases (represented by the blue shading) more of the requirements shown on the right hand arrow can be met.

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