

# Peel River Flows

29 July 2020

## Resumption of Releases from Chaffey Dam

Releases from Chaffey Dam will recommence today at a rate of approximately 15 ML/day.

These releases are being made from the temporary environmental water account established under the Authorisation for the operation of the Chaffey Dam to Dungowan Pipeline.

The Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) have requested these environmental water releases to re-establish flow in the Peel River from below Chaffey Dam to Woolomin. This section of the Peel is approximately 7.5 km long and despite recent rainfall has experienced predominantly cease to flow conditions during July. These releases will join up with inflows from Duncans Creek and DPIE have advised that this will allow native fish to move between habitat areas and provide foraging opportunities for platypus.

Since the commencement of the operation of the pipeline a total of 61.5 ML has been accumulated in the temporary environmental water account and this will be released into the Peel River over the next few days as follows:

- 29 July 2020, 15 ML/day
- 30 July 2020, 30 ML/day
- 31 July 2020, 10 ML/day
- 1 August 2020, 6.5 ML/day
- 2 August 2020 and onwards – minimum releases from Chaffey Dam will be 3 ML/day in accordance with the Water Sharing Plan.

Under the current Authorisation for the operation of the Chaffey Dam to Dungowan Pipeline, the pipeline cannot be operated when Chaffey Dam is 20% or more (except for maintenance or testing purposes). With the recent rain, Chaffey Dam has now risen to above 21% which means that Tamworth Regional Council will source their water from either the Peel River, Dungowan Dam or from groundwater.

The recent rain has also resulted in welcome river flows downstream of Chaffey Dam. Some of these flows have been able to be used by Tamworth Regional Council which enables WaterNSW to continue to conserve water supplies in Chaffey by minimising dam releases.

### **More information**

Please visit our website for more information at [waternsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/customer-notices](https://waternsw.com.au/supply/regional-nsw/customer-notices). For more information on this event, phone us on **1300 662 077** or email us at [Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au](mailto:Customer.Helpdesk@waternsw.com.au).