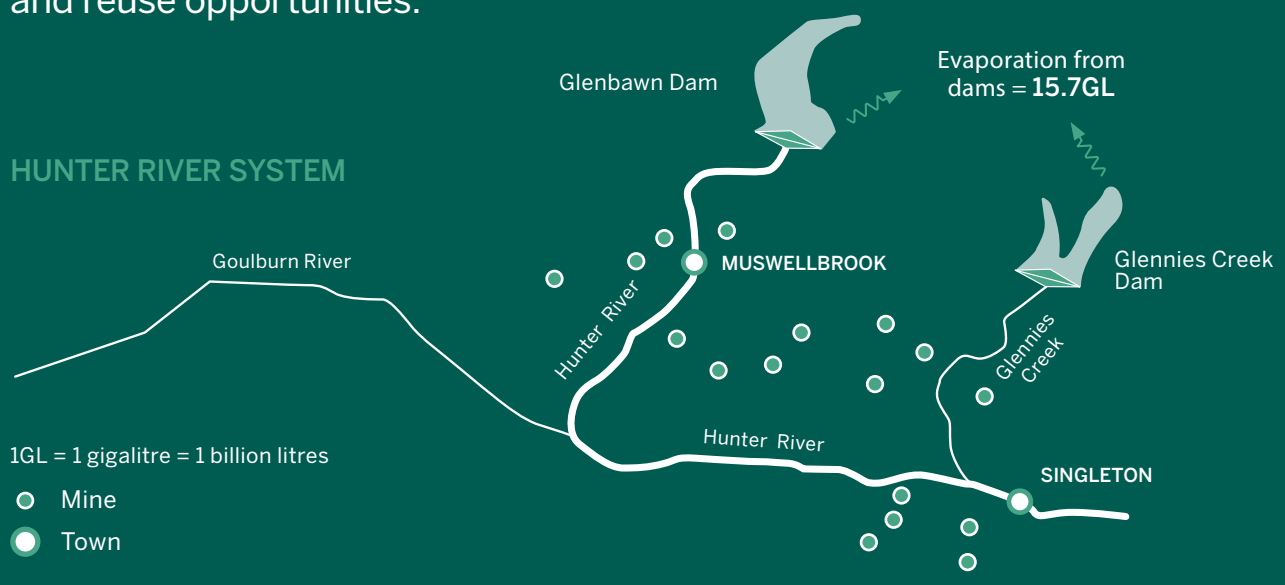
UPPER HUNTER WATER BALANCE 2021

Mining's water use

NSW MINING Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue assessed water use by the mining industry in the Upper Hunter in 2021. Using a common accounting framework, mining companies have reported their water inflows and outflows from operations. This has helped them to manage their water use and embark on water saving and reuse opportunities.



Hunter River System Extraction

637.4GL
Net Rainfall/Runoff and Evaporation

1401.5GL
Flow Passing Singleton (Including flows for the environment)
= 95%

831.9GL
Environmental Flows including Dam Release

67.7GL
Total Extraction from Hunter River

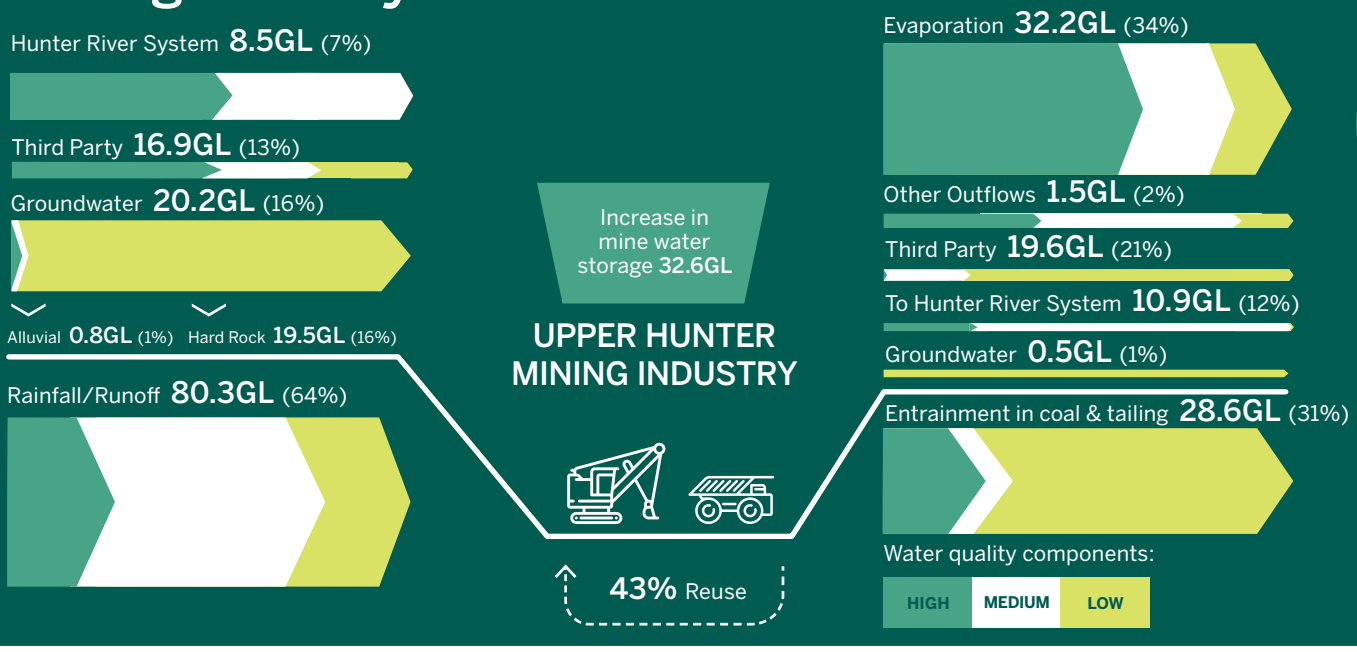
59.2GL
Agriculture / Power Station / Town Water
= 4%

8.5GL
Mining = 1%

The rainfall in Scone during 2020 was 981 mm, which is significantly higher than the long-term average rainfall of 613 mm. [1]

The wetter conditions meant that river flows were higher, companies increased their water storage and had more opportunities to discharge water into the Hunter River.

Mining Industry Water Use Balance



ALMOST 1.8X
as much water evaporated from the Hunter River System storage dams as was extracted from the Hunter River System by mining companies

The mining industry used less than **1%**
of water in the Upper Hunter River System

7%
of mine water came from rivers and alluvial aquifers

64%
of mine water was sourced from onsite rainfall and runoff

16%
of water was sourced from deep aquifers that are of limited use to other water users due to their high salinity

The mining industry **REUSED 43%**
of its water onsite

12%
of mine water was discharged into the Hunter River

To find out more about the UHMD, visit **miningdialogue.com.au**

The NSW Minerals Council has compiled the data in this infographic using the best available information. Since water accounting is a complex task that relies on estimates and computer models, there are corresponding limits to the accuracy of the information. Sources: Bureau of Meteorology; DPI Water; NSW Minerals Council data. Notes: [1] The source for contextual rainfall data was updated in 2019 due to the closure of the Scone SCS station. Scone Airport AWS was selected due to its nearby location, however long-term data for this site is limited to 1994 onwards.