

UPPER HUNTER WATER BALANCE 2022



Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Mining's water use

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue assessed water use by the mining industry in the Upper Hunter in 2022. 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.



MORE THAN 5x

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 **JUST 0.2%** of water in the Upper Hunter River System

5%

of mine water came from rivers and alluvial aquifers

75% of mine water was sourced from onsite rainfall and runoff

18%

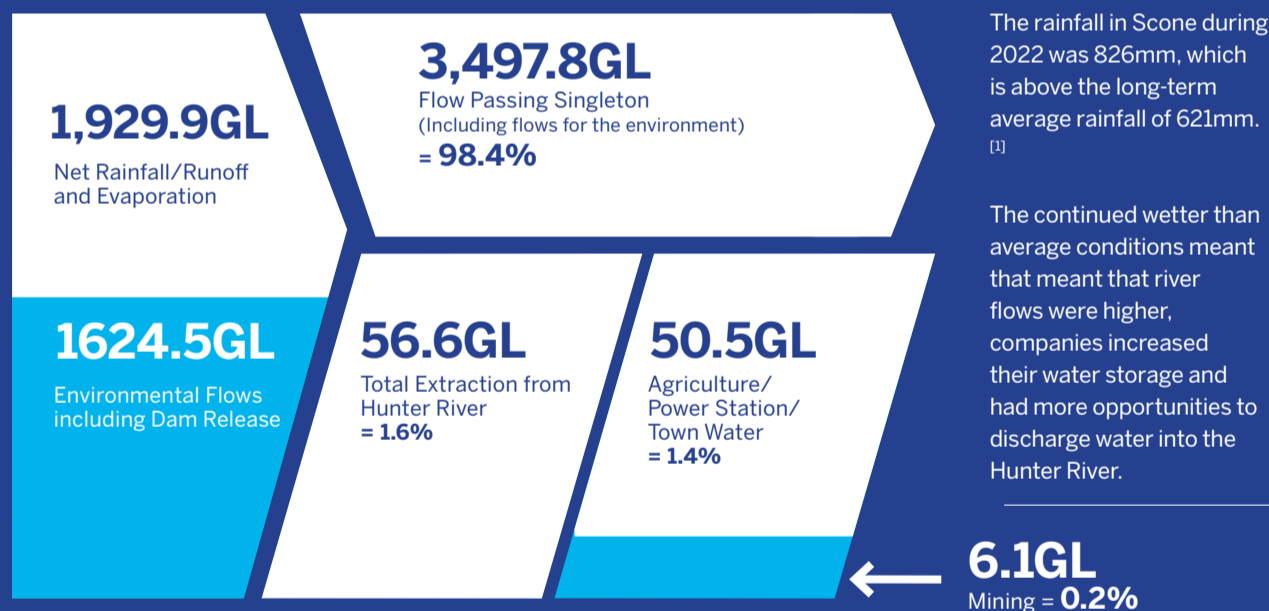
of water was sourced from deep aquifers that are of limited use to other water users due to their high salinity

The mining industry **REUSED 48%** of its water onsite

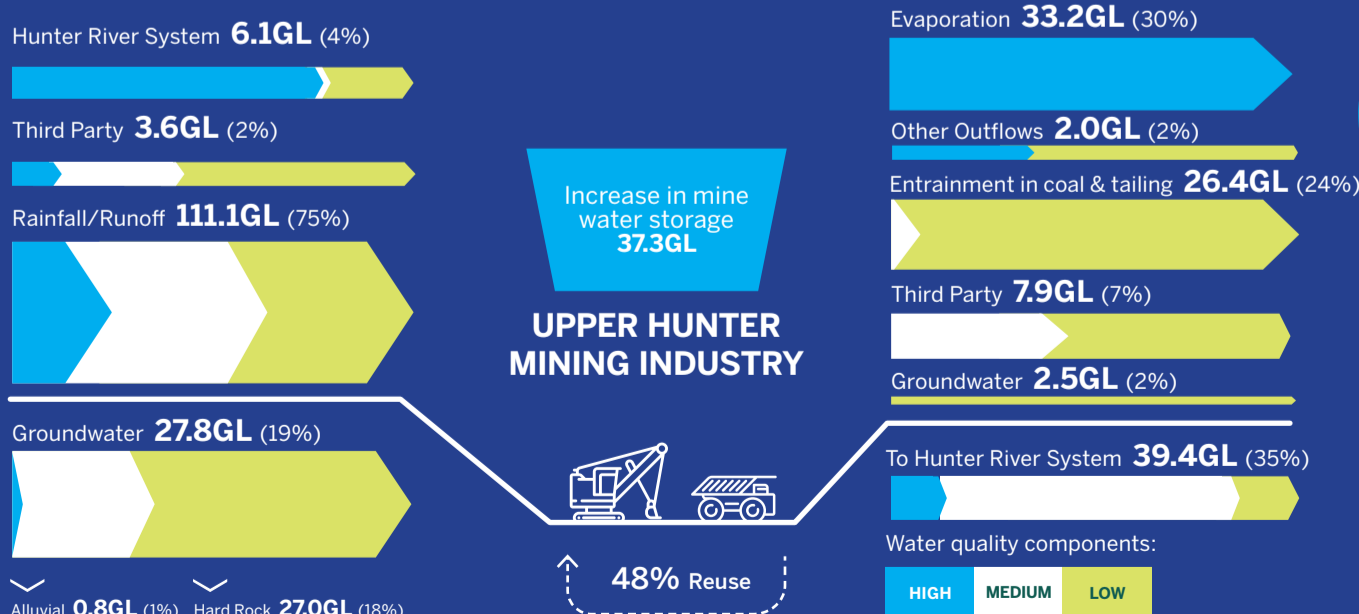
35%

of mine water was discharged into the Hunter River^[2]

Hunter River System Extraction



Mining Industry Water Use Balance



The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue developed this resource using the best available information, supplied by industry data. 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. [2] Mine water discharges were permitted given the high flow conditions. To provide context, the 39.4 GL of mine water was discharged in 2022 to a river system carrying nearly 3,500 GL in total, representing just over 1% of the total water amount.

For more information:
miningdialogue.com.au