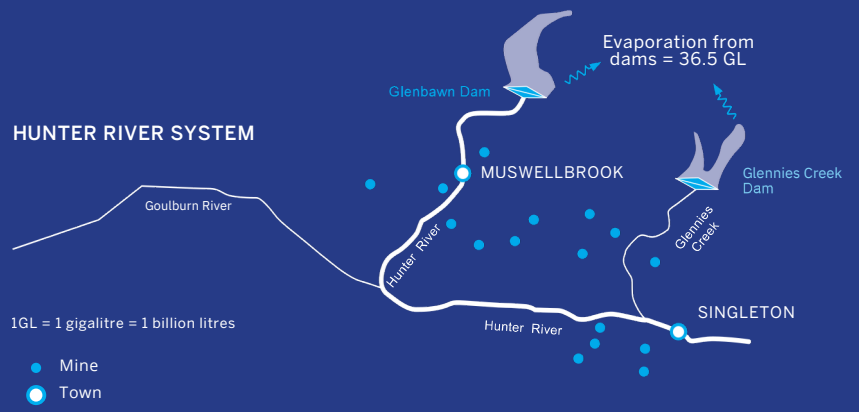
UPPER HUNTER WATER BALANCE 2025

Mining's water use

NSW MINING Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has collated the water use by Upper Hunter mines in 2025. Since 2014, mining companies have reported their water inflows and outflows using a common accounting framework. This reporting helps industry better manage water use and provides the community with a clear understanding of how water from the Upper Hunter River system is managed.

In 2025, 1,688GL of water entered the Upper Hunter River System



Hunter River System Extraction

659.1 GL
Net Rainfall/Runoff and Evaporation

1,597.0GL
Flow Passing Singleton (Including flows for the environment) = 94.6%

1029.0 GL
Environmental Flows including Dam Release

91.1GL
Total Extraction from Hunter River = 5.4%

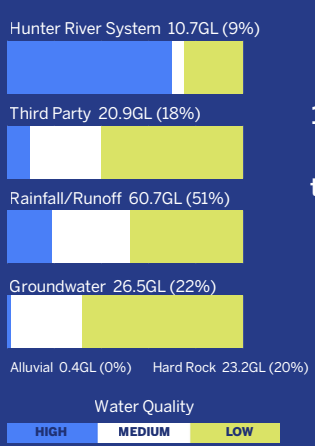
80.47GL
Agriculture/ Power Station/ Town Water = 4.8%

10.68GL
Mining = 0.6%

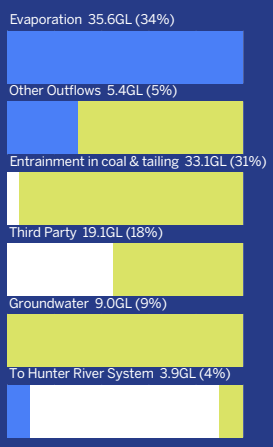
The rainfall in Scone during 2025 was 788.4mm, which is above the long-term average rainfall of 623mm. [1]

The wetter conditions meant that companies had opportunities to discharge excess water into the Hunter River System.

Mining Industry Water Use Balance



Mining operations used 118.8 GL of water in 2025 and reused 44% of the water onsite



More than **3.4x** as much water evaporated from the Hunter River storage dams as was extracted from the Hunter River by mining companies

The mining industry used **0.6%** of water in the Upper Hunter River System

9% of mine water came from rivers and alluvial aquifers

51% of mine water was sourced from onsite rainfall and runoff

20% of water was sourced from deep aquifers that are of limited use to other water users due to the high salinity

The mining industry reused **44%** of its water onsite

4% of mine water was discharged into the Hunter River

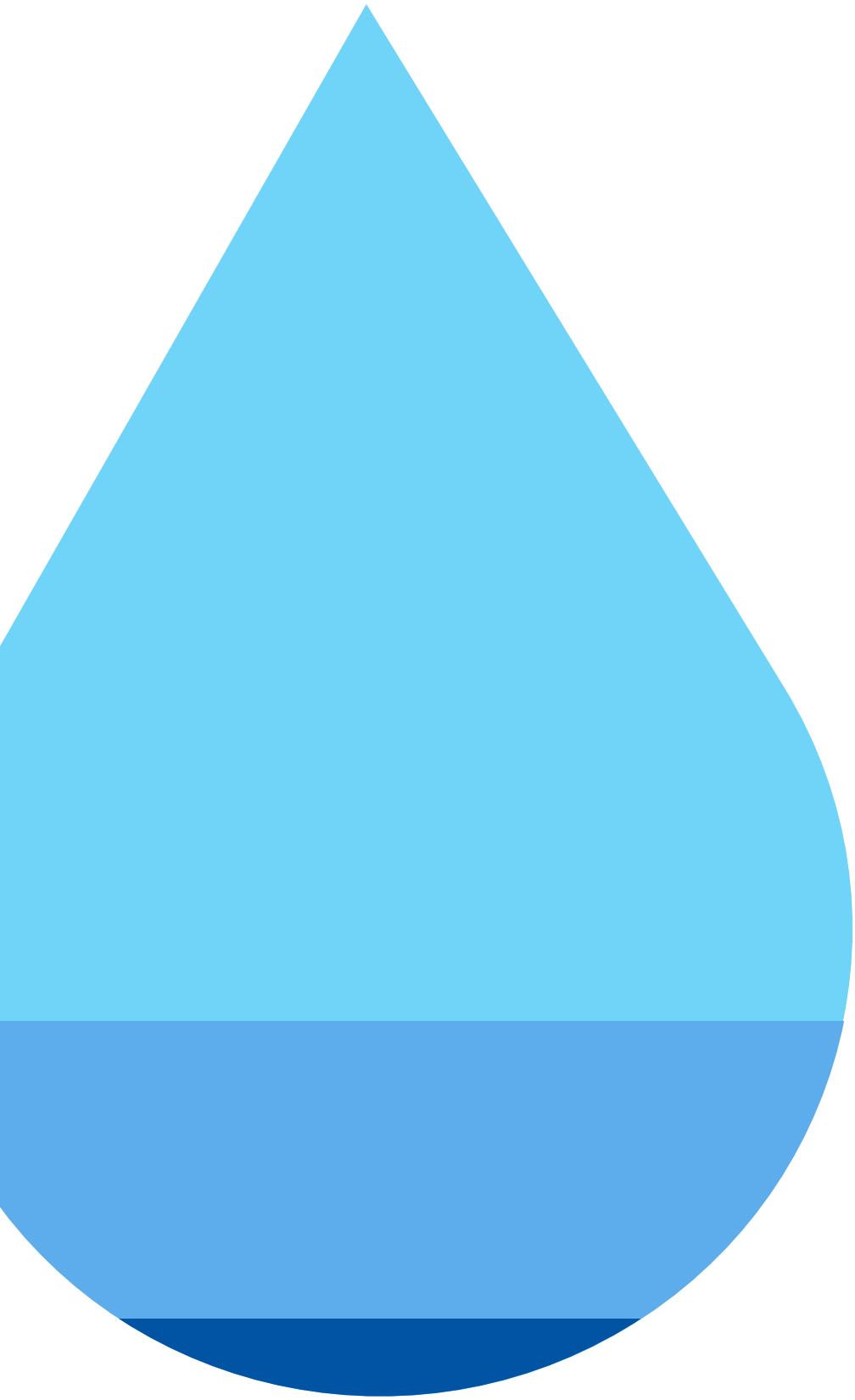
The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue developed this resource using the best available information, supplied by industry and publicly available data. Since water accounting is a complex task that relies on estimates and computer models, there are corresponding limits to the accuracy of the information. Sources: Bureau of Meteorology; Water NSW; 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.

THE HUNTER RIVER 2025

A valued water resource for the Upper Hunter community

NSW MINING Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue



2025 was a wetter than the average year, with about

1,688,000 MEGALITRES

of water entering the river system in the Upper Hunter.

94.6%

of that water stayed in the river.

The amount of water extracted and used by farmers, residents and businesses was

4.8%

MINING used

0.6%

of the water from the Hunter River system.

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Sources: Bureau of Meteorology; Water NSW; NSW Minerals Council data. Note: Key figures are rounded for publication, so may not total 100% exactly.

For more information:

miningdialogue.com.au

UPPER HUNTER WATER BALANCE 2025

NSW MINING Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue

Summary of Key Findings

The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue has collated the water use by the mining industry in the Upper Hunter in the 2025 water year. Since 2014, using a common accounting framework, mines in the Upper Hunter have reported their water inflows and outflows from operations. This has helped the mining industry manage their water use and embark on water saving and reuse opportunities. Below is a summary of key findings on water use in the Upper Hunter for 2025:

- 2025 was a much wetter than average year, the rainfall in Scone during 2025 was 788.4mm, which was higher than the long-term average of 623mm.
- This meant that about 1,688 gigalitres (or 1,688,146 megalitres) of water entered the river system in the Upper Hunter.
- 94.6% (or 1,597 gigalitres) of water stayed in the river and flowed passed Singleton.
- Farmers, residents and businesses extracted around 4.8% (or 80.5 gigalitres) of the water in the system.
- 2.2% (or 36.5 gigalitres) of the available water evaporated from the Hunter River System storage dams.
- Mining used 0.6% (or 10.7 gigalitres) of the water that entered the Hunter River system.
- During 2025, Upper Hunter mining operations used 118.8GL of water, of this 9.0% (or 10.7 gigalitres) was sourced from the Hunter River.
- 51.1% (or 60.7 gigalitres) of the water inflow to mines was sourced from onsite rainfall and runoff.
- 19.6% (or 23.2 gigalitres) of the water inflow to mines was sourced from deep aquifers that are of limited use to other water users due to their high salinity.
- The mining industry reused 43.8% of its water onsite.
- 3.7% (or 3.9 gigalitres) of the water outflow from mines was discharged into the Hunter River.
- In 2025, 3.4 times more water evaporated from Hunter River storage dams than was extracted from the Hunter River by mining operations.

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Sources: Bureau of Meteorology; Water NSW; NSW Minerals Council data.

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UPPER HUNTER WATER BALANCE 2025

Summary of Key Findings

Figure 1: Annual Upper Hunter Water Use Figures (2014-2024)

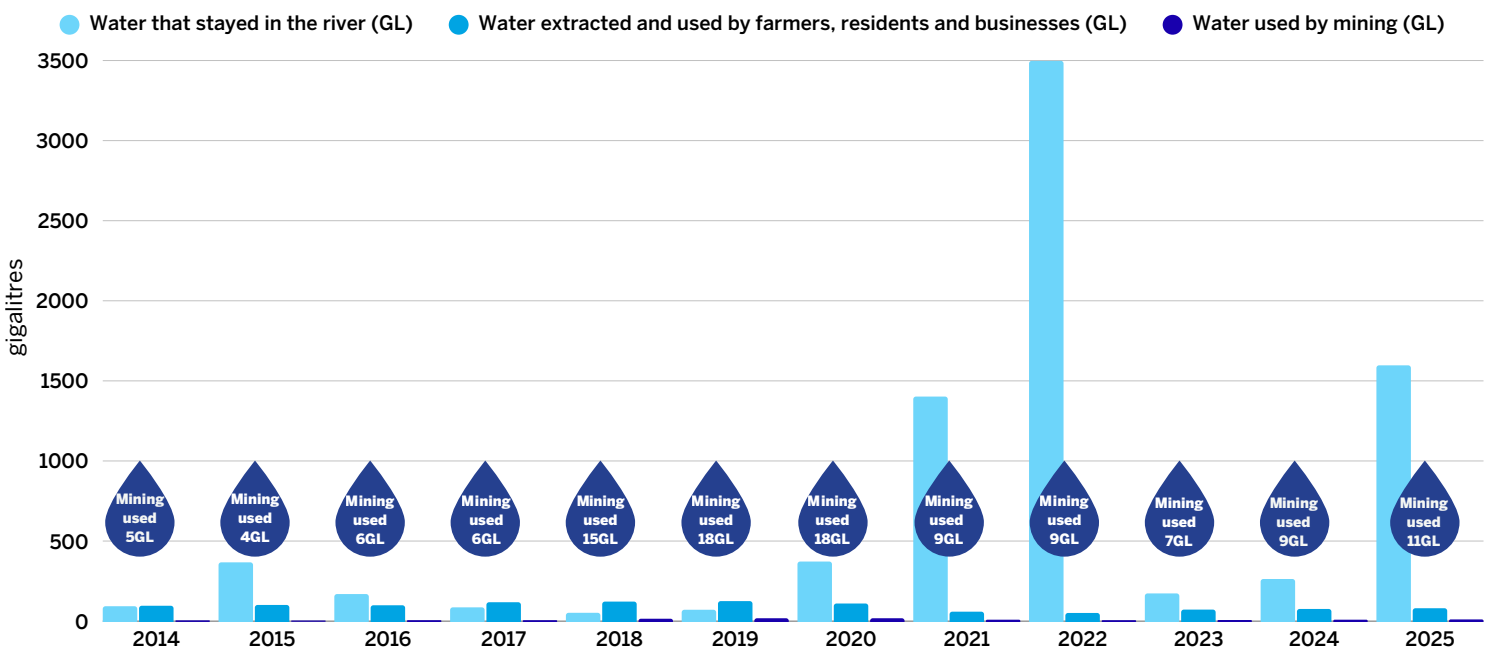
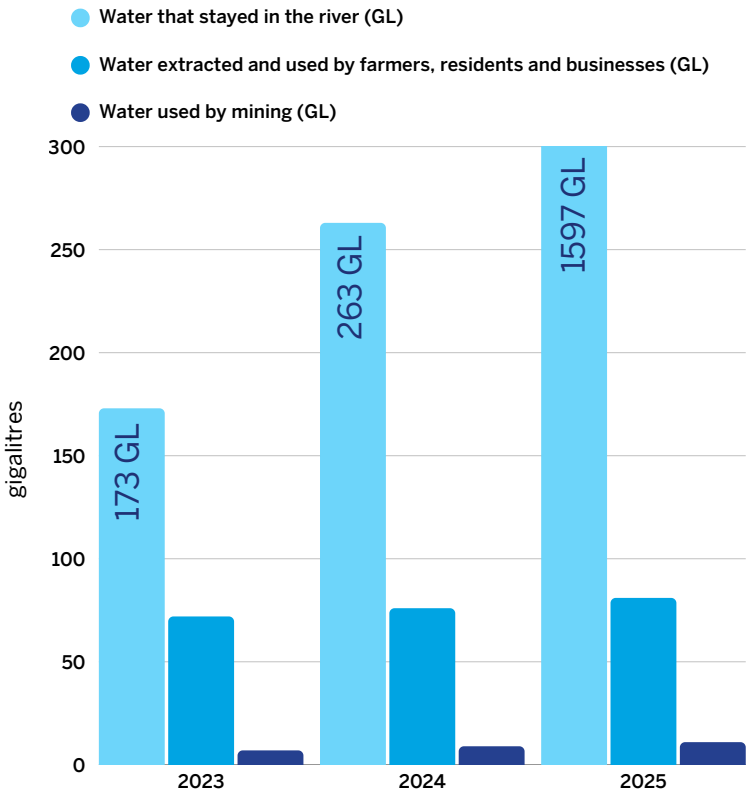
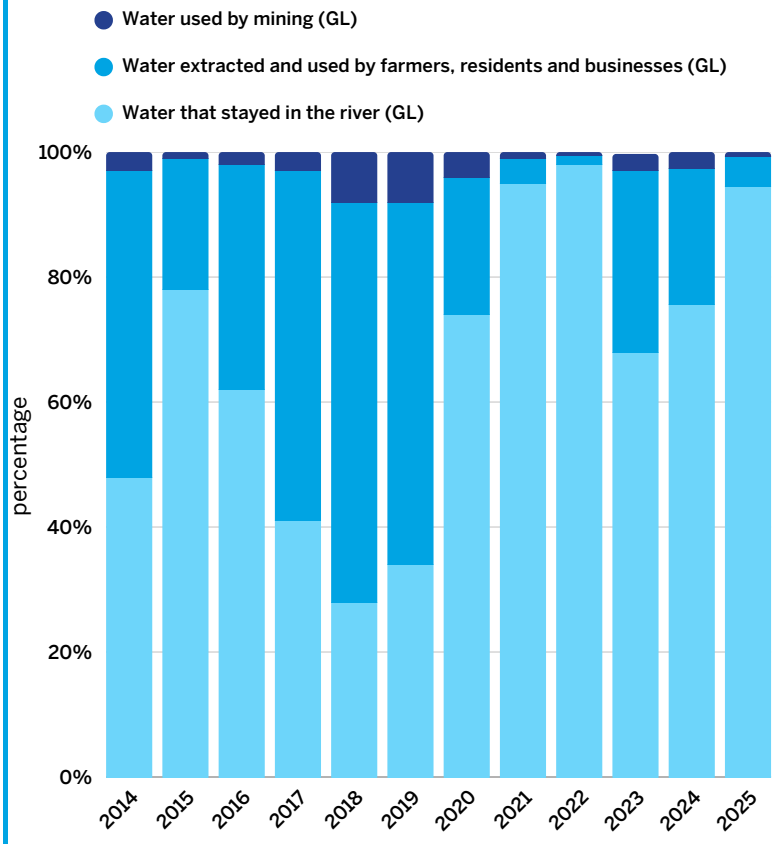


Figure 2: Annual Upper Hunter Water Use Figures (2023-2025)*



* Note: Fig. 2 contains the same information as Fig. 1, but with the 2022 years removed to better differentiate figures.

Figure 3: Annual Percentages of Water Use (2014-2024)



The Upper Hunter Mining Dialogue developed this resource using the best available information, supplied by industry and publicly available 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. Data presented is based on a water year. Sources: Bureau of Meteorology; Water NSW; NSW Minerals Council data.

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