



10 August 2011

Increased water allocations for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley

General security surface water users in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated River have received an increase of four per cent in water allocations.

Acting NSW Water Commissioner, Tracey Barton, said this additional four per cent allocation has been made possible due to a small increase in storage capacity at Burrendong Dam, together with water available following the finalisation of accounts from the previous water year.

“This is the second allocation announcement for this water year, which brings the general security allocation to 32 per cent of entitlement,” said Ms Barton.

“The improvement in storage levels and lesser demand for water held in accounts can be attributed to the fact that recent operational demands have been met largely from tributaries still flowing from the earlier wet conditions.”

The current storage capacity at Burrendong Dam is at 91 per cent, holding 1,082,200 megalitres. This is an increase of almost one per cent or 7,300 megalitres from 1 July 2011.

Windamere Dam currently has a storage capacity at 45 per cent, holding 168,280 megalitres.

Ms Barton said this increase in allocation will provide 6,400 megalitres to the Environmental Water Account held in Burrendong Dam.

“This water will be released at an opportune time to maximise environmental outcomes in the Macquarie Valley, such as maintaining the health of the Macquarie Marshes,” Ms Barton said.

The NSW Office of Water will continue to closely monitor rainfall and river inflows and may make subsequent allocation announcements for general security access licence holders as further water becomes available.

Information on Water Allocations is available on the NSW Office of Water’s website:
www.water.nsw.gov.au

ENDS

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