

Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is **no allocation increase for general security licence holders in the Macquarie or Cudgegong valleys at this time**. General security allocation remains unchanged at 38 per cent of entitlement for the current 2017/18 water year.

Inflows in excess of 185,000 megalitres (ML) are estimated to be required in March before further allocation can be made. Burrendong Dam has received just 24,300 ML of inflow since July 2017.

If dry conditions persist, general security water users will not receive new allocations, but will need to rely on carryover balances into the 2018/19 water year. Water users are reminded to be precise in their ordering and diversion of water and to maximise their water use efficiency.

The forecast usage in 2018/19, including environmental watering plans, is deliverable based on stored water currently in Burrendong and Windamere Dams. Conditions will be closely monitored and a bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam may be required, commencing in January 2019.

Stock and domestic replenishment flows will be scheduled for delivery in late autumn/winter 2018. The timing of deliveries thereafter in 2019 will depend on rainfall events, dam inflows, and contributions from downstream tributaries, but early notification of details will be provided.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover In
Macquarie	100%	38%	73%
Cudgegong	100%	38%	151%

Dam levels (as at 13 March 2018)

- Burrendong Dam is 39 per cent full – falling - holding 489,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 43 per cent full – steady - holding 159,000 ML

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting likely median rainfall conditions in the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys during the three months from March to May. Average temperatures are also forecast across both catchments.

The current La Niña event continues its decline, with a return to neutral conditions expected in autumn. In the past, the breakdown of weak La Niña events has seen drier conditions prevail during autumn for eastern NSW.

Further information

The next Macquarie-Cudgegong water allocation statement will be issued in June 2018 or earlier if there is a significant change detected in the water availability outlook.

Information on Available Water Determinations (AWD) and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Industry – Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

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www.water.nsw.gov.au

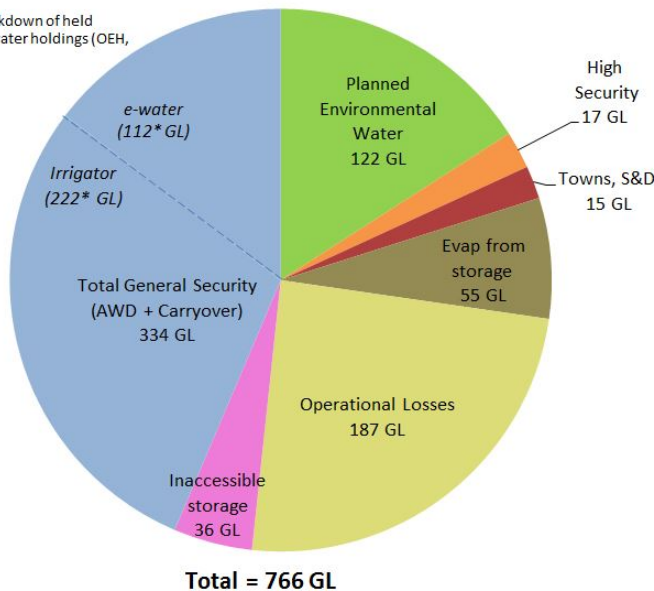
Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (March 2018 to May 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	581
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	101
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	122
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	15 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	36
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	17 (100%)
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	233 (38%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	187
Evaporation from storage	55

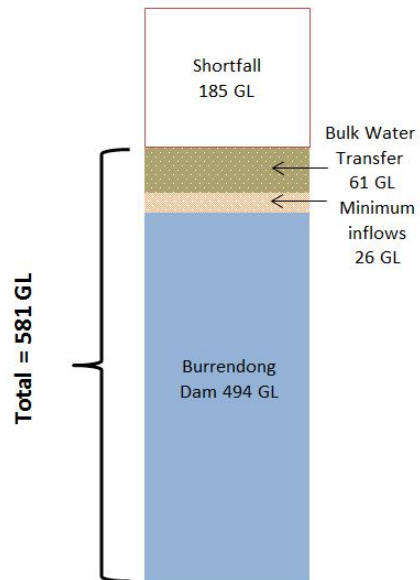
See notes below.

**Resource Distribution March 2018 to May 2019
Macquarie**

* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH).



Supply Source ⁽⁸⁾



Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows plus transfers from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes Cudgegong), discounted for evaporative losses.
- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan (WSP) to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves required to meet 100 per cent of entitlement over the assessment horizon. This represents total entitlement below Burrendong Dam.
- (5) Operational Losses: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions over the next 15 months to meet all demands. This includes transmission losses, operational loss, and replenishment flows. It is conservatively assumed that forecast inflows correspond to dry conditions. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Inaccessible storage: Dead storage of 34 GL plus 2 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) Held environmental water (HEW): as a trial, we are reporting held environmental water administered by the environmental water holders, with the associated portions of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is the total credited to accounts (not usage) and is estimated to be 112GL of GS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (8) Supply source: as a trial, we are providing supply source of total available water. It also indicates any current shortfall in meeting high priority needs through to May 2019.