

11 November 2021

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available to provide an allocation of 14% of entitlement to general security licences in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source. This increment brings the cumulative general security allocation to 77% of entitlement for the current water year. All higher priority licences were allocated their maximum 100% of entitlement on 1 July 2021.

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Cudgegong	100%	77%
Macquarie	100%	77%

Inflows totalling 83,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam were observed during October and storage levels were in the Flood Mitigation Zone (FMZ) for the majority of that month. As required under the water sharing plan, carryover allocations remaining in general security (GS) accounts, high security (HS) accounts and environmental water allowance (EWA) were proportionately withdrawn on 31 October with a volume equivalent to the inflows to Burrendong Dam, while storage levels were in the FMZ.

In total, around 79,000 ML was withdrawn from accounts. General security water availability is approximately 111% of entitlement, with about 34% of carryover currently remaining in accounts.

As Burrendong Dam is highly likely to re-enter the FMZ during November, the carryover withdrawal and reallocation process will continue should further inflows arrive and FMZ releases be needed. Another resource assessment will be conducted at the end of November and a new allocation will be announced in the December statement. When all remaining carryover volume has been withdrawn, GS, HS and EWA accounts are reset to 100%. This potential reset occurs based on the end of month assessment.

The current planning horizon for resource assessments runs to May 2023. The assessment secures the higher priority needs in the system for the next 19 months, before further allocating to general security users.

Tributary flows and FMZ releases from Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet higher priority commitments. Transfers from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are currently forecast to not be required until at least February 2023.

Storage levels (as at 9 November 2021)

- Burrendong Dam is 97.9 % full – falling – holding about 1,166,200 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 36.5% full – steady – holding about 134,900 ML.

Seasonal climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for November 2021 to January 2022 indicates that maximum temperatures are likely to be about or below median, while there is a good chance that rainfall will be at least median.

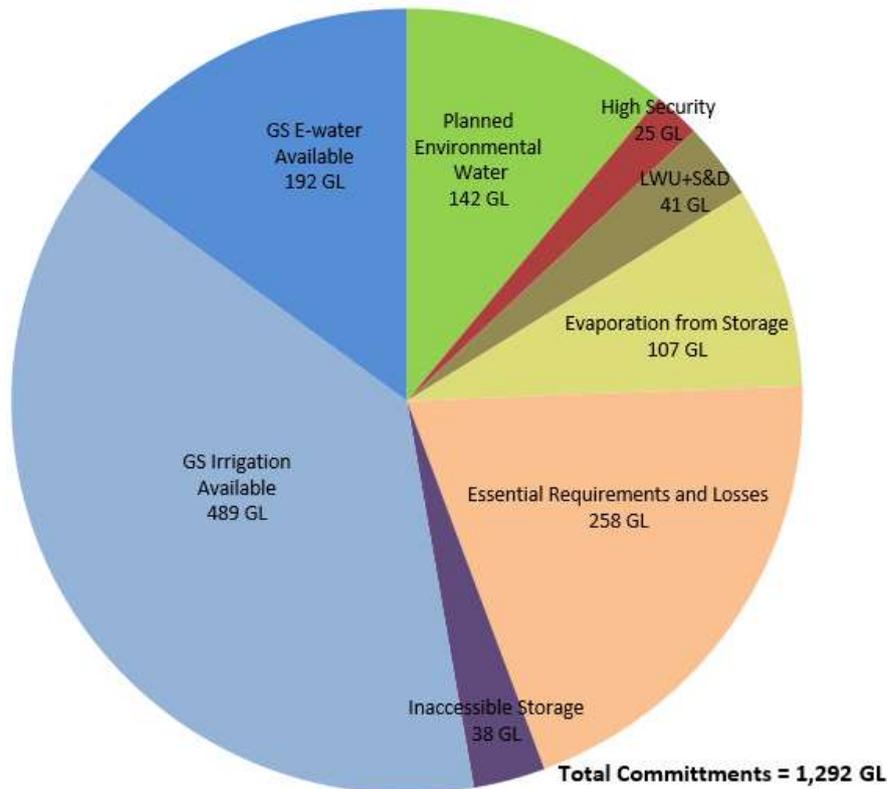
Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Resource Distribution (November 2021 to May 2023)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	1,292
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance ^{(2), (7)}	681
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	142
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	41
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	38
High Security ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁷⁾	25
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	258
Evaporation from Storage	107
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of October 2021 storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from November 2021 to May 2023 plus 25 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume remaining in general security accounts, discounted for evaporative losses and including about 215 GL (34%) of carryover.
- (3) Water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Reserves required to meet the full use of allocated water by Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security WALs below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 19 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Dead storage of 34 GL plus 4 GL of unallocated storage to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 192 GL of GS and 0 GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPIE Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (8) This value indicates balance remaining after all allocations (negative = deficit). The system is secure at least to May 2023.

Resource Distribution (November 2021 to May 2023)



Next announcement

The next routine water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Friday 10 December 2021** or earlier if there is a significant change in the resource situation.

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