

30 September 2016

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys Water allocation update

Allocations

Large inflows into the flood mitigation zone of Burrendong Dam have triggered a **reset of all high security and general security accounts** in the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys.

In the Macquarie valley, all remaining high security and general security account water has been withdrawn in accordance with water sharing plan rules.

In the Cudgegong valley, carryover sub-accounts remain unaffected because Windamere Dam has not spilled, however all water remaining in available water determination (AWD) sub-accounts and any water traded from the Macquarie valley into carryover sub-accounts has been withdrawn.

The maximum Available Water Determination (AWD) of **100 per cent of entitlement** has been made to high security and general security licence holders in both valleys.

Record high rainfall during September on already wet catchments has produced approximately **900,000 megalitres (ML)** of inflow to Burrendong Dam for the month. This is the highest inflow volume for September in 123 years of record. Since 1 June, inflows have totalled almost 1.5 times the full storage volume of the dam.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie	100%	100%	0%
Cudgegong	100%	100%	46%*

*The carryover volume in the Cudgegong valley is unaffected by the reset caused by inflows to a full Burrendong Dam.

Dam levels (as at 29 September 2016)

- Burrendong Dam is currently 127 per cent full, holding 1,500,000 ML.
- The dam water level rose rapidly into the flood mitigation zone (FMZ) on 4 September and has been under airspace operations throughout the month.
- Windamere Dam has risen this month by 10 per cent to reach 50 per cent full, holding 184,000 ML.
- Inflows to Windamere Dam have been slow to get started, with a rise in storage of only 8,000 ML observed during winter. Heavy rainfall on wet catchments in September has resulted in a further improvement of 34,000 ML this month.
- Translucent releases from Windamere Dam have now reached the annual cap and no more releases will be made for this purpose in the 2016/17 water year.

Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for October to December indicates a **65 to 75 per cent chance of above average rainfall** in the catchment.
- The current outlook reflects a negative Indian Ocean Dipole, warmer than average ocean temperatures surrounding northern Australia and an ENSO-neutral tropical Pacific, showing some La Niña-like characteristics.

Further information

Due to the withdrawal of carryover and reset of Macquarie accounts, additional AWDs may not be required for the remainder of the 2016/17 water year. There are two exceptions:

1. If Burrendong Dam re-enters the FMZ later in the water year, then another reset will be triggered.
2. If Windamere Dam spills while Burrendong Dam is in the FMZ, then carryover sub-accounts in the Cudgegong valley will be progressively withdrawn.

Unless either of the above two circumstances arise, the next Water Allocation Statement is expected in autumn 2017 when water availability forecasts for the upcoming 2017/18 water year will be provided.

Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au