

11 October 2018

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

The system continues to experience a **new record low inflow for Burrendong Dam**. Inflows to the dam since the last water allocation in August 2017 total about 35,000 megalitres (ML). This is only a quarter of the previous record low inflow which was about 133,000 ML for the 14 months to the end of September.

A temporary water restriction has been issued to ensure that water usage below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 is limited to this reduced water availability. **Macquarie regulated river (general security and EWA)** access licences are restricted to 70 per cent of the volume of water in the carryover sub-account as at 1 July 2018.

Cudgegong regulated river access licences, including general security, are not restricted.

Water users are directed to the Customer Service Notice issued by WaterNSW on 12 September for further detail on the accounting procedures that will be used to implement the temporary water restriction:

https://www.watarnsw.com.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0018/136323/Macquarie-Carryover-Water-Restrictions-September-2018.pdf

In combination with additional drought operation measures in 2018-19, significant inflows to Burrendong Dam are required from now to the end of December 2018 to enable delivery of all remaining carryover allocations and allow the easing or lifting of the current restrictions.

Commitments to all high priority entitlements can be met for the 2019/20 water year, but in the absence of new resource will require the planned Bulk Water Transfer from Windamere Dam. Cropping and catchment conditions are being assessed to inform demand and deliverability requirements, and to defer the transfer potentially until mid to late summer.

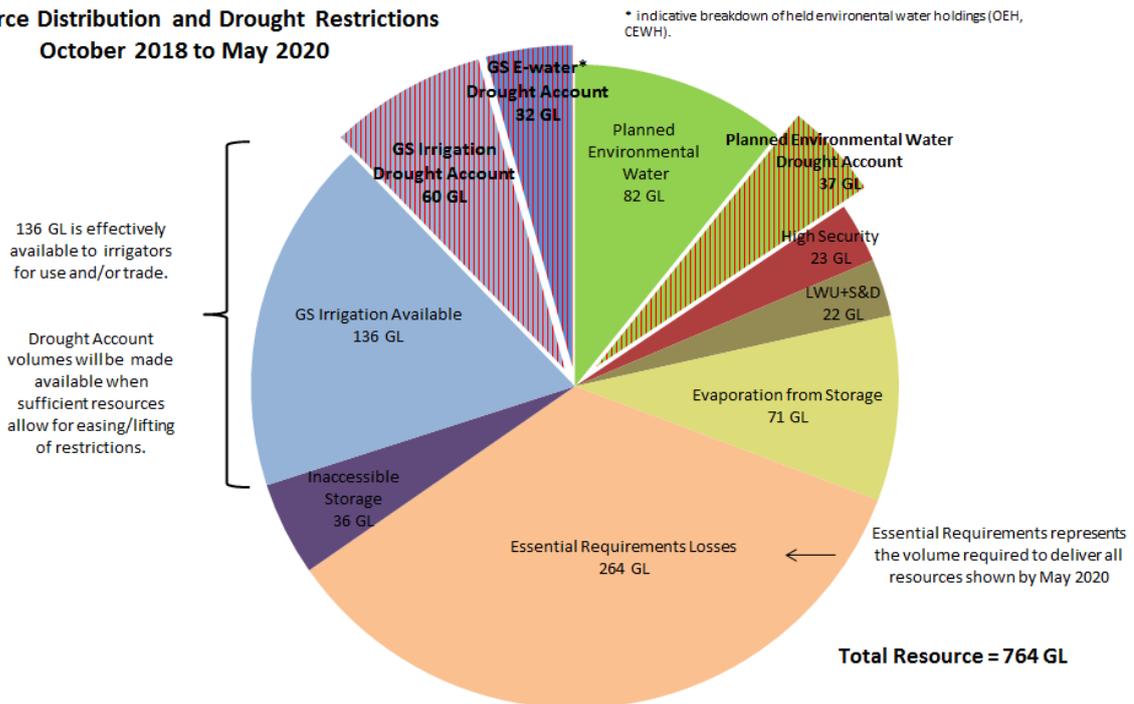
There was just 5,396 ML of inflow to Burrendong Dam during September 2018 and sufficient inflow to ease account restrictions this summer appears unlikely. Water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly and to maximise water use efficiency.

Advice will be provided each month on inflows and resource availability. The restrictions will be eased as soon as possible.

Deliveries under drought operations in 2018-19 will incorporate water conservation measures to prolong essential water supplies. Details will be provided and may involve implementation of water order debiting and, where feasible, block releases of irrigation orders, particularly in the lower parts of the Macquarie River and in effluent creeks.

Under dry conditions, the timing of all stock and domestic deliveries in 2018-19 will depend upon rainfall events producing inflows to storage and flows from downstream tributaries. Water users should liaise with WaterNSW for their water delivery arrangements.

Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions October 2018 to May 2020



Storage levels (as at 11 October 2018)

- Burrendong Dam is 24 per cent full – falling – currently at 315 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 40 per cent full – rising – currently at 148 GL.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook indicates that October to December is likely to be drier than average in the western and central parts of NSW.

The Bureau has raised the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) outlook to El Niño Alert level. This means that the chances of El Niño occurring during spring are three times the normal risk. An El Niño in spring typically means below average rainfall across eastern and northern Australia and above-average temperatures in the southeast.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Tuesday 13 November 2018**.

Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Macquarie Resource Distribution (October 2018 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	466*
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	229
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	119
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	22 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	36
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	23 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	0 (0%)
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	264
Evaporation from storage	71

* 298GL of additional inflow required to meet the 764GL budget.

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) Essential Requirements: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions over the next 19 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 indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 41GL of GS and 0GL of HS. 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). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.