

14 June 2019

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated river water sources **remain unchanged**. There was no inflow to Burrendong Dam during May 2019. Storages need about 261,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow before normal regulated river operations can resume.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	0%	 Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	0%	 Stage 4

A temporary water restriction remains in operation below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 to limit water usage and protect critical supplies. Macquarie regulated river users are limited to 70 per cent of the volume of water in their carryover sub-account as at 1 July 2018. All remaining water in general security carryover sub-accounts, including remaining EWA, will be restricted from 1 July 2019.

Cudgegong regulated river access licences, including general security carryover, are not restricted, however no trading of water from above Burrendong Dam to below Burrendong Dam will be permitted from 1 July 2019 due to the critical water shortage downstream.

These restrictions can only be eased when sufficient inflows to assure high priority needs for the 2020-21 water year are captured in storage. With dry conditions continuing, water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly and to maximise water use efficiency.

Drought contingency measures are in preparation to extend delivery of existing limited water supplies in the Macquarie Valley. Investigative works are being conducted at Warren Weir and at Duck Creek and Crooked Creek regulators.

Storage levels (as at 12 June 2019)

- Burrendong Dam is 5 per cent full – falling – currently at 96,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 33 per cent full – falling – currently at 121,000 ML

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Macquarie regulated river water source has now advanced to Stage 4. Water supplies are being managed to meet high priority needs for as long as possible. Timely operational contingency measures will be introduced to protect critical water supplies. The Cudgegong regulated water source remains in Stage 1, but may move to Stage 2 on 1 July 2019, reflecting the restricted trade dealings.

For further details: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/update

Water availability outlook for 2019-20

Forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. This outlook for 1 July 2019 water availability is conservatively based on little future rain and dam inflow.

- Allocation to entitlements in the Macquarie-Cudgegong system will likely commence the new year (1 July 2019) on at least 60 per cent for Domestic & Stock, 40 per cent for High Security and 20 per cent for High Security Research.
- Local Water Utilities will likely start the year on reduced allocations.
- There will be provision made to increment individual high priority entitlements, particularly for towns, during the year if the initial allocation proves insufficient.
- Despite water allocations, there will be no delivery of water to some sections of the regulated Macquarie River without tributary inflows.
- There will be no access to general security water or EWA below Burrendong Dam in order to protect higher priority needs.
- In the absence of significant inflow, cease to flow conditions are likely in the Macquarie River below Warren, and for Duck and Crooked Creeks, from early spring 2019.
- Trade between the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys will be restricted under critical drought operations in 2019-20.
- If conditions remain dry, a further bulk water transfer will occur in December 2019 leaving a minimum of 70 gigalitres (GL) in Windamere Dam. This is enough to secure supply for local demand in the regulated Cudgegong Valley for a number of years.
- Translucent releases from Windamere Dam will be made as per WSP rules.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook suggests drier than average conditions for the three month period of June to August. Daytime temperatures during winter are very likely to be warmer than average.

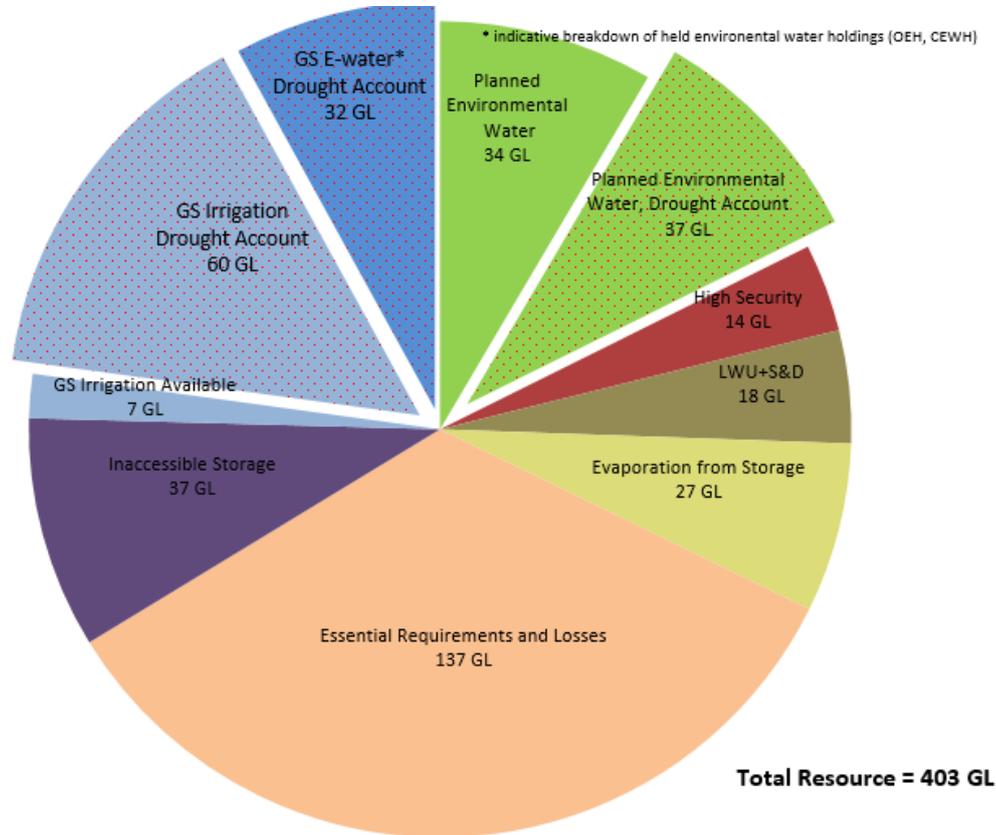
Climate influences include the expected development of a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and a weakening of El Niño-like patterns in the tropical Pacific.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Monday 1 July 2019**.

Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions (June 2019 to May 2020)



Macquarie Resource Distribution (June 2019 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	142
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	99
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	71
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	18 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	37
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	14 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	0 (0%)
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	137
Evaporation from storage	27

Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows plus transfers from Windamere Dam is 142GL. In order to deliver all remaining GS and EWA carryover allocations and full allocation to higher security licences in 2019-20, and to operate the river normally, 403 GL is required. This is resulting in a deficit of 261 GL.

- (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 12 months to meet all demands. This includes transmission losses and operational loss. 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 3 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 32GL 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.

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