

12 August 2020

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

### Water allocation update

There is no change to allocations in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source. However, the recent improvement in resources has meant that the process to lift the current temporary water restriction over coming days can commence. The drought stages will also soon be eased. The system has begun to recover from its worst ever drought.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	0%	 Stage 2
Macquarie	100%	0%	 Stage 3

The total inflow into Burrendong Dam during July was 81,483 megalitres (ML). Tributary flows surplus to water orders are managed under the Tributary Flow Management Plan to meet domestic and stock replenishment needs and provide environmental outcomes. An estimated 70,000 ML more inflow to Burrendong Dam is required in August to allow a new general security allocation. Additional indicative inflow scenarios for general security allocations are provided at the end of this statement.

Delivery of stock and domestic replenishment flows in 2021 will largely rely on tributary flows in preference to dam releases. With Burrendong Dam still just one-third full, drought contingency measures could be needed next year, 2021-22, in the unlikely event that dry conditions return.

### Storage levels (as at 10 August 2020)

- Burrendong Dam is 32.1 per cent full – rising – holding about 404,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 28.0 per cent full – falling – holding about 104,000 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 is soon expected to improve to Stage 2 drought criticality and the Cudgegong River to Stage 1. Contingency measures are not expected to be required in the current water year.

### Key facts

- No new general security allocation, but general security licence holders below Burrendong Dam will soon be able to access 100 per cent of their account balance. This water will be fully deliverable through the 2020-21 water year.
- Water held in the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) is now available for delivery.

- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Should Burrendong Dam physically spill (including pre-release) in coming months, general security and EWA carryover volumes will be protected from forfeiture until February 2021.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments, including effluent replenishments.
- The Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Sources will soon be eased to Stage 2 (Recovering) and Stage 1 (Normal operations) drought criticality levels respectively.

## Climatic outlook

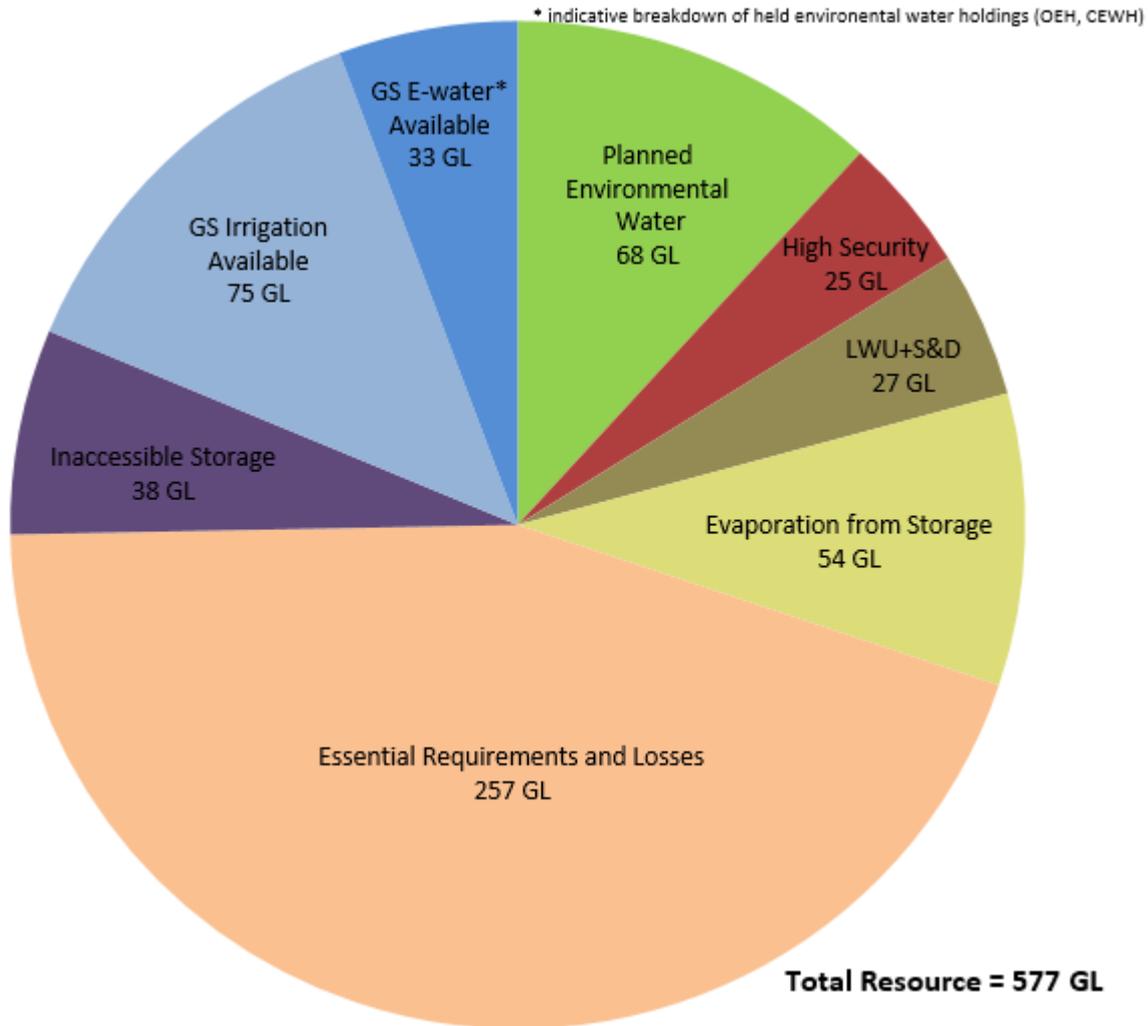
The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that the catchment is likely to experience wetter than average conditions. Daytime temperatures over this period are likely to be above average and night temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau of Meteorology states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are currently neutral. The ENSO Outlook is at La Niña WATCH, which indicates that the chance of La Niña forming in 2020 is around 50%—roughly twice the average likelihood. The Southern Annular Mode (SAM) is positive. In winter, a positive SAM typically reduces rainfall in southern parts of the country but can enhance rainfall in New South Wales and southern Queensland.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary)

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution (August 2020 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>		507
<i>less</i>		
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	108	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	68	
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	27	
Inaccessible Storage <sup>(6)</sup>	38	
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	25	
General Security 2020/2021 AWD <sup>(7)</sup>	0	
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	257	
Evaporation from Storage	54	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation (or deficit)		(70)

### Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows plus transfers from Windamere Dam is 507 GL. In order to deliver all remaining GS and EWA carryover allocations and current allocation to higher security licences, and to operate the river normally over the assessment horizon, 577 GL is required. This is resulting in a deficit of 70 GL before further allocations can be made.
- (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 current allocation to these licence categories 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 22 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 4 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 33 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). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites. Delivery of this water is currently unavailable until conditions improve.

## Estimated Inflows needed to provide new general security allocation (as at 7 August 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL) <b>Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made</b>	Inflows (GL) <b>Inflow required for at least 1% Allocation</b>	Inflows (GL) <b>Inflow required for at least 10% Allocation</b>
By end of August	70	79	157
By end of September	106	115	192
By end of October	115	123	200

### Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Thursday 10 September 2020**.

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