

21 August 2020

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Interim water allocation update

Following recent rains, Burrendong Dam has gained about 73,000 megalitres (ML) so far this month, with more inflows expected from forecast rainfall and current river recessions. Downstream tributaries have also responded well. This interim statement, based on preliminary estimates and forecasts, is to provide water users with an indication of what might be expected in the next scheduled **water allocation announcement on 10 September 2020**.

There is expected to be enough water available to at least:

- Provide for all stock and domestic replenishment flows from storage this water year.
- Improve the Macquarie drought stage from Stage 2 to Stage 1.
- Announce an initial 3 per cent allocation to all general security access licences.

This can be achieved without reducing water supply security for high priority commitments going forward. The next statement will also provide estimated inflow scenarios needed for general security entitlement holders to receive further new allocations.

Current conditions remain as follows:

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	0%	 Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	0%	 Stage 2

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 recently improved to Stage 2 drought criticality. Contingency measures are not required in the current water year but are available for 2021-22 should the drought recovery stall.

The Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source recently returned to Stage 1 drought criticality, normal river operations.

Storage levels (as at 21 August 2020)

- Burrendong Dam is 37.5 per cent full – rising – holding about 467,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 28.5 per cent full – rising – holding about 106,000 ML.

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