

13 October 2020

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

An allocation of **6% of entitlement has been made to general security licence holders** in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source. This allocation brings the cumulative general security allocation to 18% of entitlement for the current water year.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	18%	 Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	18%	 Stage 1

Inflows totalling 68,500 megalitre (ML) into Burrendong Dam during September has enabled this allocation improvement. Although the Burrendong catchment is beginning to dry and temperatures are increasing, the system is well placed to meet high priority commitments and to capture more water for general security allocation from any further rainfall and runoff events in coming months.

Inflows in excess of 17,000 ML to Burrendong Dam are required during October to enable a further general security allocation next month. This is subject to river operations and losses remaining as forecast. Indicative inflows required in November and December to provide further general security allocations are also provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook currently runs through to May 2022, some 20 months, and aims to ensure that next water-year's higher priority needs can be met before further allocating to general security entitlements this water-year, as required by the water sharing plan.

Storage levels (as at 12 October 2020)

- Burrendong Dam is 46.2% full – falling – holding about 568,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 29.1% full – falling – holding about 108,000 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 and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source is currently at Stage 1 (Normal Operations) drought criticality, meaning the valley is effectively out of drought. Contingency measures are not required in the current water year.

Key facts

- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Based on historic inflows over 119 years, there is about a 10% chance that Burrendong Dam may spill by the end of February 2021.
- Should Burrendong Dam physically spill (including pre-release) in coming months, general security and EWA carryover volumes will be protected from forfeiture until the end of February 2021.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments, including delivery of planned environmental water and effluent replenishments.
- Transfer of water from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam is currently delayed indefinitely.
- Delivery of stock and domestic replenishment flows in 2021 will largely rely on tributary flows in preference to dam releases.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2020 to January 2021 indicates that rainfall conditions are likely to be wetter than average across the catchment, while temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau's ENSO Outlook is at La Niña, meaning La Niña is underway in the tropical Pacific. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) index value is currently neutral, though models suggest negative values may return in late October and persist in November. La Niña and a negative IOD typically increase the likelihood of above average spring and early summer rainfall in Australia.

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

Resource Distribution (October 2020 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		677
<i>less</i>		
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	100	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	67	
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	27	
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	38	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	24	
General Security 2020/2021 AWD	114	
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	244	
Evaporation from Storage	63	
		677

Notes:

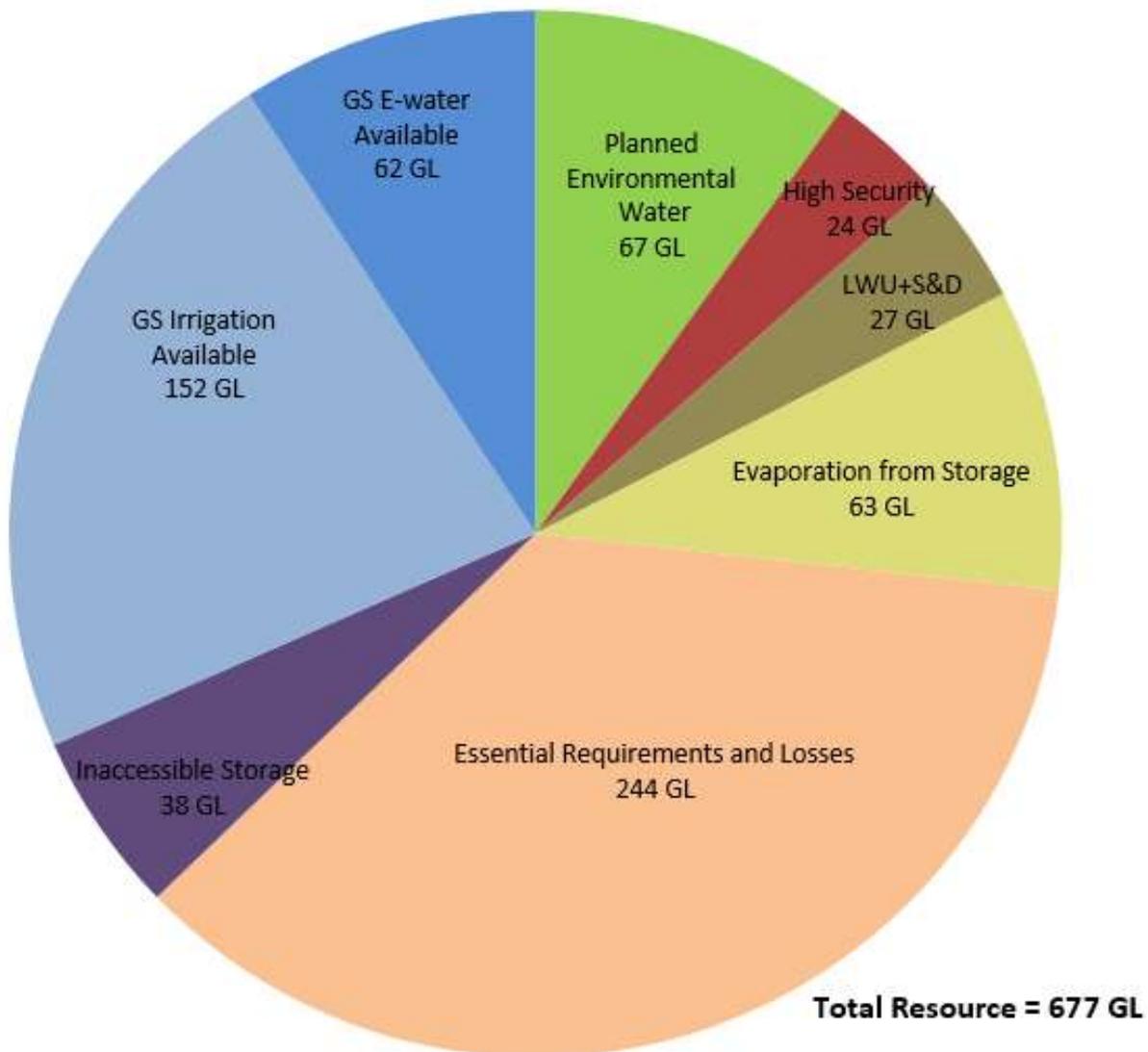
- (1) Total Resources: Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus recession inflows in October plus minimum forecast dam inflows from November to May 2022 plus any planned transfer from Windamere Dam. No transfer from Windamere has been planned for now.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes Cudgegong), discounted for evaporative losses.

Water Allocation Statement



Water availability and allocation update

- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security: reserves required to meet the projected use by these licence categories below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Essential Requirements and Losses: Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 20 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. 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): 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 62 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



Inflow budget to provide next general security allocation (estimate as at 12 October 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	Inflows (GL)
	Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional 10% AWD
By end of November	74	158
By end of December	89	172

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 11 November 2020**.

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