



Thursday, 6 August 2015

Increased Water Availability in the Macquarie-Cudgegong

DPI Water today announced the water availabilities in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers for the 2015/16 water year.

There is sufficient water at the end of July to meet carryover requirements plus an allocation of 7 per cent for general security entitlement holders in the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys.

Inflows of about 80,000 megalitres are required into storages in August before any additional general security allocations can be made. Only 3,200 megalitres has arrived so far this month.

The storage capacity at Burrendong Dam is currently at 18 per cent of capacity, holding approximately 245,000 megalitres.

Windamere Dam is currently at 43 per cent of capacity, holding 161,000 megalitres.

DPI Water will continue to monitor inflows and may make further available water determinations for general security access licence holders in the coming months.

Additional information on Available Water Determinations is available on the DPI Water website at - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Ends

Update – from end July 2015

DPI Water has updated the outlook and probabilities for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated rivers water source for the 2015/16 water year.

Key facts

- General Security available water determination has increased to 7 per cent of entitlement for 2015/16.
- The **average carryover** into 2015/16 for Macquarie general security users is equivalent to 6 per cent of entitlement, or approximately 35,000 megalitres.
- The **average carryover** into 2015/16 for Cudgegong general security users is equivalent to 57 per cent of entitlement, or approximately 11,500 megalitres.
- Delivery of **full allocations to high priority requirements** and any remaining general security account water in 2015/16 is assured.
- Domestic & Stock replenishment flows to lower Macquarie effluent creeks for 2015 have been delivered. Delivery in 2016 will largely rely on the timing of rainfall and tributary flows.

Dam levels

- Burrendong Dam is currently at 18 percent storage capacity, storing 245,000 megalitres.
- Windamere Dam is currently at 43 percent storage capacity, storing 161,000 megalitres.

Outlook

- Inflow of about 80,000 megalitres is required into storages in August before any additional general security allocations can be made.
- Inflows so far this month total some 3,200 megalitres.
- The Bureau of Meteorology has **forecast 50 percent** chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the region during the August to October period.
- A firming El Niño event in the tropical Pacific is expected to become the dominant influence on the Australian climate during the second half of the year.

Scenarios

DPI Water can provide advice under the following scenarios:

Conditions	2015/16 General security AWD
Extremely dry	AWD (7% and carryover from 2014/15)
Dry #	AWD (7% and carryover from 2014/15)
Median	AWD (14% by 30 October rising to 24% by 31 January 2016)
Wet	AWD (56% by 30 October rising to 64% by 31 January 2016)

Prevailing conditions over recent years have been similar to the **dry conditions scenario**

DPI Water will provide the next water outlook update in November 2015.