

25 July 2018

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

### Water allocation update and outlook

The system has entered a **new record drought** for Burrendong Dam. Inflows to Burrendong Dam since the last water allocation in August 2017 total about 30,000 megalitres (ML). This is only 45 per cent of the previous record low inflow of about 68,000 ML for the 11 months to June.

The Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated river general security allocation began the 2018-19 water year at zero per cent of entitlement. **There has been no improvement in resources.**

Inflows in excess of 162,000 megalitres (ML) are currently estimated to be required before further allocation can be made.

In the absence of future inflows, the current resources in Burrendong Dam, plus the planned bulk water transfer of 57,000 ML from Windamere Dam, will be sufficient to provide just 75 per cent of the carryover allocations remaining in irrigators' and environmental accounts (including EWA) in 2018-19. Water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly.

Dam inflows of about 70,000 ML are required from now to the end of December 2018 to secure delivery of all remaining carryover allocations, in combination with additional drought operation measures in 2018-19. Currently this appears unlikely.

Deliveries under drought operations in 2018-19 will incorporate water conservation measures to prolong essential water requirements. This may involve implementation of water order debiting and, where feasible, block releases of irrigation orders, particularly in the lower parts of the Macquarie River and in effluent creeks.

Under dry conditions, the timing of all stock and domestic deliveries in 2018-19 will depend on rainfall events producing dam inflows and flows from downstream tributaries. Water users should liaise with WaterNSW for water delivery arrangements.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie	100%	0%	51%
Cudgegong	100%	0%	101%

### Storage levels (as at 25 July 2018)

- Burrendong Dam is 35 per cent full – falling – currently at 437 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 41 per cent full – steady – currently at 150 GL.

## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook for August to October indicates likely dry conditions and temperatures most likely to be above average for the region.

The Bureau's climate models show that the El Nino-Southern Oscillation and Indian Ocean Dipole indicators are likely to remain neutral over the forecast period, but having a greater than usual chance of an El Nino event forming later in the year.

## Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Friday 17 August 2018**.

## Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

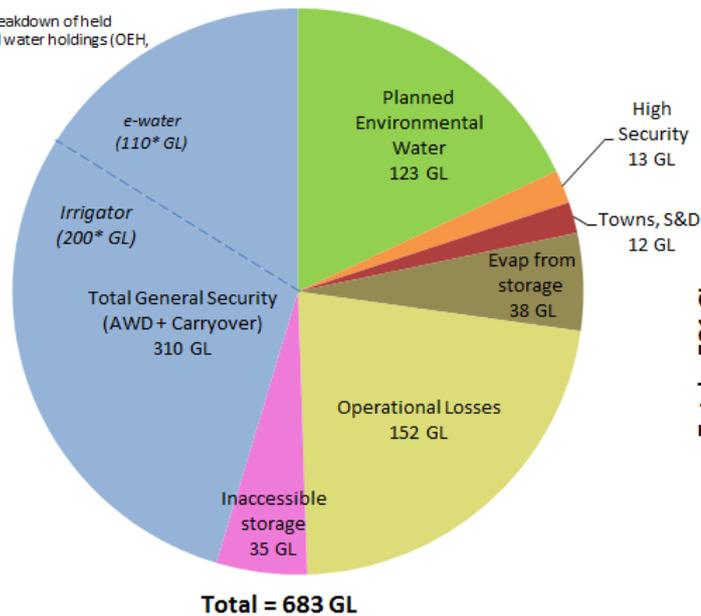
Macquarie Resource Distribution (July 2018 to May 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	521
<b>less</b>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	310
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	123
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	12 (100%)
Inaccessible storage <sup>(6)</sup>	35
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	13 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD <sup>(7)</sup>	0 (0%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	152
Evaporation from storage	38

See notes below.

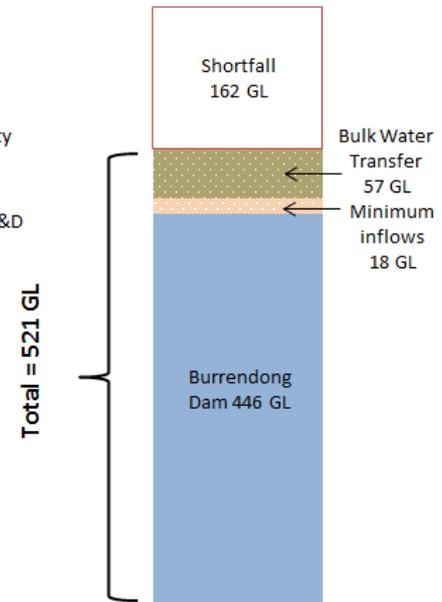
## Resource Distribution July 2018 to May 2019

### Macquarie

\* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH).



## Supply Source <sup>(8)</sup>



### Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows plus transfers from Windamere Dam.
- (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) Operational Losses: 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, operational loss, and replenishment flows. 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 1 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 110GL 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.
- (8) Supply source: we are providing supply source of total available water. It also indicates the current shortfall required for a new GS AWD to be made.