

14 September 2018

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update and outlook

The system continues to experience a **new record low inflow period for Burrendong Dam**. Inflows to the dam since the last water allocation in August 2017 total about 30,000 megalitres (ML). This is only 27 per cent of the previous record low inflow of about 111,000 ML for the 13 months to August and represents a further deterioration in available resources over the past month.

Commitments to all high priority entitlements can be met. However, in the absence of future inflows, the resources in Burrendong Dam, plus the planned bulk water transfer of 54,000 ML from Windamere Dam commencing in November 2018, will only provide 70 per cent of the 1 July 2018 balance of general security and environmental accounts (including EWA) this water year.

A temporary water restriction has been issued to ensure that water usage below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 is limited to this reduced water availability. **Macquarie regulated river (general security) access licences are restricted to 70 per cent of the volume of water in the carryover sub-account account as at 1 July 2018.**

Cudgegong regulated river access licences, including general security, are not restricted.

Water users are directed to the **Customer Service Notice issued by WaterNSW on 12 September** for further detail on the accounting procedures that will be used to enforce the temporary water restriction (<https://www.waternsw.com.au/customer-service/news/notices>).

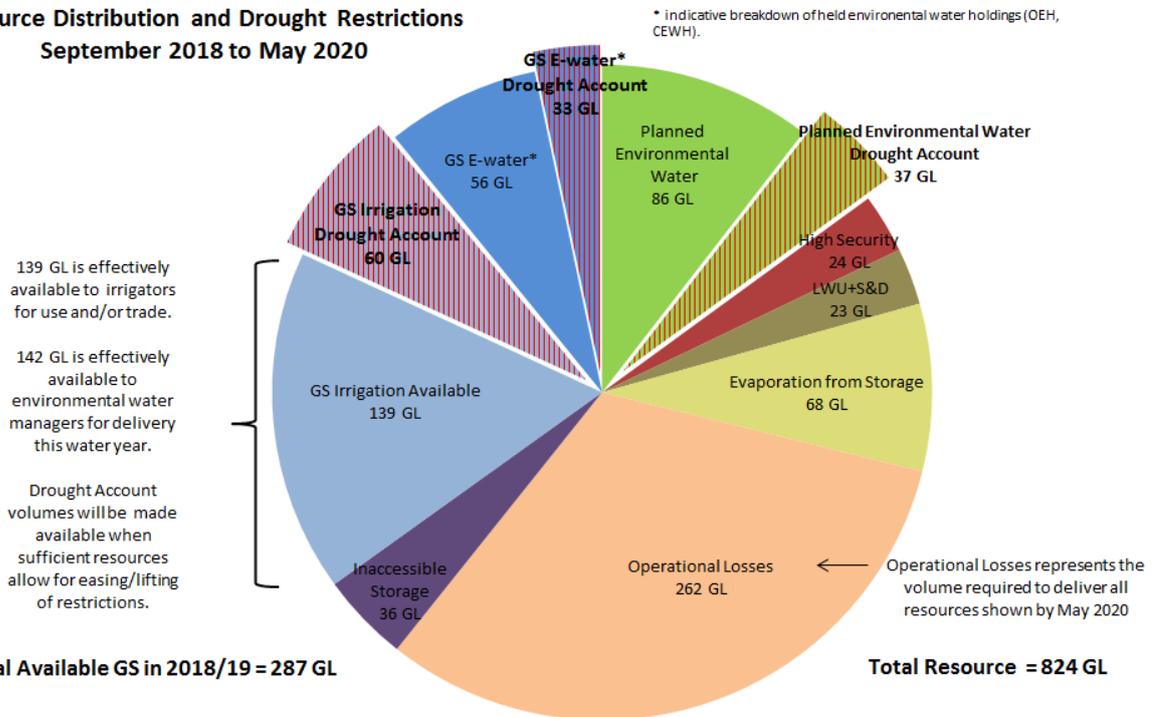
In combination with additional drought operation measures in 2018-19, significant inflows to Burrendong Dam are required from now to the end of December 2018 to enable delivery of all remaining carryover allocations and allow the easing or lifting of the current restrictions.

Currently, sufficient inflow to ease restrictions by the end of December appears unlikely. Water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly and to maximise water use efficiency. Water users will be advised each month of the observed inflows and the resource availability in the system. The restrictions will be eased as soon as possible. There was no inflow to Burrendong Dam during August 2018.

Deliveries under drought operations in 2018-19 will incorporate water conservation measures to prolong essential water supplies. This may involve implementation of water order debiting and, where feasible, potential 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 upon rainfall events producing inflows to storage and flows from downstream tributaries. Water users should liaise with WaterNSW for water delivery arrangements.

Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions September 2018 to May 2020



Storage levels (as at 13 September 2018)

- Burrendong Dam is 29 per cent full – falling – currently at 370 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 40 per cent full – falling – currently at 148 GL.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology outlook indicates that October to December is likely to be drier than average in the western and central parts of NSW.

Most of the state has been very dry and warm since the start of the year. This pattern continued during winter. The October to December outlook indicates current drought areas are unlikely to see significant respite in the coming three months.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Thursday 11 October 2018**.

Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Macquarie Resource Distribution (September 2018 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	524*
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	288
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	123
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	23 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	36
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	24 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	0 (0%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	262
Evaporation from storage	68

* 300GL of additional inflow required to meet the 824GL budget.

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 20 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 2 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 89GL 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.