

8 September 2020

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

### Water allocation update

An allocation of **12% of entitlement has been made to general security licence holders** in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source. Last time the general security users received an allocation was in August 2017.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	12%	 Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	12%	 Stage 1

This statement has been brought forward from its scheduled 10 September release to announce the improvement. Inflows totalling 161,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam during August that has enabled this allocation to general security entitlement holders for the first time in over three years.

Inflows in excess of 38,000 ML to Burrendong Dam are required during September to enable a further general security allocation next month. This is subject to river operations and losses remaining as forecast. Indicative inflows required in October and November to provide further general security allocations are also provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook runs through to May 2022, some 21 months, and aims to ensure that next year's higher priority needs can be met before further allocating to general security entitlements this year as required by the water sharing plan.

### Storage levels (as at 7 September 2020)

- Burrendong Dam is 45% full – rising – holding about 548,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 29% full – steady – holding about 107,000 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 Regulated River Water Source has now improved to Stage 1 (Normal Operations) drought criticality. Contingency measures are not required in the current water year.

The Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source is also at Stage 1 drought criticality, normal river operations.

### Key facts

- General security licences have been allocated 12% of entitlement.
- All water held in the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) is available for delivery.
- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Should Burrendong Dam physically spill (including pre-release) in coming months, general security and EWA carryover volumes will be protected from forfeiture until February 2021.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments, including effluent replenishments.
- Transfer from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam can now be 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 August to November 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 indicates that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) are neutral. The Bureau has issued a La Niña WATCH alert, with some models indicating that La Niña conditions may develop over spring. There is also a possibility of negative IOD conditions developing over spring. La Niña and negative IOD conditions typically increase the probability of above average rainfall during spring.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary)

<b>Resource Distribution (September 2020 to May 2022)</b>	<b>Volume (GL)</b>	<b>Volume (GL)</b>
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>		670
<i>less</i>		
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	104	
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	86	
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	27	
Inaccessible Storage <sup>(6)</sup>	39	
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	25	
General Security 2020/2021 AWD	76	
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	253	
Evaporation from Storage	60	
		<hr/> 670

#### Notes:

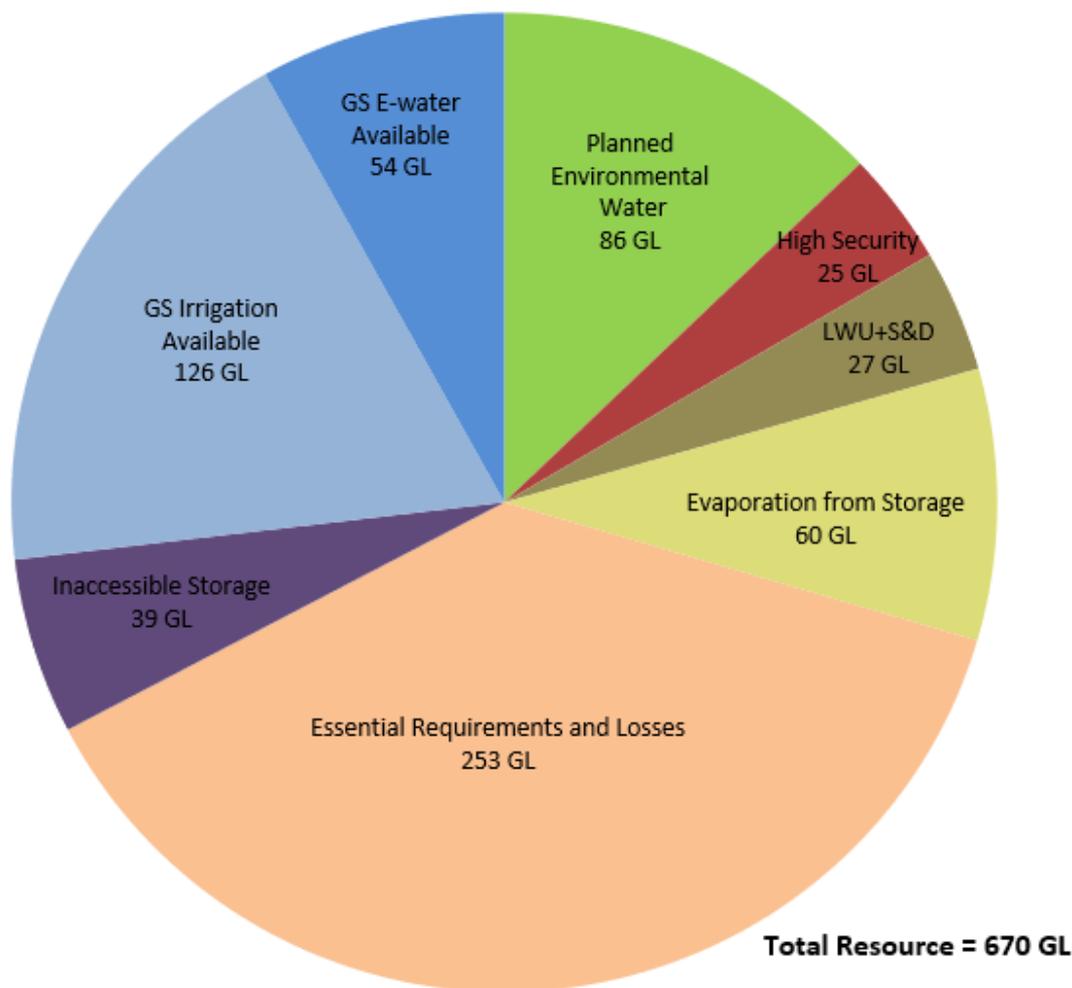
- (1) Total Resources: Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows from September to May 2022 plus any planned transfer from Windamere Dam. No transfer from Windamere has been planned for now.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes 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) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves required to meet current allocation to these licence categories over the assessment horizon. This represents total entitlement below Burrendong Dam.
- (5) Essential Requirements: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions over the next 21 months to meet all demands. This includes transmission losses and operational loss. 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 5 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 54 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



# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



## Inflow budget to provide next general security AWD (estimate as at 1 September 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	Inflows (GL)
	<b>Minimum</b> inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional <b>10% AWD</b>
By end of September	38	122
By end of October	46	130
By end of November	100	184

### Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Tuesday 13 October 2020**.

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