



22 June 2017

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update including 2017/18 outlook

This assessment summarises the current resource distribution and also provides allocation **outlooks for the 2017/18 water year** under a range of potential inflow scenarios.

The total allocation for general security licence holders in the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source for the 2016/17 water year **remains unchanged at its maximum value of 100 per cent of entitlement.**

There is a small adjustment in resource availability from the previous 2017-18 outlook issued in May 2017, based on accounting updates incorporating late season trade and hydrographic (meter reading) updates. This has resulted in the average carryover estimate into 2017/18 being reduced by two per cent, to about 73 per cent of entitlement. There is also a small improvement in the forecast 1 July 2017 opening allocation for general security licence holders, now up to 36 per cent of entitlement.

Expectations of overall water availability on 1 July 2017 for general security water users remains unchanged, with at least 109 per cent of entitlement (allocation plus carryover).

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie	100%	100%	0%
Cudgegong	100%	100%	46%*

* Carryover volume in the Cudgegong valley was unaffected by the September 2016 reset caused by inflows to a full Burrendong Dam.

Interim accounting measures

Due to current planned and critical maintenance work on Burrendong Dam, DPI Water advises that:

- If water enters Burrendong Dam flood mitigation zone (FMZ) prior to 30 September 2017, then appropriate withdrawal from Macquarie regulated river HS and GS carryover sub accounts, and EWA carryover sub accounts, will not occur at the end of July nor August, but be delayed until 30 September.
- However; if the water enters the FMZ after September 2017, the withdrawal of carryover allocations will occur at the end of that month of incursion as usual.

Dam levels (as at 22 June 2017)

- Burrendong Dam is currently 87 per cent full – slowly falling - holding 1,041,000 megalitres (ML).
- Windamere Dam is currently 49 per cent full – steady - holding 182,000 ML.

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Outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has forecast likely drier and warmer than average conditions in the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys during the three month period June to August 2017.

The Bureau's El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook has been downgraded from El Niño WATCH to INACTIVE, following a reversal of early autumn warming in the eastern tropical Pacific Ocean and an easing of climate model outlooks. While international models surveyed by the Bureau suggest ENSO-neutral conditions for the latter half of 2017, most still indicate an increased chance of warmer and drier than average conditions over winter.

Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

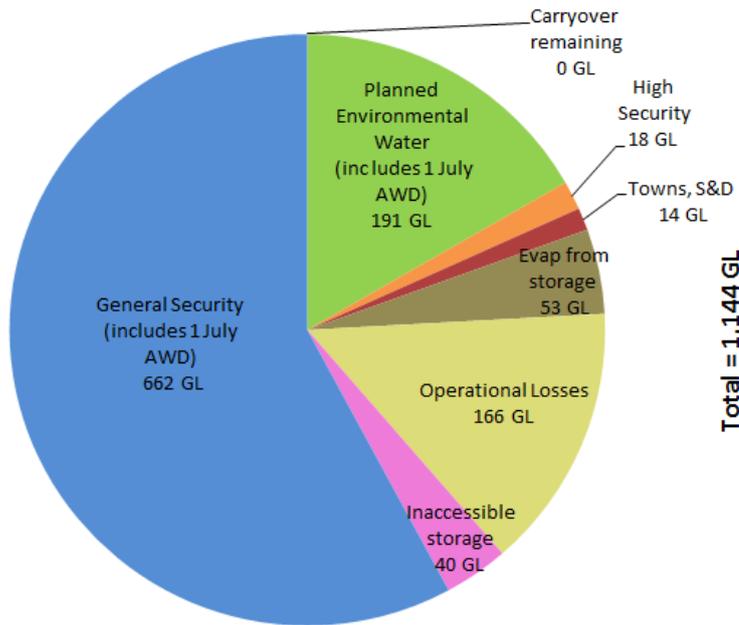
Resource Distribution (June 2017 to May 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,144
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	0
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	191
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	14 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	40
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	18 (100%)
General Security 2016/2017	442 (100%)
Expected General Security 1 July 2017 AWD	220 (36%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	166
Evaporation from storage	53

**See notes below.*

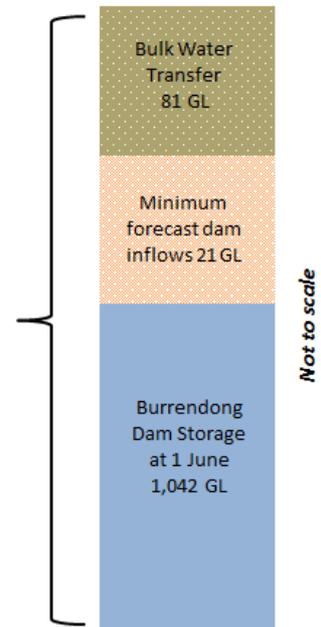
Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of May storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows from 1 Jun 2017 plus bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume in carryover sub-accounts at the end of May 2017 (excludes Cudgegong); this volume was withdrawn from accounts at the end of September 2016 in accordance with the water sharing plan (WSP) rules.
- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance 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 through to May 2018. This represents total entitlement below Burrendong Dam.
- (5) 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions 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 6 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.

**Resource Distribution June 2017 to May 2018
Macquarie**



Supply Distribution



Total = 1,144 GL

Total = 1,144 GL

Not to scale

Chances of improvement

The chances of improved general security allocation, based on different inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions	General Security AWD (per cent)	
	1 Oct 2017 #	1 Jan 2018 *
Minimum (lowest on record to 2004)	36 (+73)	36
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	36 (+73)	36
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	58 (+73)	65
Wet^^ (20%: 1 chance in 5)	100 (possible reset)	100 (spill and reset likely)

Estimated carryover from 2016/17 water year shown in brackets

* cumulative total AWD in the 2017/18 water

^^ A Wet inflow scenario would lead to Burrendong Dam spilling early in the 2017/18 water year. Water users are referred to **Interim accounting measures** above for advice under this scenario.

Further information

The next allocation announcement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated rivers water source will be the opening allocations for the 2017-18 water year that will be issued for all NSW valleys on **Saturday 1 July 2017**.

Subsequent to that announcement, the next Water Allocation Statement is scheduled for **August 2017**.

DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au