

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations

General security allocation for the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys **remains unchanged at 38 per cent of entitlement** for this last announcement in the 2017/18 water year.

Inflows in excess of 177,000 megalitres (ML) are currently estimated to be required before further allocation can be made. Burrendong Dam has received just 32,400 ML of inflow since July 2017.

If dry conditions persist, general security water users will not receive new allocations, but will need to rely on carryover balances into the 2018/19 water year. Under very dry conditions, deliveries in 2018-19 will require water conservation measures to protect essential 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.

Forecast general security and high security usage in 2018/19, including irrigation, towns and environmental water allowance, is deliverable based on stored water currently in Burrendong and Windamere dams, and assuming minimum inflows to storage. Conditions will be closely monitored and a bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam, in accordance with the water sharing plan, may be required from about November 2018 unless water availability improves beforehand.

Some stock and domestic replenishment flows may need to be delayed if dry conditions persist. The timing of deliveries will depend on rainfall events, dam inflows and contributions from downstream tributaries, but early notification of operational details will be provided by WaterNSW.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover In
Macquarie	100%	38%	73%
Cudgegong	100%	38%	151%

Dam levels (as at 14 June 2018)

- Burrendong Dam is 36 per cent full – falling - currently 448,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 41 per cent full – falling - currently 151,000 ML.

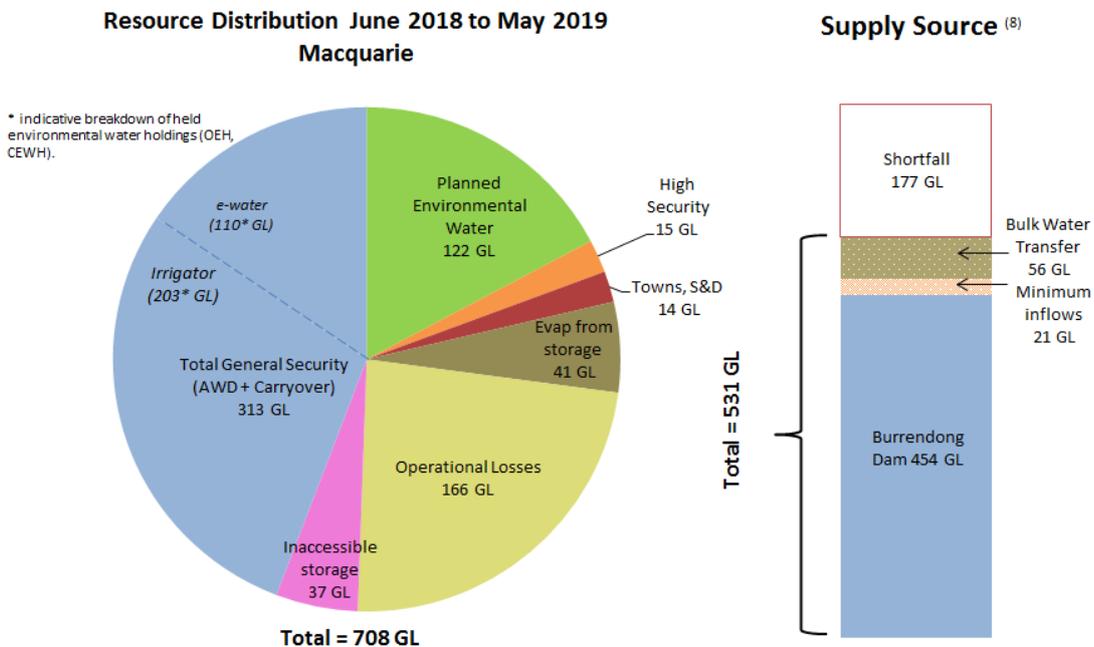
Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting that median rainfall conditions in the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys during the three months from July to September will be unlikely. Temperatures are likely to be warmer than median throughout winter across both catchments.

Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Macquarie Resource Distribution (June 2018 to May 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	531
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	80
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	122
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	14 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	37
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	15 (100%)
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	233 (38%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	166
Evaporation from storage	41

See notes below.



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 3 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.

Chances of improvement

The outlook for general security allocation into 2018/19 is provided below. The calculation is based on repetition of historical inflow scenarios. There is no guarantee that a particular scenario or forecast water availability will eventuate.

Historical Inflow Scenario	Cumulative General Security Allocation	
	For 2018/19 by 31 Oct 2018	For 2018/19 by 31 Jan 2019
Dry (exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	0% ⁺	0% ⁺
Average (exceeded once every 2 years)	2% ⁺	17% ⁺
Wet (exceeded once in 5 years)	70% ⁺	92% [^]

⁺ Add remaining balances on 30 June 2018 carried forward to these forecast allocations.

[^] Burrendong Dam will spill and some carryover will be withdrawn by December 2018.

Further information

This is the final water allocation statement for the 2017/18 water-year. State-wide opening allocations for the 2018/19 water year will be made on Sunday 1 July 2018. The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated river will be produced in early August.

Information on allocations Available Water Determinations (AWD) and water sharing plans are available on the Department of Industry website - www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water