

29 May 2020

## Macquarie and Bogan Unregulated River Water Source

### Water allocation outlook for 2020-21 for the unregulated upper Macquarie

Chifley Dam is a major town water supply source for Bathurst, with water delivered daily at low flow rates. Water is released into the Campbells River and then flows into the Macquarie River, where it is extracted for Bathurst town supplies. Also, flows from Fish River augment the town's supply.

Chifley Dam is not an irrigation water storage, nevertheless unregulated river water users in the area have historically experienced reliable access to water by virtue of the daily transfers along the river from Chifley Dam to the Bathurst off-take.

Bathurst Regional Council has found that the extended dry conditions, coupled with irrigation take, has required excessive release from Chifley Dam, putting at risk town water supply security. A temporary water restriction on pumping by irrigators was imposed on 1 November 2019 to limit their take of water to 20 per cent of their entitlement.

The risk to town water supplies remains, therefore; when the temporary water restriction expires on 30 June 2020, it will be replaced with an allocation to unregulated river access licence holders on 1 July 2020 of 20 per cent of their entitlement for the 2020-21 water year in the following zones:

*Campbells River Water Source: Campbells River Downstream Management Zone*

*Burrendong Water Source: Macquarie River above Bathurst Management Zone*

*Fish River Water Source: Lake Oberon to Macquarie River Confluence*

Chifley Dam remains low, currently around 35 per cent full and conditions are being closely monitored. Water users in the three zones listed above are reminded that if Chifley Dam drops to 22 per cent, then a full restriction on pumping will be necessary in accordance with Clause 53 (15) of the *Water Sharing Plan for the Macquarie Bogan Unregulated and Alluvial Water Sources 2012*.

All other unregulated river access licence holders in the Macquarie and Bogan water sources are expected to be unaffected and receive a full allocation on 1 July 2020.

### Next announcement

An opening allocation announcement will be published on **1 July 2020** for the 2020-21 water-year.

A further statement for the unregulated Upper Macquarie will be issued if conditions change significantly, or at least by 30 September 2020, to update licence holders about conditions and water availability ahead of summer planting decisions.

Water allocations statements can be found at:

[www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/statements](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/statements)

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