



11 June 2020

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is **no change** to allocations in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source. However, a small improvement in available resource since the last assessment allows some easing of restrictions. An Order will be gazetted to allow access to 40 per cent of the 1 July 2019 general security account balance. The system continues to experience its worst drought and resources must be managed to deliver critical needs throughout the next water year as a priority.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	0%	 Stage 2
Macquarie	100%	0%	 Stage 3

Arrangements to repeal the suspended water sharing plan rules are underway, which will lift the suspension on using EWA water. Once this is completed, a new temporary water restriction can be gazetted to allow access to 40 per cent of the general security account balance on 1 July 2019.

Cudgegong Regulated River access licences, including general security carryover, are not restricted. Trading of water from above to below Burrendong Dam is now permitted under normal water sharing plan rules. Note; that activation of restricted water through trade is not allowed.

The total inflow into Burrendong Dam during May was 57,200 megalitres (ML). Tributary flows surplus to water orders have been managed under the Tributary Flow Management Plan, while also meeting the critical needs of the environment in some sections of the river. Temporary drought works at Warren Weir, Gunningbar Weir and Duck and Crooked Creek offtakes remain open to manage tributary flows. The recent rainfall and resultant inflow have also allowed deferral of the commencement of the planned Bulk Water Transfer to March 2021.

All stock and domestic replenishments have now been completed. Delivery of stock and domestic replenishment flows in 2021 will largely rely on tributary flows in preference to dam releases.

Despite some relief, businesses and landholders affected by the limited regulated river operations should continue with their water saving arrangements until normal regulated river operations can resume. Additional drought contingency measures may be needed if conditions worsen to ensure that critical needs and town water supplies can be met.

Storage levels (as at 10 June 2020)

- Burrendong Dam is 21.7 per cent full – rising – holding about 285,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 27.0 per cent full – steady – holding about 100,000 ML.

Drought stage and information sessions

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 improved to Stage 3 drought criticality. Contingency measures are being implemented to protect and extend critical water supplies for as long as possible.

The Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source remains at Stage 2 drought criticality.

Presentations from the public information session on drought outlook and water availability via webinar held on 28 May 2020 can be viewed on the website -

www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/information-sessions

Key facts

- General security licences below Burrendong Dam will soon be able to access 40% of the balance in carryover sub-accounts on 1 July 2019. This water will also be deliverable through the 2020-21 water year.
- Water held in the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) will soon be available for delivery.
- All high priority licence categories are forecast to receive 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.
- Unavailable general security carryover volumes in the suspended drought account will continue to be protected from the evaporation reduction.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments, including effluent replenishments.

Climatic outlook

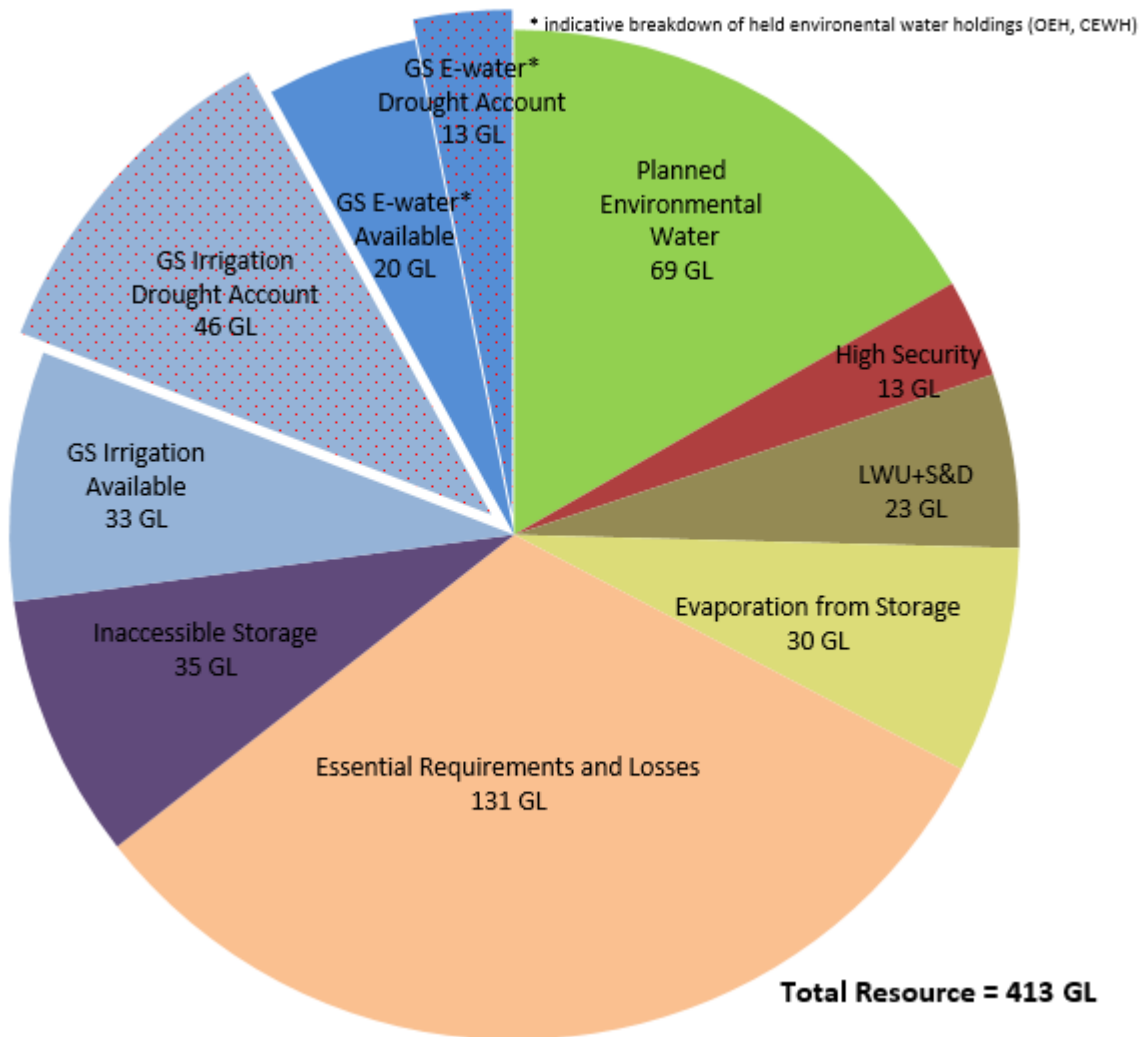
The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for June to August indicates an even chance of median rainfall conditions across the catchment, with day and night time temperatures likely to be warmer than average.

The Bureau states that the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is most likely to remain neutral over winter, but may cool towards La Niña levels by the end of winter. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is currently neutral. The eastern Indian Ocean is likely to remain warmer than usual, maintaining the wetter than average winter outlook for Australia. However, caution should be exercised with using IOD forecasts issued during autumn, as they are less accurate than forecasts made at other times of the year.

For further details - www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution (June 2020 to May 2021)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		312
<i>less</i>		
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	112	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	69	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	23	
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	35	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	13	
General Security 2019/2020 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	0	
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	131	
Evaporation from Storage	30	
<i>equals</i>		
Water available for allocation (or deficit)		(101)

Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows plus transfers from Windamere Dam is 312 GL. In order to deliver all remaining GS and EWA carryover allocations and current allocation to higher security licences, and to operate the river normally over the assessment horizon, 413 GL is required. This is resulting in a deficit of 101 GL before further allocations can be made.
- (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 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 12 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 1 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 33 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. Delivery of this water is currently unavailable until conditions improve.

Next announcement

The next water allocation announcement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be the opening allocations on 1 July 2020 for the 2020/21 water year. Then the next comprehensive water allocation statement will be issued on **Wednesday 12 August 2020**.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.