

11 November 2020

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

An allocation of **5% of entitlement has been made to general security licence holders** in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source. This allocation brings the cumulative general security allocation to 23% of entitlement for the current water year.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	23%	 Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	23%	 Stage 1

Inflows totalling 45,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam during October have enabled this latest water allocation. Although the Burrendong catchment has now begun to dry and temperatures are increasing, the outlook is favourable for further rainfall and inflows.

Inflows in excess of 50,000 ML to Burrendong Dam are required during November to enable a further general security allocation next month. This is subject to river operations and losses remaining as forecast. Indicative inflows required in December 2020 and January 2021 to provide further general security allocations this summer are also provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook runs through to May 2022, some 19 months, and aims to ensure that next water year's higher priority needs can be met before further allocating to general security entitlements this water year, as required by the water sharing plan.

Storage levels (as at 9 November 2020)

- Burrendong Dam is 46.0% full – falling – holding about 565,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 29.7% full – steady – holding about 110,000 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 and Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source is currently at Stage 1, meaning normal river operations. Contingency measures are not expected to be required in the current water year.

Seasonal inflow and climatic outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Turon River that drains into Burrendong Dam (see figure below). The forecast total median flow from November 2020 to January 2021 is higher than the historical median flow. This indicates a likely shift to wetter inflow conditions for these months. The forecast dry quartile is higher than the historical volume, which is also encouraging.

Water Allocation Statement

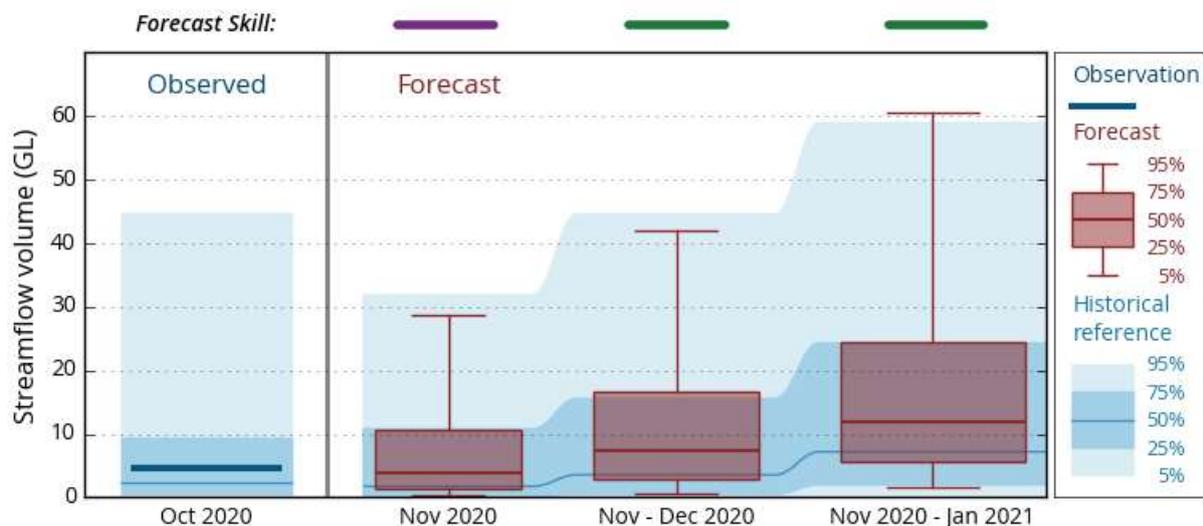
Water availability and allocation update



For further information: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026

Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for Nov 2020 – Jan 2021



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The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for November 2020 to January 2021 indicates likely wetter than average conditions across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be about average or cooler, while overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

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

Key facts

- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Based on historic inflows over 119 years, there is less than a 10% chance that Burrendong Dam may spill by the end of February 2021.
- Should Burrendong Dam physically spill (including pre-release) in coming months, general security and EWA carryover volumes will be protected from forfeiture until 28 February 2021.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments, including delivery of planned environmental water and effluent replenishments.
- Transfers from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are currently delayed indefinitely.
- Delivery of stock and domestic replenishment flows in 2021 will largely rely on tributary flows in preference to dam releases.

Resource Distribution (November 2020 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		661
less		
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	88	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	53	
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	26	

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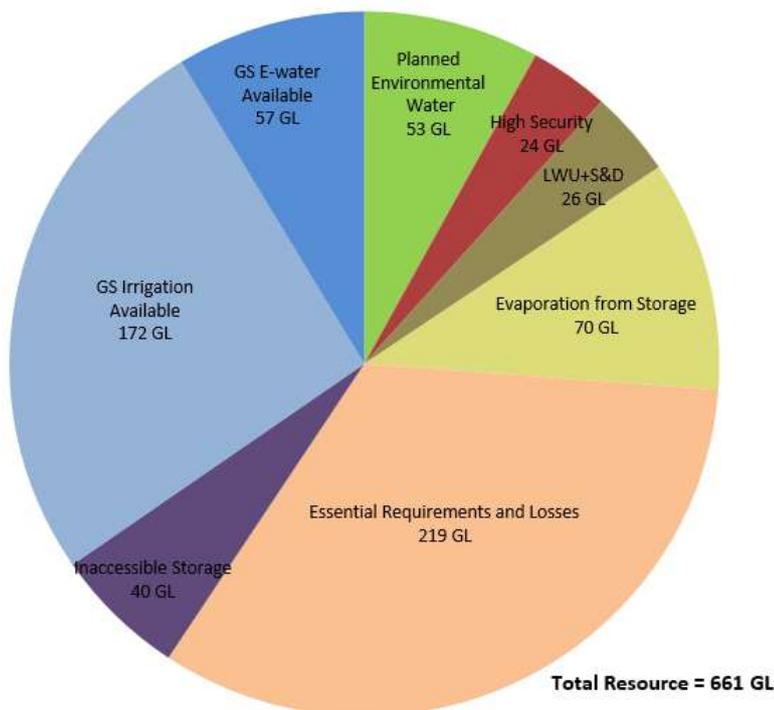
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Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	40
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	24
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	141
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	219
Evaporation from Storage	70
	661

Notes:

- (1) Total Resources: Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from November to May 2022 plus any planned transfer from Windamere Dam. No transfer from Windamere has been planned for at this time.
- (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 to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security: reserves required to meet the projected use by these licence categories below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Essential Requirements and Losses: Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 19 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. 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.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). We are reporting HEW administered by the environmental water holders here. The associated portions of general security allocation are identified in the pie chart. This reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 57 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



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Inflow required to provide the next general security allocation (estimate as at 9 November 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	Inflows (GL)
	Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional 10% allocation
By end of November	50	140
By end of December	67	154
By end of January	70	157

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Thursday 10 December 2020**.

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