

15 January 2021

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source to enable **an allocation increase of 5% of entitlement for general security licence holders**. This allocation brings the cumulative general security allocation to 28% of entitlement for the current water year. All other licence categories have received 100% allocation for the current water year.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage	
Cudgegong	100%	28%		Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	28%		Stage 1

Inflows totalling 10,500 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam during December 2020 and a further 35,000 ML of recession into the system from rainfall in early January 2021, have been included in this assessment. The outlook for the coming months remains favourable for further rainfall and inflows.

Indicative inflows required in February and March to provide further general security allocations are provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook runs through to May 2022, some 17 months, and aims to ensure that high priority needs for 2021-22 can be assured before further allocations to general security entitlements are made this water year.

Storage levels (as at 15 January 2021)

- Burrendong Dam is 42% full – steady – holding about 520,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 30% full – steady – holding about 110,000 ML.

Drought stage

The Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Sources are currently in drought Stage 1 meaning normal river operations are in place to deliver water orders. Contingency measures are not expected to be required in the current water year.

Further information on critical valleys in drought can be found at:

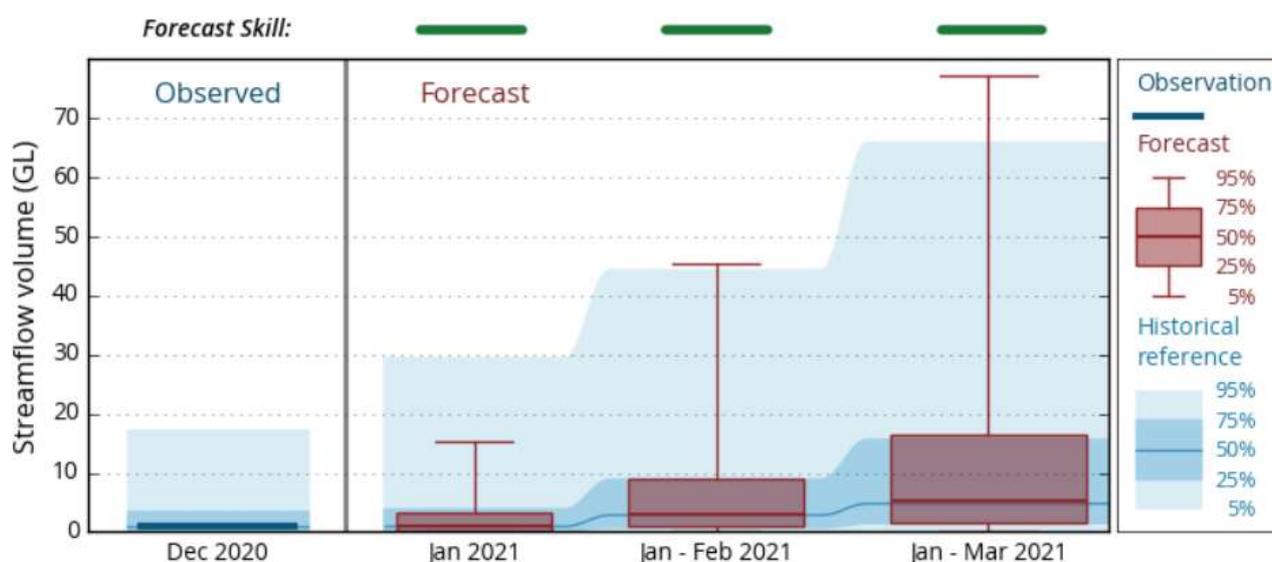
www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/drought-update/critical-valleys-in-drought

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). This provides an indicative distribution of potential inflows. Distribution of forecast inflows from January to March are very similar to the historical distribution, indicating that there is no clear sign of forecast conditions being drier or wetter than average.

Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for Jan 2021 - Mar 2021



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

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for February to April indicates that rainfall is likely to be slightly above average. Daytime temperatures are likely to be near average while night-time temperatures are likely to be above average.

For further climate outlook information: 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, there is a less than 5% chance that Burrendong Dam will spill by the end of February 2021.
- Should Burrendong Dam physically spill (including pre-release) in the 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 not required until at least February 2022.
- Delivery of stock and domestic replenishment flows in 2021 will largely rely on tributary inflows in preference to dam releases.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



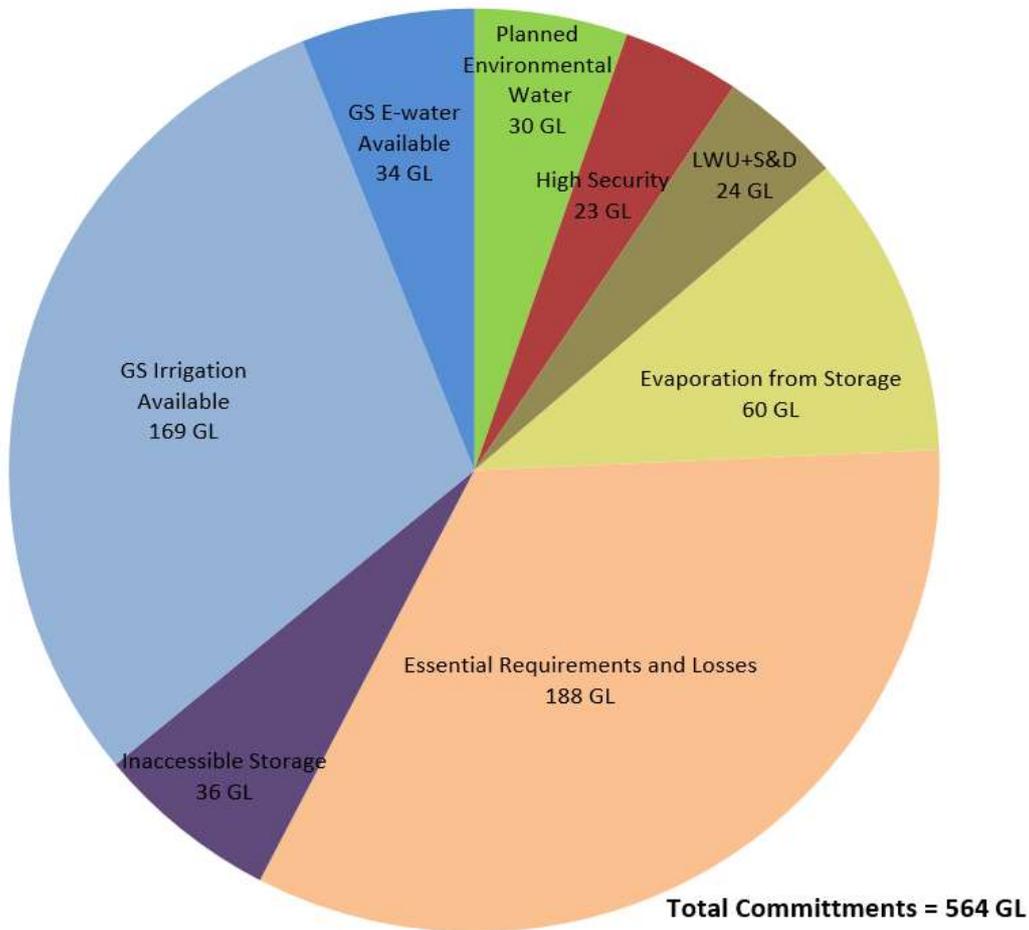
Resource Distribution (January 2021 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	564
<i>less</i>	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	26
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	30
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	24
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	36
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	23
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	177
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	188
Evaporation from Storage	60
<i>equals</i>	
Water available for allocation (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) Total Resources: Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus recession flows plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from February 2021 to May 2022 plus any planned transfer 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 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 17 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 2 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 34 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
- (8) The delivery of all current account water and essential requirements until May 2022 conservatively assumes 35 GL inflow in January 2021 in addition to budgeted minimum inflows commencing from February 2021.

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Inflow required to provide the next general security allocation (estimate as at 14 January 2021):

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	Inflows (GL)
	Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional 10% allocation
By end of February	40	125
By end of March	40	125

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 10 February 2021**.

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