

12 July 2022

# Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

## Water allocation update

**There is no increase in allocation for general security entitlement holders.** The average general security carryover from the 2021/22 water year is estimated to be 545 gigalitres (GL) in the Macquarie and 42 GL in the Cudgegong. Final carryover volumes will be determined at the end of July and will be reported in the August statement.

All higher priority licences were given their maximum allocation on 1 July 2022. General security entitlements were allocated 40%. The Macquarie Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) carried over 160 GL and received a commensurate 40% allocation.

2022/23	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie	40%	89%
Cudgegong	40%	227%

Rainfall in June was lower than average across the catchment, however; prevailing wet catchment conditions is aiding runoff generation, with Burrendong Dam receiving 121 GL of inflow over the month. Burrendong Dam is above 100% and in flood mitigation zone (FMZ) operations.

The current planning outlook runs through to May 2024 and aims to ensure that high priority needs can be assured before further allocating to general security entitlements this water year.

Transfers from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are currently not required until at least December 2023.

## Flood Mitigation Zone (FMZ) operations

Rainfall in early July has resulted in high inflow into the dam and tributaries. Releases from Burrendong Dam will be increased to create airspace over the coming weeks. The release strategy has been developed in consultation with water users and will aim to minimise flooding of roads and crossings. Updates on flooding and airspace operations can be found on the water insights portal: [waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/11984-macquarie-and-cudgegong-regulated/updates](https://waterinsights.watarnsw.com.au/11984-macquarie-and-cudgegong-regulated/updates)

## Burrendong Dam spill forfeiture

Burrendong Dam is likely to remain in the FMZ well into the 2022/23 water year, and water users are advised to note the following:

- Carryover spill reduction will occur in the 2022/23 water year to water carried over from the 2021/22 water year.
- The volume of inflow into Burrendong Dam during July 2022, while the storage is in the FMZ, will be removed from carryover balances. The calculation will be undertaken at the end of July and will be reported in the routine August water allocation statement. This process will repeat at the end of each month while water remains in the FMZ until all carryover has been withdrawn from accounts.
- When all carryover has been withdrawn, general security and high security accounts in the Macquarie and Cudgegong will be reset to 100% of entitlement at the end of the relevant month.
- Following the first reset in 2022/23, if Burrendong storage level falls below 100% and then subsequently re-enters the FMZ again during this water year, a re-reset of allocations to 100% of entitlement will be made.
- Carryover balances in the Cudgegong River general security accounts **will not be forfeited** until Windamere Dam spills. However, any water assigned from the carryover sub-account of a Macquarie access licence to a Cudgegong access licence will be treated as if it were in a carryover sub-account of a Macquarie access licence. Any remaining balances from that trade will incur **the same spill reduction** that is applied for the Macquarie River licences during the water year.

## Dam levels (as of 12 July 2022)

- Burrendong Dam is 128% full – holding about 1,510,000 megalitres (ML)
- Windamere Dam is 71% full – holding about 263,000 ML.

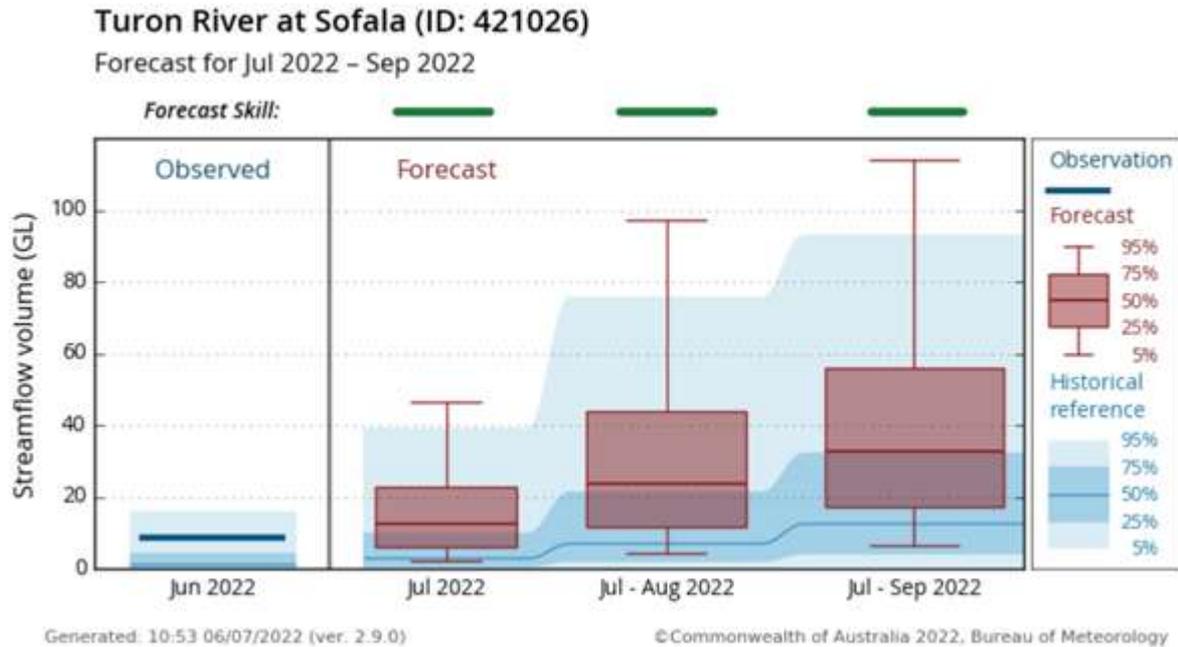
## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for August to October indicates that rainfall is very likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be cooler than average, and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

The Bureau of Meteorology also issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Turon River at Sofala that drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides a forecast of potential storage inflows. All five forecast flow references are higher than the historical references for July to September, indicating that higher than historical inflows are likely over these months.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=421026](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=421026)



## Resource distribution

Macquarie Resource Distribution (July 2022 to May 2024)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	1,636
<i>less</i>	
General Security account balance <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	813
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	222
Domestic, Stock, Town <sup>(4)</sup>	43
Inaccessible Storage <sup>(6)</sup>	34
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	25
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	307
Evaporation from Storage	104
Airspace releases from FMZ <sup>(8)</sup>	88
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(9)</sup>	0

### Notes:

- (1) Estimated end June 2022 storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from July 2022 to May 2024 plus 106 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume in general security accounts including carryover and AWDs for this water year, discounted for evaporative losses.
- (3) 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) Reserves required to meet the full use of allocated water by Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security WALs below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.

- (5) Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the 23 months from 1 July 2022. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Dead storage of 34 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels and provide a buffer for additional usage.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 239 GL of GS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPE Environment and Heritage and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (8) This represents the release required to meet objectives of FMZ operations.
- (9) This value indicates balance remaining after all allocations (negative = deficit). The system is secure to May 2024 and beyond.

**Resource Distribution: July 2022**

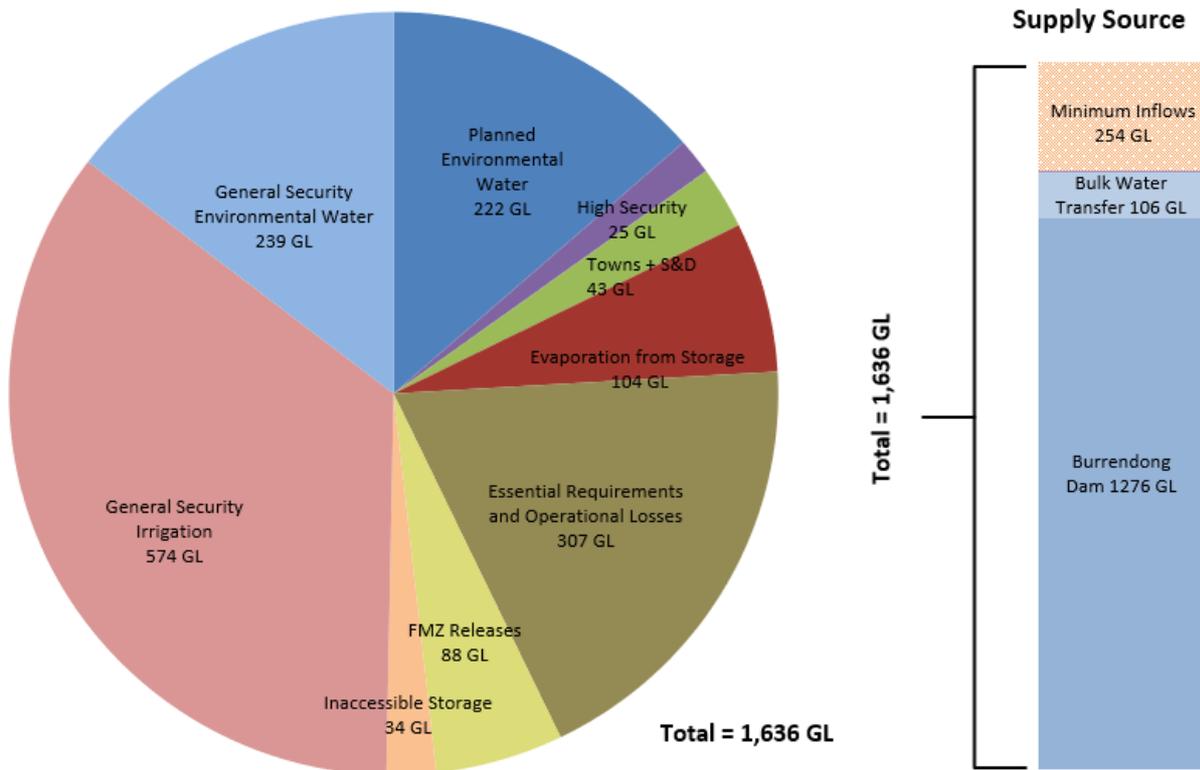


Table 1 : Water allocation history for Macquarie 2022/23 (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	0.40 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share	129%

\*Maximum allowable

Table 2 . Water allocation history for Cudgegong 2022/23 (in % or ML/unit share)

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2022/23	Account Balance
1-Jul	Domestic and Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	0.40 ML/unit share	0.40 ML/unit share	267%

\*Maximum allowable

## Water allocation guide

The NSW Department of Planning and Environment - Water has produced a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source is available at the link below.

Further details at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

The next routine monthly water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be published on **Wednesday 10 August 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the department's website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

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