

12 February 2019

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

### Water allocation update

Allocations for the Macquarie Cudgegong water sources **remain unchanged**.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	0%	 Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	0%	 Stage 3

The system continues to experience **record low inflows to Burrendong Dam**. Inflows to the dam since the last water allocation in August 2017 total about 76,000 megalitres (ML). This is just 33 per cent of the previous record low inflow.

A temporary water restriction is in place to ensure that water usage below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 is suitably limited. Macquarie regulated river (general security and EWA) access licences are restricted to 70 per cent of the volume of water in the carryover sub-account as at 1 July 2018. Water users with queries about implementation of restrictions or accounting arrangements should contact WaterNSW.

Cudgegong regulated river access licences, including general security, are not restricted.

There was 26,600 ML of inflow to Burrendong Dam during January 2019. This small, but much needed inflow was not sufficient to allow an easing of the current restrictions.

The current restrictions will be eased when sufficient inflows to assure high priority entitlements for the 2019/20 water year are observed in storage. Water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly and to maximise water use efficiency. Advice will be provided each month on inflows and resource availability.

Deliveries under drought operations in 2018-19, including for stock and domestic purposes, will be weather-dependent and involve water conservation measures to prolong essential water supplies. This may involve implementation of water order debiting, maintaining very low but steady flows in regulated effluent creeks to minimise operational losses and, where feasible, block releases of irrigation orders, particularly in the lower parts of the Macquarie River. Water users should liaise with WaterNSW for their water delivery arrangements.

#### Storage levels (as at 11 February 2019)

- Burrendong Dam is 9.2 per cent full – falling – currently at 140,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 35.1 per cent full – falling – currently at 130,000 ML.

## **Drought stage**

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Macquarie regulated river water source is assessed to be in Stage 3. The Cudgegong regulated river water source remains in Stage 1. Account restrictions are in force in the Macquarie as described above. Water supplies are being managed to meet high priority needs for as long as possible. Increased operational contingency measures will be used to maintain critical water supplies.

For further details: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events)

## **Climatic outlook**

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for February to April shows no clear indication of drier or wetter conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

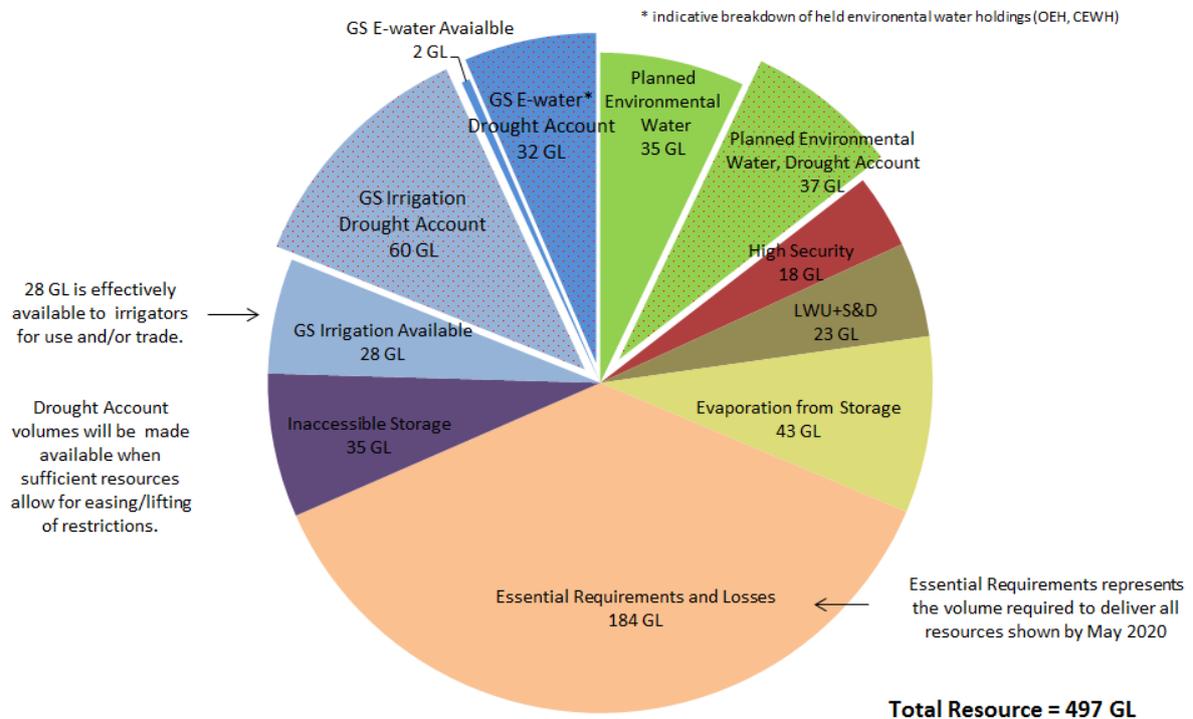
The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño WATCH as key atmospheric and ocean indicators are neutral. There is an even chance of an El Niño event forming in autumn or winter. The Indian Ocean Dipole, which has little influence on the Australian climate from December to April, is neutral.

For further details: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary)

## **Next announcement**

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Tuesday 12 March 2019**.

## Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions (February 2019 to May 2020)



## Macquarie-Cudgong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Macquarie Resource Distribution (February 2019 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	201*
<b>less</b>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	122
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	72
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	23 (100%)
Inaccessible storage <sup>(6)</sup>	35
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	18 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD <sup>(7)</sup>	0 (0%)
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	184
Evaporation from storage	43

\* 296GL of additional inflow required to meet the 497GL budget.

**Notes:**

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows plus transfers 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 (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 100 per cent of entitlement 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 16 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 34GL of GS and 0GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

**Release Distribution for January 2019**

