

23 August 2019

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated river water sources **remain unchanged**. There was just 1,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow to Burrendong Dam during July 2019. Total inflows to Burrendong Dam since the last general security allocation in August 2017 to the end of July 2019 have been about 90,000 ML. This is about one-third of the previous record low inflow of 269,000 gigalitres (GL) for the 24 month period ending in July.

2019-20	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	70%	0%	 Stage 2
Macquarie	70%	0%	 Stage 4

A temporary water restriction remains in operation below Burrendong Dam in 2019-20 to limit water usage and protect critical supplies. There will be no access to remaining water in general security carryover sub-accounts, including remaining EWA, until conditions improve and restrictions are lifted.

Cudgegong regulated river access licences, including general security carryover, are not restricted, however; no trading of water from above Burrendong Dam to below Burrendong Dam is permitted due to the critical water shortage downstream.

These restrictions can only be eased when sufficient inflows to assure high priority needs for the 2020-21 water year are captured in storage. With dry conditions continuing, water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly and to maximise water use efficiency.

Investigations into emergency works are underway at Warren Weir and at Duck Creek and Crooked Creek regulators to extend the delivery of critical water in the Macquarie Valley.

Storage levels (as at 21 August 2019)

- Burrendong Dam is 4.8 per cent full – falling – currently at 88,600 ML
- Windamere Dam is 32 per cent full – falling – currently at 117,800 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 regulated river water source continues to experience a critical Stage 4 drought event. Water supplies are being managed to meet high priority needs for as long as possible. Timely operational contingency measures are being introduced to protect critical water supplies. The Cudgegong regulated water source advanced to Stage 2 on 1 July 2019, reflecting the restricted trade dealings and 70 per cent high security allocation.

For further details: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/update

Key facts

- Despite having water in accounts, there will be no delivery of water to some sections of the regulated Macquarie River unless tributary inflows can assist. Water users should refer to WaterNSW for specific delivery advice.
- In the absence of significant inflow, cease-to-flow conditions can be expected in the Macquarie River below Warren, and for Duck and Crooked Creeks, from 26 August 2019.
- Trade between the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys is currently closed due to critical drought operations.
- If conditions remain dry, a further bulk water transfer will be needed in December 2019, leaving a minimum of 70 GL in Windamere Dam. This is enough to secure supply for local demand in the regulated Cudgegong Valley for a number of years.
- Tributary flows downstream of Burrendong Dam will be managed adaptively to help meet the most critical demands.

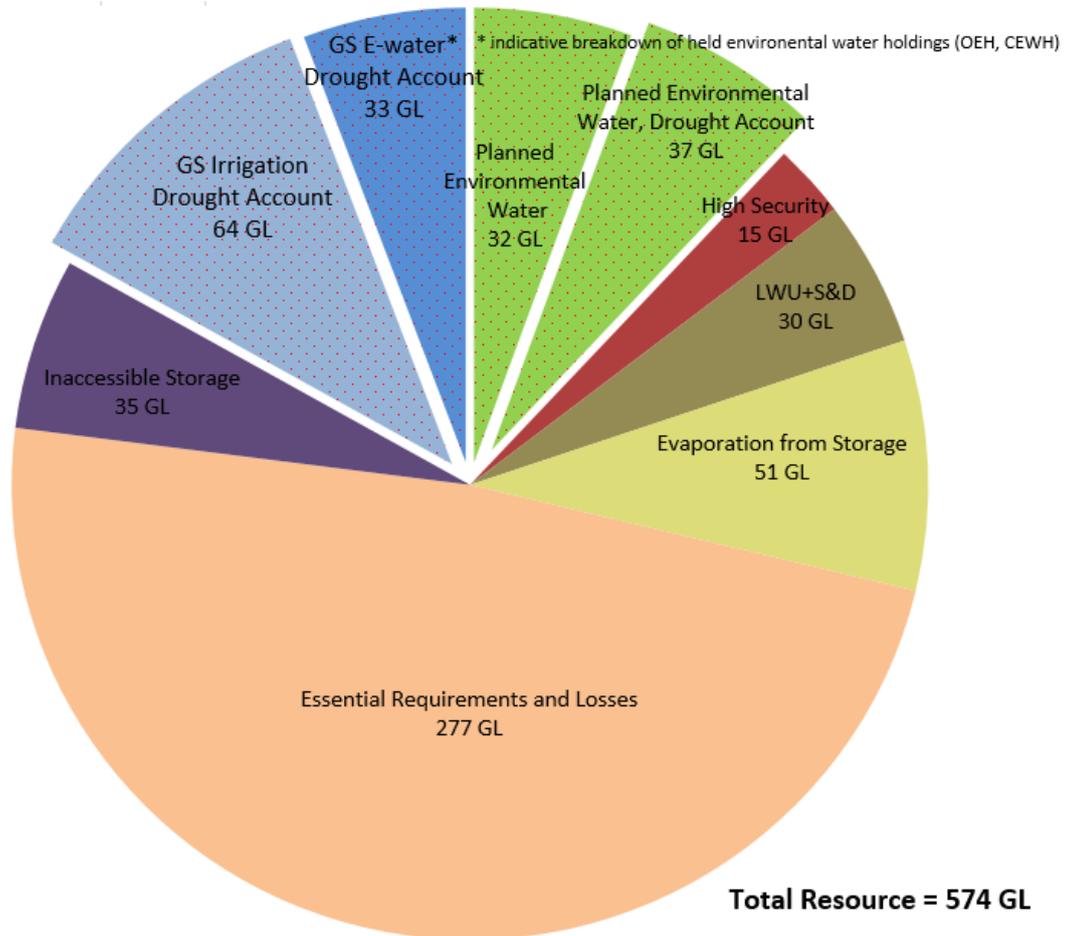
Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook suggests likely drier than average rainfall conditions for the three month period September to November. Daytime temperatures during spring are very likely to be warmer than average. Climate influences include a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) and an ENSO-neutral tropical Pacific Ocean. For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Wednesday 11 September 2019**.

Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions (August 2019 to May 2021)



Resource Distribution (August 2019 to May 2021)	Volume (GL)	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾		228
<i>less</i>		
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	97	
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	69	
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	30 (80%)	
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	35	
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	15 (70%)	
General Security 2019/2020 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	0 (0%)	
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	277	
Evaporation from Storage	51	
<i>Equals</i>		
Water available for allocation (or deficit)		(346)

Notes:

- (1) Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows plus transfers from Windamere Dam is 228 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, 574 GL is required. This is resulting in a deficit of 346 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 22 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 Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH) 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.

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