

23 March 2017

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update and outlook

Allocations

The total allocation for general security licence holders in the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source for the 2016/17 water year remains **unchanged at 100 per cent of entitlement**.

Burrendong Dam received approximately 100,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow during the period November 2016 to February 2017. Storage levels have reduced over the irrigation season from full capacity in mid-January 2017 to approximately 88 per cent at present.

Inflows to Windamere Dam over the same period have been negligible, with evaporation losses slightly higher than inflow.

This assessment summarises the current resource distribution and also provides allocation **outlooks for the 2017/18 water year** under a range of potential inflow scenarios.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie	100%	100%	0%
Cudgegong	100%	100%	46%*

*Carryover volume in the Cudgegong Valley was unaffected by the September 2016 reset caused by inflows to a full Burrendong Dam.

Dam levels (as at 22 March 2017)

- Burrendong Dam is currently 88 per cent full, holding 1,048,000 ML.
- Storage levels in Burrendong Dam are steady as the irrigation season ends.
- Windamere Dam is currently 50 per cent full, holding 184,000 ML.
- Storage levels in Windamere Dam have remained relatively unchanged over the summer months, decreasing slightly from a peak of 53 per cent in late November 2016.

Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for March to May indicates a **30 per cent chance of above average rainfall** in the catchment.
- The drier than average outlook is a result of forecast higher than normal pressure over western and southern Australia, meaning fewer rain-bearing systems are likely to pass over the catchment during the autumn months.

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Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

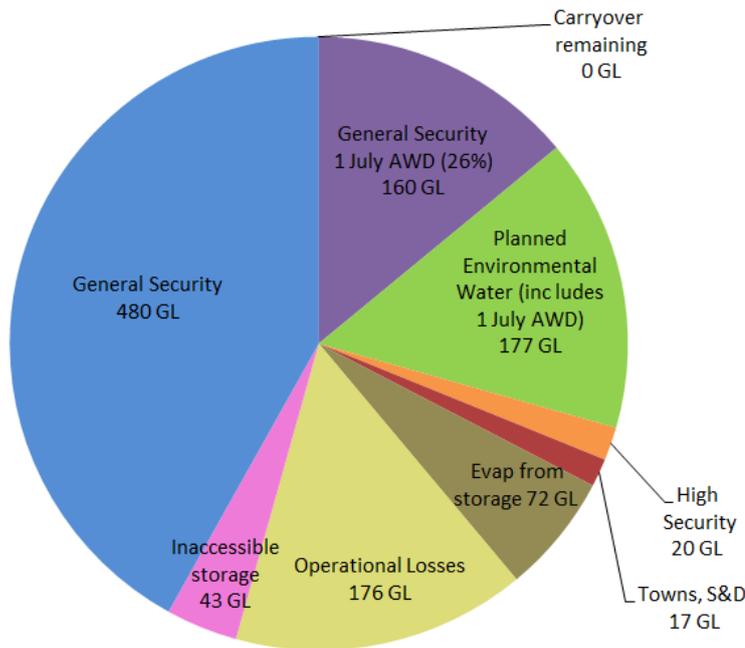
Resource Distribution (March 2017 to May 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,145
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	0
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	177
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	17 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	43
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	20 (100%)
General Security 2016/2017	480 (100%)
General Security 1 July 2017 AWD	160 (26%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	176
Evaporation from storage	72

**See notes below.*

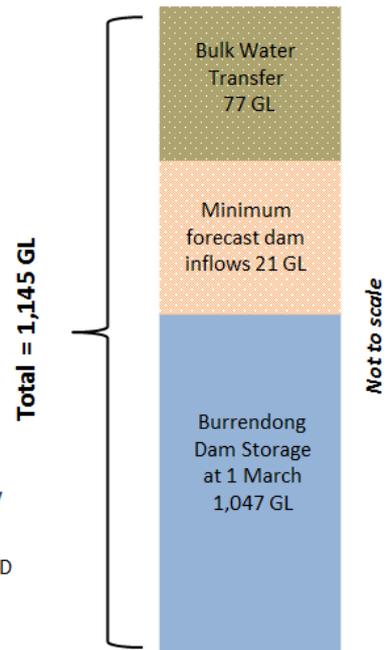
Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: End of February volume in Burrendong Dam plus current recession flows plus minimum forecast dam inflows from 1 July 2017 plus bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume in carryover sub-accounts at the end of February 2017 (excludes Cudgegong); this volume was withdrawn from accounts at the end of September 2016 in accordance with the water sharing plan (WSP) rules.
- (3) Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance 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 through to May 2018. This represents total entitlement below Burrendong Dam.
- (5) 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions to meet all demands. This includes transmission losses, operational loss, and replenishment flows. It is conservatively assumed that forecast inflows correspond to dry conditions. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds with conditions better than assumed yielding water that can be allocated.
- (6) Inaccessible storage: Dead storage of 34 GL plus 9 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.

Resource Distribution March 2017 to May 2018 Macquarie



Supply Distribution



Chances of improvement

The chances of improved general security allocation, based on different inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Potential Inflow Conditions	General Security AWD (per cent)	
	1 July 2017	31 Oct 2017*
Minimum (lowest on record to 2004)	26 (+78) [#]	26
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	28 (+78)	28
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	36 (+78)	55
Wet ^{^^} (20%: 1 chance in 5)	32 (+100)	100

* cumulative total AWD in the 2017/18 water under different inflow conditions.

[#] Estimated carryover from 2016/17 water year shown in brackets.

^{^^} A Wet inflow scenario throughout the remainder of the 2016/17 water year would lead to Burrendong Dam spilling in late June 2017. In this case accounts would be reset in late June 2017 and 100% GS carryover is assumed into the 2017/18 water year.

Further information

The next Water Allocation Statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated river water source will be issued in **June 2017**.

DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au