

12 May 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 4%** of entitlement for general security licence holders. This allocation brings the cumulative general security allocation to 67% of entitlement for the current water year. All other licence categories have reached 100% allocation for the current water year.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage	
Cudgegong	100%	67%		Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	67%		Stage 1

Inflows totalling 27,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam were observed during April, and the outlook remains favourable for further rainfall and inflows during the remainder of the current water year. Inflows received during May could enable a further general security allocation next month, subject to river operations and losses remaining within budget.

Indicative inflow volumes required to provide further general security allocations this winter are provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook runs through to May 2022, some 13 months, and aims to ensure that next water year's higher priority needs can be met before further allocating to general security entitlements this water year. The outlook period is due to increment another 12 months soon to extend the assessment and planning horizon as per historical practise.

This regulated river system is expected to remain under normal regulated river operations in 2021/22 meaning that, apart from infrastructure outage, water can be ordered and delivered as required.

Burrendong Dam Penstock Outage

A maintenance outage of Burrendong Dam (main) penstock is imminent from May to mid-July 2021. During the outage, only the bypass penstock will be available for making water releases from the dam. The release rate from the bypass penstock is limited to about 200 ML/d and is not adequate to meet any large demands or water orders in Autumn/Winter 2021.

Any inability to deliver translucent releases triggered during the maintenance outage will be subsequently made good in consultation with e-water holders.

In the unlikely event that Burrendong Dam spills (including pre-release) during this outage, the account reset rule will be deferred until the end of August 2021. This delay will allow affected water users a short period to order water ahead of any forfeiture and reset operation.

Storage levels (as at 11 May 2021)

- Burrendong Dam is 57.4 % full – steady – holding about 697,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 33.7% full – steady – holding about 125,000 ML.

Resource outlook for 2021/22

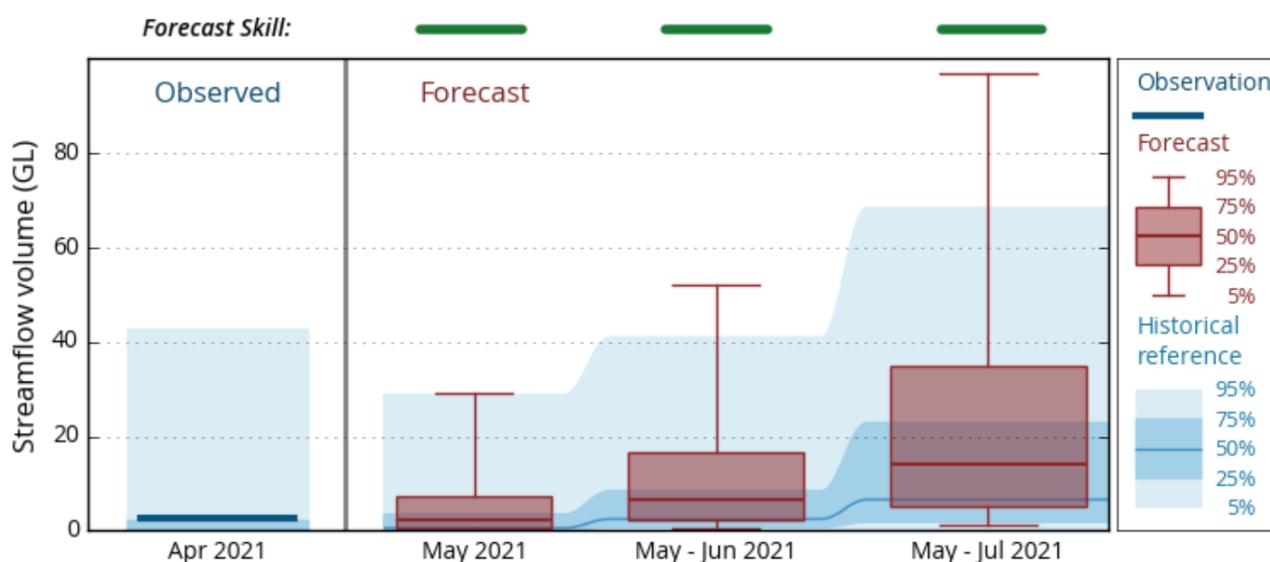
- Domestic and stock, towns and high security licences can expect to receive a full (100%) allocation on 1 July 2021.
- An estimated 396 GL of general security water (inclusive of approximately 97 GL of held environmental water) is forecast to be carried over into the new water year. This equates to approximately 63% of share component for general security licences.
- Carryover water, within allowable limits, remaining in general security accounts after 30 June 2021 will be available for delivery as required in the new water year.
- The department will continue to assess and allocate water as it becomes available for the remainder of this water year up to the maximum 100% allowable, but water users will need to be mindful of their account and carryover limits.

Seasonal inflow and climatic outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Turon River that drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indicative distribution of potential inflows. All forecast quartiles of total inflows from May to June are well above the historic volumes, forecasting a wetter than historical inflow during this period.

Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for May 2021 – Jul 2021



Generated: 20:06 05/05/2021 (ver. 2.8.2)

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For further information: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=fr#id=421026>

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The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that rainfall in the Macquarie catchment is likely to be above average. Day-time and night-time temperatures are likely to be above average. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation Index is now neutral.

For further details: 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 over 119 years, there is a greater than 10% chance that Burrendong Dam may spill by the end of June 2021.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively as a priority to meet high priority commitments.
- Transfers from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are currently not expected to be needed until at least March 2022.

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Thursday, 10 June 2021**.

Resource Distribution (May 2021 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	745
<i>less</i>	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	27
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	80
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	17
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	40
High Security ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁷⁾	20
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	369
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	146
Evaporation from Storage	46
<i>equals</i>	
Water available for allocation (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of April 2021 Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus recession flows plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from May 2021 to May 2022 plus 27 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes Cudgegong), 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 projected use by Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security licence categories below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 13 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Dead storage of 34 GL plus 6 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (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 97 GL of GS and 0 GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either

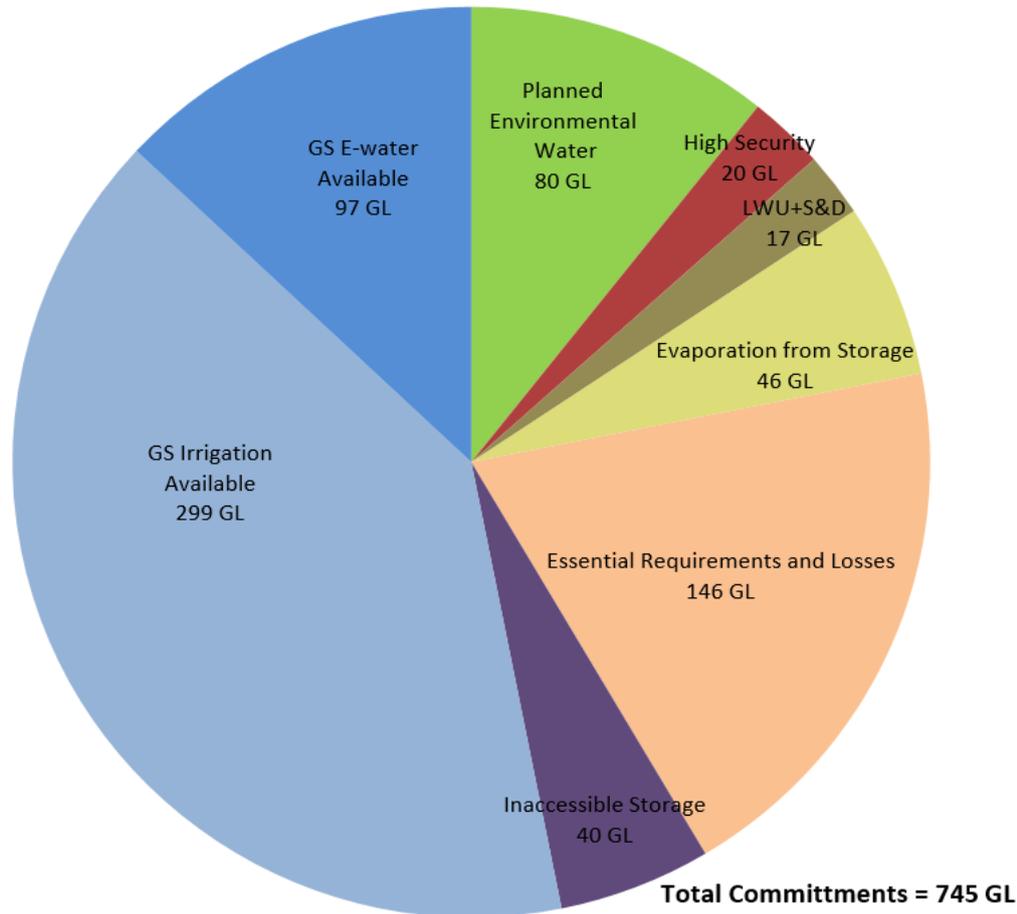
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singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPIE Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).

(8) All available water is fully allocated with no resource deficit.



Inflow needed before another general security allocation (as at 11 May 2021)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	
	Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional 10% allocation
By end of May	>3	86
By end of June	>5	89
By end of July	>9	93
By end of August	>112*	204*

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**Note: The planning horizon from the end of August 2021 steps out a further year, to ensure higher security commitments in the 2022/23 water year can be met. This is the main reason for the increased inflow volume required to enable further GS allocations from September 2021.*

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