



5 August 2016

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations

Sufficient resources are available to announce **a new allocation of 56 per cent of entitlement to general security licence holders** in the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys.

This is in addition to the previous allocations announced in July, **bringing the total for the 2016/17 water year to 77 per cent of entitlement.**

Persistent and widespread rainfall in the Central West has produced approximately 450,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow to Burrendong Dam in July and a further 140,000 ML is anticipated in August, based on flows already in the system.

These inflows, including those estimated for August, have all contributed towards this allocation.

Supplementary access was made available at various times during June and July, providing just over 14 days of access to these flows. Approximately 24,000 ML was extracted in the last water year, and approximately 27,000 ML has been extracted to date in the current water year.

Water availability and security is improving for all water users in both valleys. Current forecasts indicate that a bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam will not be required until at least February 2018 and this would only eventuate if the next eighteen months are very dry.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie	100%	77%	4%
Cudgegong	100%	77%	46%

Dam levels (as at 5 August 2016)

- Burrendong Dam is currently 70 per cent full, holding 849,000 ML.
- The storage volume has increased from a low in early-June of 11 per cent (158,000 ML) and is currently rising following recent local rainfall on an already saturated catchment.
- Windamere Dam is currently 40 per cent full – steady - holding 148,000 ML.
- Recent inflows to Windamere Dam have been much less significant, totalling about 13,000 ML since 1 June.
- Approximately half of this inflow volume to Windamere has been released as translucent flows. These releases have been re-regulated in Burrendong Dam and made available for allocation to water users in both the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys.

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Outlook

- Inflows to Burrendong Dam in July were equivalent to the ninth percentile of historical inflows – in other words, July 2016 was wetter than 91 per cent of previous Julys.
- Similar or wetter inflow conditions are required in August to fill Burrendong Dam. Once into spring, the chances of filling the storage begin to reduce.
- For comparison, inflows to Windamere Dam in July were equivalent to only the 20th percentile of historical inflows. This was mainly due to lesser rainfall in the catchment.
- The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for August to October 2016 in the region indicates a greater than 70 per cent chance of above average rainfall in the upper catchment.

A strong negative Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event continues to influence the climate outlook, with ocean temperatures well above average in the eastern Indian Ocean and below average near Africa. All international climate models surveyed by the Bureau indicate the negative IOD will persist until the end of spring, which historically has brought increased rainfall to southern Australia during this period.

Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

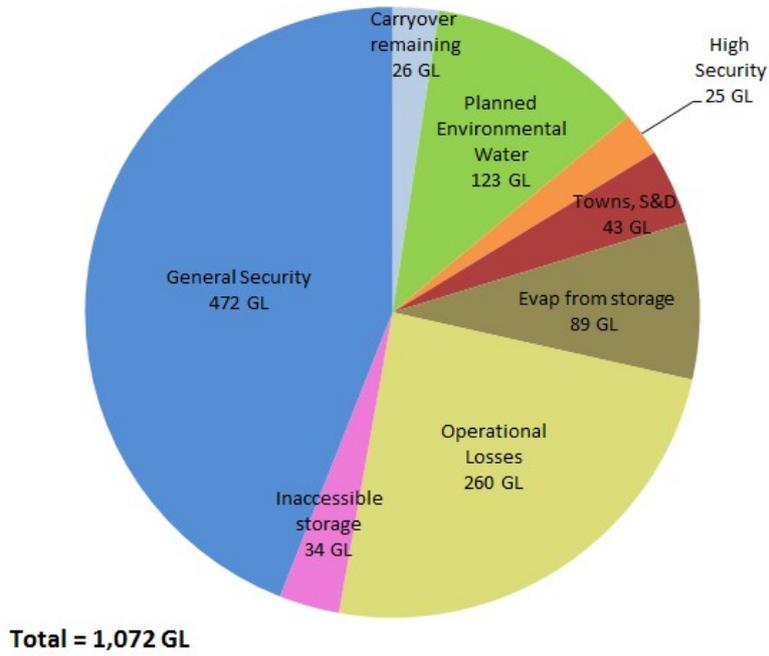
Resource Distribution (August 2016 to June 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	1,072
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	26
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	123
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	43 (100%)
Inaccessible storage	34
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	25 (100%)
General Security	472 (77%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	260
Evaporation from storage	89

**See notes below.*

Notes:

- ⁽¹⁾ Total available resource: end of July 2016 storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus forecast August inflows from current recession plus minimum forecast dam inflows from September plus bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam.
- ⁽²⁾ Carryover remaining in accounts: volume in carryover sub-accounts at the end of July (excludes Cudgegong).
- ⁽³⁾ Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance under the water sharing plan 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 June 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 current inflow returns to dry conditions. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.

Resource Distribution August 2016 to June 2018 Macquarie-Cudgegong



Supply Distribution

