Water Allocation Statement

13 May 2019

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations for the Macquarie Cudgegong regulated river water sources **remain unchanged.** There was just 2,071 ML of inflow to Burrendong Dam during April 2019.

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

A temporary water restriction remains in operation below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 to limit water usage and protect critical supplies. Macquarie regulated river users are limited to 70 per cent of the volume of water in their carryover sub-account as at 1 July 2018.

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

The restrictions can only be eased when sufficient inflows to assure high priority needs for the 2019-20 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.

Drought contingency measures are in preparation to extend existing limited water supplies in the Macquarie Valley. Investigative works are being conducted at Warren Weir and at Duck Creek and Crooked Creek regulators.

A River Operations Stakeholder Consultation Committee is planned for 16 May 2019 in Narromine to discuss drought contingency planning and mitigation measures.

Storage levels (as at 13 May 2019)

- Burrendong Dam is 6.2 per cent full – falling – currently at 105,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 33 per cent full – falling – currently at 123,000 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 is in Stage 3. Water supplies are being managed to meet high priority needs for as long as possible. Timely operational contingency measures will be introduced to protect critical water supplies. The Cudgegong regulated water source remains in Stage 1.

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

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability outlook for 2019-20

Forecast information is not guaranteed and should be used at one's own risk. This outlook for 1 July 2019 water availability is conservatively based on little future rain and dam inflow.

- Allocation to high priority needs, including towns, domestic, stock and high security entitlements, is likely to be less than maximum (100 per cent) on 1 July 2019.
- No access to general security water from 1 July 2019 is also likely in order to protect higher priority needs.
- Macquarie River drought stage is likely to soon advance to Stage 4 drought criticality.
- In the absence of significant inflow, cease to flow conditions are likely in the Macquarie River below Warren, and for Duck and Crooked Creeks, in early spring 2019.
- Trade between the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys is also likely to be affected under critical drought operations in 2019-20.
- If conditions remain dry, a further bulk water transfer will occur before summer 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.
- There is a 260,000 ML deficit to meet prior to allocating new general security water.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook suggests a drier than average May; however, the three month period for May to July indicates an even chance of median rainfall conditions. Temperatures are likely to be above average.

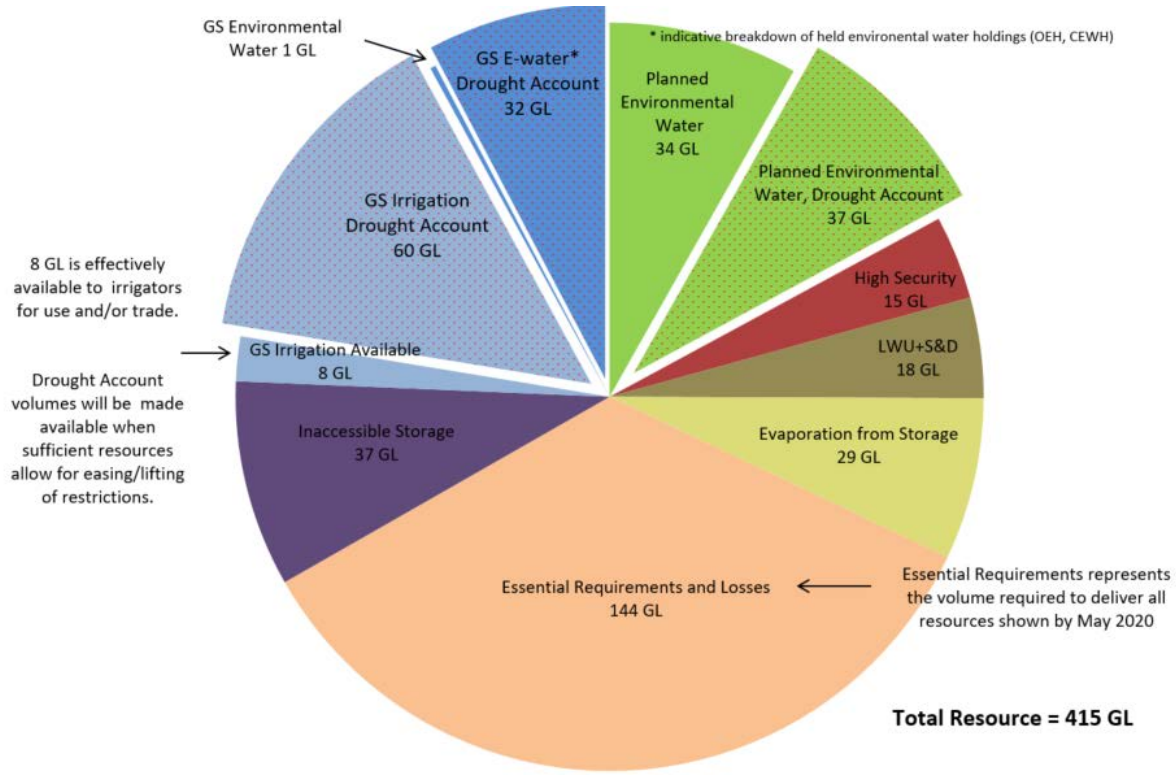
The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook is at El Niño ALERT. There is a 70 per cent chance of El Niño conditions developing in 2019. The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral and indications are that it will remain neutral for the remainder of autumn.

For further details: **www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary**

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valleys will be on **Thursday 13 June 2019**.

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



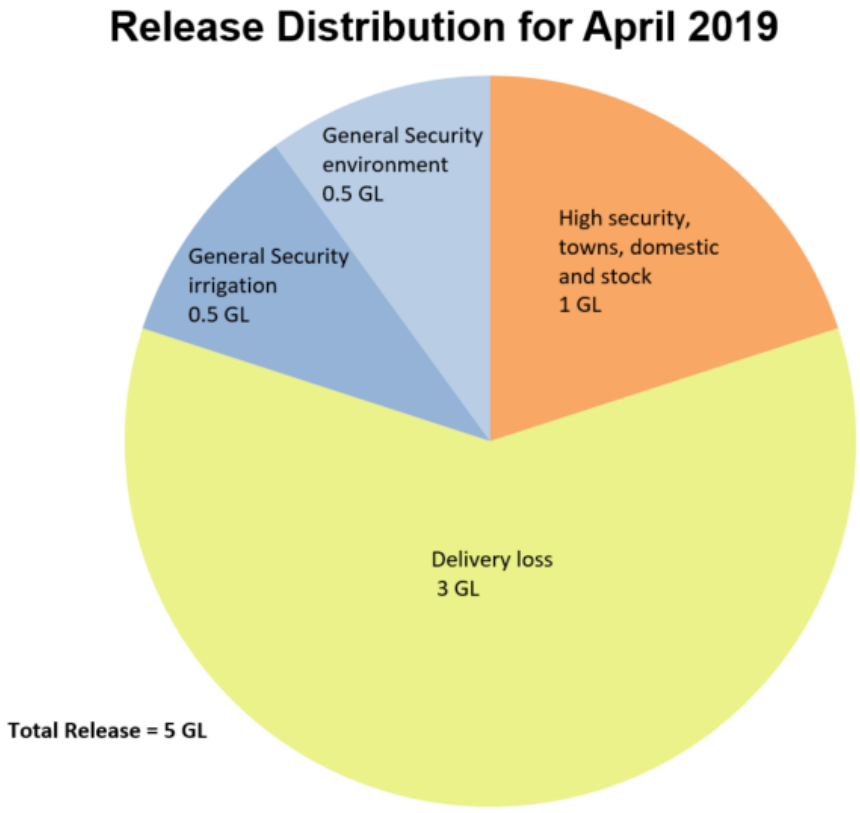
Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Macquarie Resource Distribution (May 2019 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource [1]	155*
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts [2], [7]	101
Planned Environmental Water [3]	71
Towns, Stock, Domestic [4]	18 (100%)
Inaccessible storage [6]	37
High Security [4]	15 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD [7]	0 (0%)
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) [5]	144
Evaporation from storage	29

* 260GL of additional inflow required to meet the 415 GL budget; In order to deliver all remaining GS and EWA carryover allocations and full allocation to higher security licences in 2019-20, and to operate the river normally, 415 GL is required. However, the total available resources from Burrendong Dam, bulk water transfers, and minimum inflows are currently only 155 GL, resulting in a deficit of 260 GL.

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 13 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 3 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 33GL 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.



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