

17 November 2015

Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley: Water availability and allocation update

Allocations

Recent heavy rainfall, combined with other modest inflows since the last available water determination in August, have allowed a planned **bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam to be deferred for another year.**

Current forecasts indicate that a transfer will not be required until **at least November 2016**, and this would only eventuate if the next twelve months are very dry.

Although the security of supply to the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers has improved, **no additional allocation can be made at this time** for general security water users.

The sum of general security allocations in the 2015/16 water year therefore **remains unchanged on seven (7) per cent of entitlement.**

Approximately **90,000 megalitres** of inflow to Burrendong Dam will be required in November 2015 to make a new allocation. A total of almost 30,000 megalitres is forecast to arrive from rainfall earlier this month.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie valley	100%	7%	6%
Cudgegong valley	100%	7%	58%

Dam levels

- Burrendong Dam is currently 21 per cent full, holding 271,000 megalitres.
- The storage volume has increased from a low in early-April of 14 per cent (191,000 megalitres) and is still rising as the catchment continues to drain.
- Almost 60,000 megalitres of inflow was received in the three months from August to October 2015.
- A further 30,000 megalitres is expected to arrive in November from rainfall earlier in the month.
- Windamere Dam is currently 43 per cent full, holding 158,000 megalitres.
- Recent inflows to Windamere Dam have been relatively small, not quite offsetting local demand and storage evaporation.

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507

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Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology has **forecast a 35 to 45 per cent** chance of median rainfall being exceeded in the upper Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys during the November to January period.
- The current outlook reflects a combination of a strong El Niño in the Pacific, a decaying positive Indian Ocean Dipole, and very warm Indian Ocean temperatures.

DPI Water can provide advice under the following scenarios:

Conditions	2015/16 General security AWD
Extremely dry	7% and carryover from 2014/15
Dry	7% and carryover from 2014/15
Median	7% by 31 January 2016 rising to 19% by 30 June 2016
Wet	12% by 31 January 2016 rising to 63% by 30 June 2016

DPI Water will provide the next water outlook update in early 2016.

Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

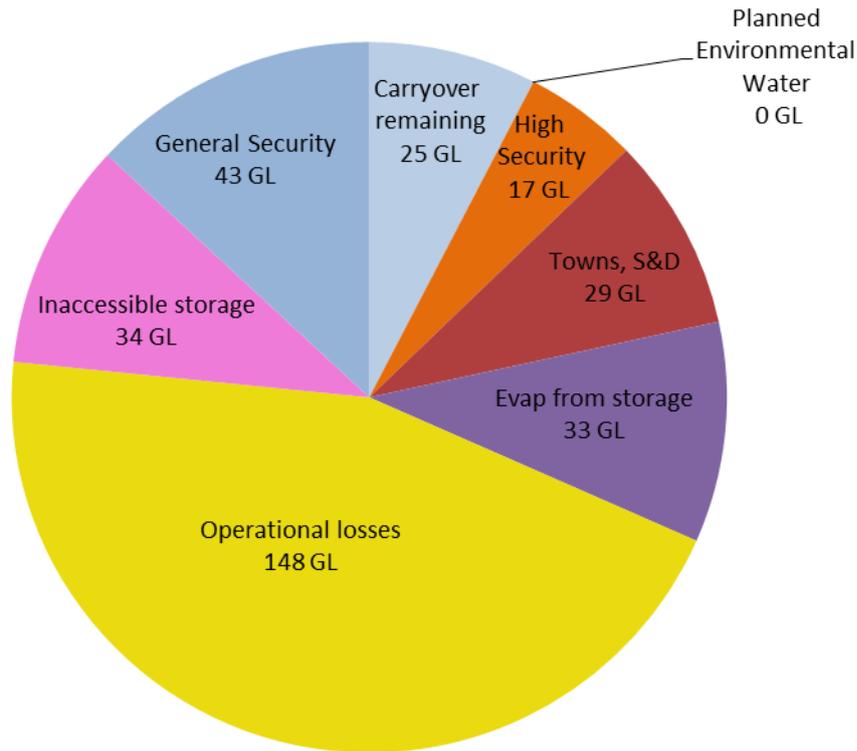
Resource Distribution (November 2015 to January 2017)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	329
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ⁽²⁾	25
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	0
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	29 (100%)
Inaccessible storage	34
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	17 (100%)
General Security	43 (7%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	148
Evaporation from storage	33

Notes:

- (1) Total available resource: estimated end-November storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast inflows plus bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: 1 July carryover volume minus general security usage to end of October (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% of entitlement through to January 2017. This is 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 and operational loss. It is assumed that inflow returns to dry conditions. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.

Allocation Distribution Nov 2015 to Jan 2017 Macquarie-Cudgegong



Total = 329 GL

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Further information

Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

ENDS