

4 March 2016

## Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

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

Approximately **33,000 megalitres (ML)** of inflow to Burrendong Dam was required in February to make a new allocation however just 5,000 ML was received.

Current forecasts indicate that a **bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam** will not be required until **at least January 2017**, and this would only eventuate if the next ten months are very dry.

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

#### Dam levels (as at 4 March 2016)

- Burrendong Dam is currently 14 per cent full, holding 198,000 ML.
- The storage volume has decreased from a high in late-November of 21 per cent (276,000 ML) and is still falling as dry conditions continue into autumn.
- Only 17,000 ML of inflow has been received in the three months from December 2015 to February 2016.
- Windamere Dam is currently 40 per cent full, holding 148,000 ML.
- Recent inflows to Windamere Dam have been negligible, not quite offsetting local demand and storage evaporation.

#### Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for autumn (March to May) in the region indicates generally average rainfall combined with higher temperatures in March transitioning later in April to average temperatures and a mix of average and above average rainfall across the valley.
- The current outlook reflects a combination of a weakening El Niño, very warm Indian Ocean temperatures and warm sea surface temperatures near Australia.

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[www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)

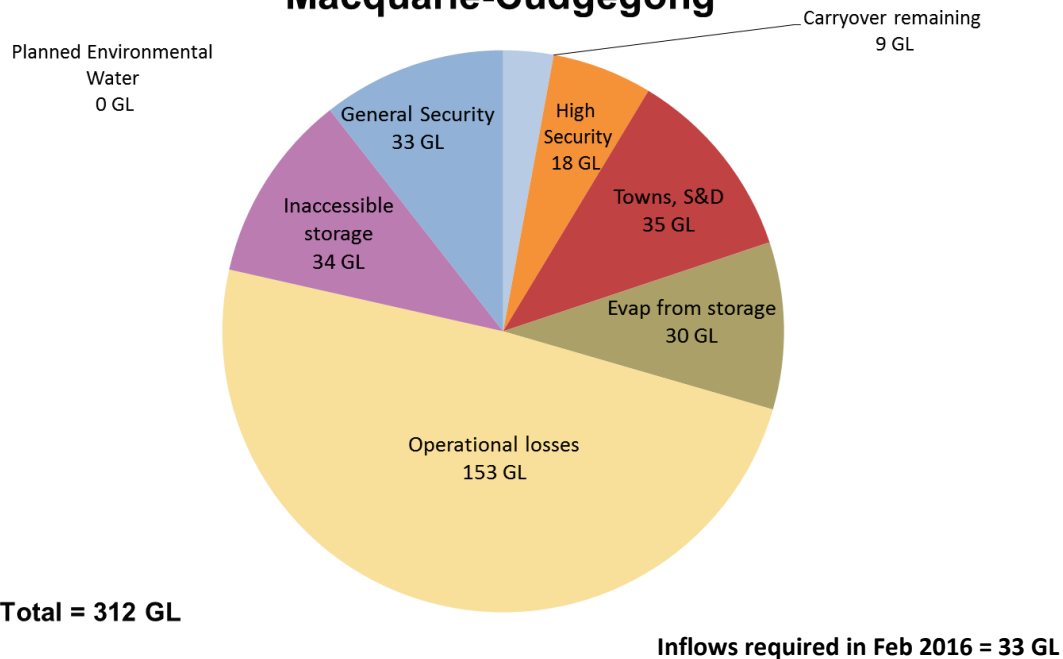
- While the above average autumn rainfall forecast is welcome for areas suffering from mid- to long-term rainfall deficiencies, recovery is likely to require a significant period of above average rainfall.

**Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet**

<b>Resource Distribution (March 2016 to April 2017)</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	279
<b>less</b>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2)</sup>	9
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	0
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	35 (100%)
Inaccessible storage	34
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	18 (100%)
General Security	33 (7%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	153
Evaporation from storage	30
<b>Inflows required in February <sup>(6)</sup></b>	<b>33</b>

\*See notes below.

**Resource Distribution Mar 2016 to April 2017  
Macquarie-Cudgegong**



**Notes:**

<sup>(1)</sup> Total available resource: estimated end-February 2016 storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast inflows plus bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam.

- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume in carryover sub-accounts at the end of January (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 April 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.
- (6) Usable inflows required in the current month to assure delivery through the minimum forecast scenario and begin to make additional general security allocations.

### 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) #	
	30 Jun 2016	31 Oct 2016
Extremely dry (99% inflows: 99 chances in 100)	7	7
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	7	7
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	16	26
Wet (20%: 1 chance in 5)	49	98

# Add carryover from previous water years to this value.

### Further information

[Information on Available Water Determinations and water sharing plans is available on the DPI Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)