



6 September 2016

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

### Water allocation update

#### Allocations

Sufficient resources are available to announce a **new allocation of twenty-three (23) 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 **100 per cent of entitlement**.

Persistent and widespread rainfall in the Central West during the winter months has produced approximately 950,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow for Burrendong Dam since the start of the 2016/17 water year, filling the storage to beyond full supply level.

For the first time since 2012 Burrendong Dam is now spilling; therefore, water held in carryover sub-accounts for Macquarie high security and general security licence holders will be withdrawn at the end of this month as required under the rules of the water sharing plan. At that time high and general security accounts will also be reset to 100 per cent of entitlement.

Carryover in the Cudgegong regulated river water source is unaffected.

Current forecasts indicate that a bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam will not be required until at least February 2018, should conditions over the next 17 months be very dry.

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

\*Carryover in the Macquarie will be withdrawn at the end of September in accordance with the water sharing plan.

#### Dam levels (as at 5 September 2016)

- Burrendong Dam is currently 111 per cent full, holding 1,313,000 ML.
- The storage volume has increased from a low in early-June of 11 per cent (158,000 ML) and is currently rising (now operating in the flood mitigation zone) following recent local rainfall on an already saturated catchment.
- Windamere Dam is currently 45 per cent full – rising - holding 166,000 ML.
- Recent inflows to Windamere Dam have been less significant, totalling about 32,000 ML since 1 June.

**Media contact: James Muddle**

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

## Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for September to November 2016 in the region indicates a 55-60 per cent chance of above average rainfall in the upper catchment.
- The current outlook reflects a weakening negative Indian Ocean Dipole and tropical Pacific Ocean temperatures that may briefly approach La Niña thresholds.

## Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

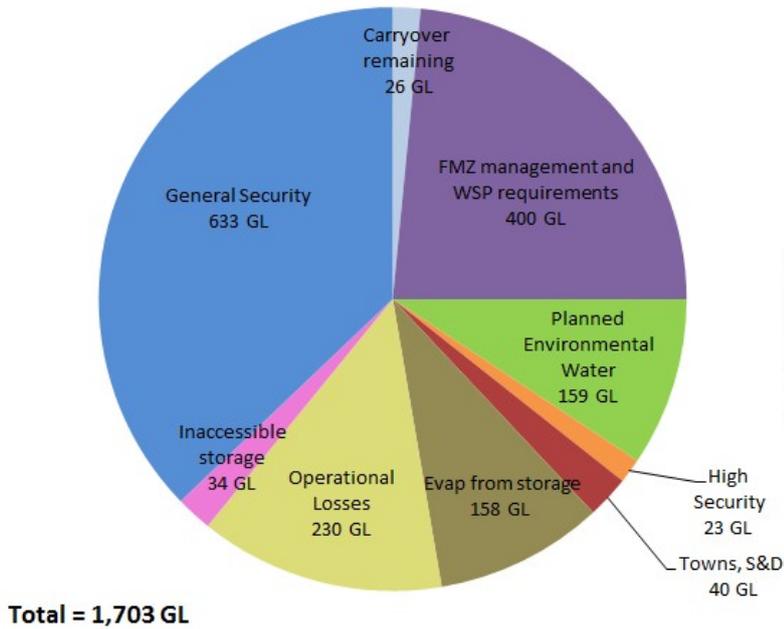
Resource Distribution (September 2016 to June 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	1,703
<b>less</b>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2)</sup>	26
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	159
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	40 (100%)
Inaccessible storage	34
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	23 (100%)
General Security	633 (100%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	230
Evaporation from storage	158

*\*See notes below.*

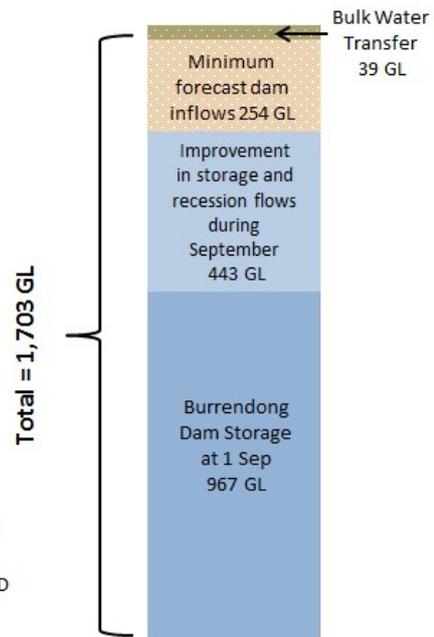
### Notes:

- <sup>(1)</sup> Total available resource: End of August storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus September inflows and recession plus minimum forecast dam inflows from October plus bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam.
- <sup>(2)</sup> Carryover remaining in accounts: volume in carryover sub-accounts at the end of August (excludes Cudgegong); this volume will be withdrawn from accounts at the end of September in accordance with the WSP rules.
- <sup>(3)</sup> Planned environmental water: water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance under the water sharing plan (WSP) to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- <sup>(4)</sup> Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves required to meet 100 per cent of entitlement through to July 2018. This represents total entitlement below Burrendong Dam.
- <sup>(5)</sup> '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 September 2016 to June 2018  
Macquarie-Cudgegong**



**Supply Distribution**



**Further information**

Due to the withdrawal of carryover and reset of Macquarie accounts required by the water sharing plan at the end of the month, the next Water Allocation Statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated river water source will be issued on **Friday 30 September 2016**.

Please note the water availability update on 30 September, triggered by the reset rules when Burrendong Dam storage level re-enters the flood mitigation zone during the month, will replace the usual update which was scheduled for 5 October.

DPI Water website - [www.water.nsw.gov.au](http://www.water.nsw.gov.au)