



9 February 2018

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations

There is **no allocation increase for general security licence holders in the Macquarie or Cudgegong valleys at this time**. General security allocations remain unchanged at 38 per cent of entitlement for the current 2017/18 water year.

Inflows in excess of 182,000 megalitres (ML) are estimated will be required in February to allow further allocation in March. For context, Burrendong Dam has received just 24,000ML of inflow since July 2017.

If dry conditions persist, the allocations to general security users in 2018/19 may need to be limited to water carried forward from this water year. Water users are reminded to be precise in their ordering and diversion of water to minimise potential operational losses.

This assessment indicates that there will be no requirement for a bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam during the current water year.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover In
Macquarie	100%	38%	73%
Cudgegong	100%	38%	151%

Dam levels (as at 8 February 2018)

- Burrendong Dam is 45 per cent full – falling - holding 550,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 44 per cent full – falling - holding 163,000 ML

Seasonal rainfall outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting a better than average chance of getting at least median rainfall conditions in the Macquarie and Cudgegong valleys during the three months from February to April. Cooler temperatures are also forecasted across both catchments.

Weak LA NIÑA conditions in the tropical Pacific are continuing. However, the Bureau's models suggest that the LA NIÑA will cease by mid-autumn as LA NIÑA events tend to break down around this time of the year, meaning a reduced influence on rainfall.

Further information

The next allocation announcement will be issued in **June 2018** unless a significant inflow event occurs.

Information on Available Water Determinations (AWD) and water sharing plans are available on the Department of Industry – Water website - www.water.nsw.gov.au

Media contact: James Muddle – 0407 103 507

www.water.nsw.gov.au

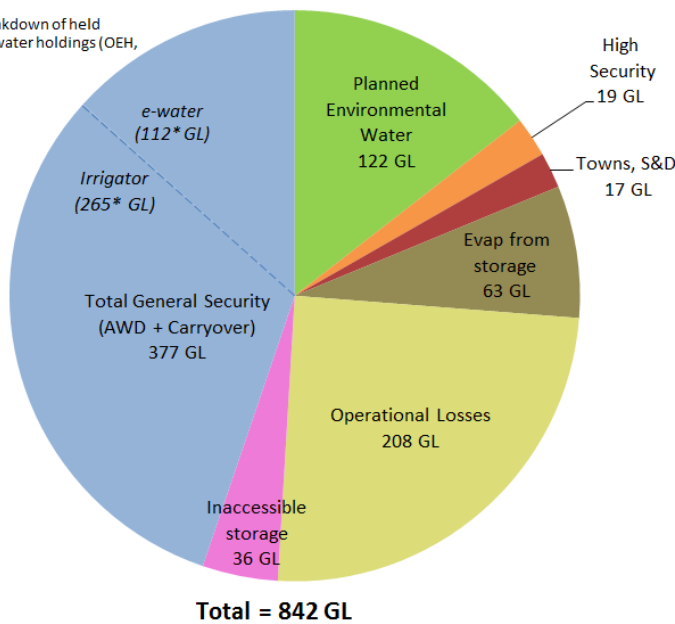
Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (February 2018 to May 2019)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	660
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	144
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	122
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	17 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	36
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	19 (100%)
General Security 2017/2018 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	233 (38%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	208
Evaporation from storage	63

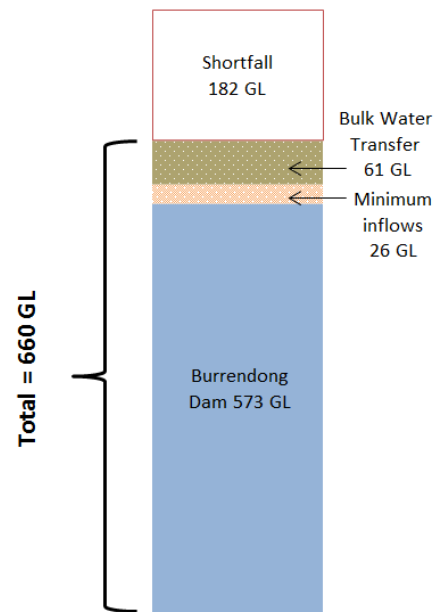
See notes below.

**Resource Distribution February 2018 to May 2019
Macquarie**

* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH).



Supply Source



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) 'Operational Losses': best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions over the next 16 months to meet all demands. This includes transmission losses, operational loss, and replenishment flows. 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 2 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) Held environmental water (HEW) – as a trial, general security account water administered by environmental water holders have been identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only and prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade. 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).

Chances of improvement

The estimates of general security allocation, based on repetition of historical inflow scenarios, are as follows:

Historical Inflow Scenario	Cumulative General Security AWD	
	For 2017/18 by 30 June 2018 ⁽⁸⁾	For 2018/19 by 1 Nov 2018 ⁽⁹⁾
Dry (exceeded 4 times in 5 years)	38%	0%
Average (exceeded once every 2 years)	38%	16%
Wet (exceeded once in 5 years)	65%	85%

⁽⁸⁾ Add carryover balances from 2016-17 to these forecasted allocations.

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