

17 May 2017

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

### Water allocation update and 2017/18 outlook

This assessment summarises the current resource distribution and also provides **allocation outlooks for the 2017/18 water year** under a range of potential inflow scenarios.

The total allocation for general security licence holders in the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated River Water Source for the 2016/17 water year **remains unchanged at its maximum value of 100 per cent of entitlement.**

Burrendong Dam received approximately 48,000 megalitres (ML) of inflow during March and April 2017. Storage levels have remained steady since mid-February 2017 and are presently at 87 per cent of capacity. Inflows to Windamere Dam over the same period have been negligible, not quite offsetting evaporation losses.

There is a small improvement in resource availability from the previous 2017-18 outlook issued in March 2017. This has resulted in an eight percent increase in the forecast 1 July 2017 opening allocation for general security, now up to 34 per cent of entitlement.

Average carryover into 2017-18 is estimated to be about 75 per cent of entitlement, meaning that overall water availability on 1 July 2017 for general security water users is expected to be at least 109 per cent of entitlement.

	High Security	General Security	Average Carryover
Macquarie	100%	100%	0%
Cudgegong	100%	100%	46%*

\* Carryover volume in the Cudgegong valley was unaffected by the September 2016 reset caused by inflows to a full Burrendong Dam.

### Dam levels (as at 17 May 2017)

- Burrendong Dam is currently 87 per cent full – steady - holding 1,042,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is currently 50 per cent full – steady - holding 183,000 ML. (Storage levels have remained relatively unchanged over the summer and autumn months).

### Outlook

- The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for May to July 2017 indicates below average rainfall across the catchment is likely.
- The drier than average outlook is influenced by warming in tropical Pacific sea surface temperatures and a cooler eastern Indian Ocean.

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

## Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

Resource Distribution (March 2017 to May 2018)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	1,146
<b>less</b>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2)</sup>	0
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	187
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	16 (100%)
Inaccessible storage <sup>(6)</sup>	39
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	19 (100%)
General Security 2016/2017	456 (100%)
Expected General Security 1 July 2017 AWD	208 (34%)
Operational Losses (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	164
Evaporation from storage	57

\*See notes below.

### Notes:

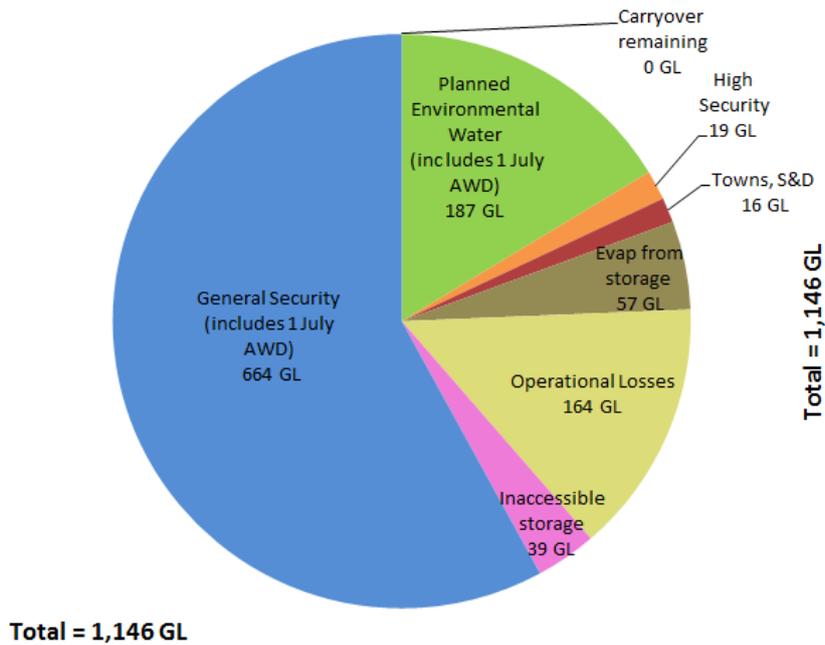
- (1) Total available resource: End of April storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus minimum forecast dam inflows from 1 May 2017 plus bulk water transfers from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Carryover remaining in accounts: volume in carryover sub-accounts at the end of April 2017 (excludes Cudgegong); this volume was withdrawn from accounts at the end of September 2016 in accordance with the water sharing plan (WSP) rules.
- (3) 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.
- (4) Towns, Stock, Domestic and High Security: reserves required to meet 100 per cent of entitlement through to May 2018. This represents 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, 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 5 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.

### Further information

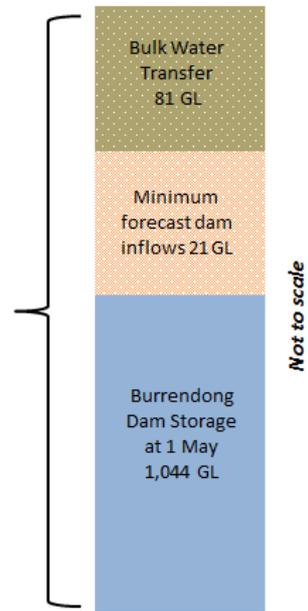
The next Water Allocation Statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong regulated river water source will be issued in **June 2017**.

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

**Resource Distribution May 2017 to May 2018  
Macquarie**



**Supply Distribution**



**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)	
	1 July 2017 #	31 Oct 2017 *
Minimum (lowest on record to 2004)	34 (+75)	34
Dry (80%: 4 chances in 5)	35 (+75)	35
Average (50%: 1 chance in 2)	39 (+75)	59
Wet^^ (20%: 1 chance in 5)	31 (+100)	100 (carryover spill likely)

# Estimated carryover from 2016/17 water year shown in brackets

\* cumulative total AWD in the 2017/18 water

^^ A Wet inflow scenario throughout the remainder of the 2016/17 water year would lead to Burrendong Dam spilling in late June 2017. In this case accounts would be reset in late June 2017 and 100% GS carryover is assumed into the 2017/18 water year.