

10 March 2021

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source to enable an **allocation increase of 4% of entitlement for general security licence holders**. This allocation brings the cumulative general security allocation to 34% of entitlement for the current water year. All other licence categories have reached 100% allocation for the current water year.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage	
Cudgegong	100%	34%		Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	34%		Stage 1

Inflows totalling 18,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam were observed during February and the outlook remains favourable for further rainfall and inflows during the remainder of the current water year. Indeed, March inflows so far, together with rainfall forecasts, appear likely to provide a further general security allocation next month, however; this is subject to projections materialising.

Indicative inflow volumes required to provide further general security allocations this water year are provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook runs through to May 2022, some 15 months, and aims to ensure that next water year's higher priority needs can be met before further allocating to general security entitlements this water year.

Burrendong Dam penstock outage

A maintenance outage of Burrendong Dam (main) penstock is being planned for May to mid-July 2021. During the outage only the bypass penstock will be available for making water releases from the dam. The release rate from the bypass penstock is limited to about 200 ML/d and is not adequate to meet any large demands or water orders in Autumn/Winter 2021.

In the unlikely event that Burrendong Dam spills (including pre-release) during this outage, the account reset treatment will be deferred until the end of August 2021, after which account reset action will be undertaken. This delay will allow affected water users a short period to order water ahead of any forfeiture and reset operation.

Storage levels (as at 10 March 2021)

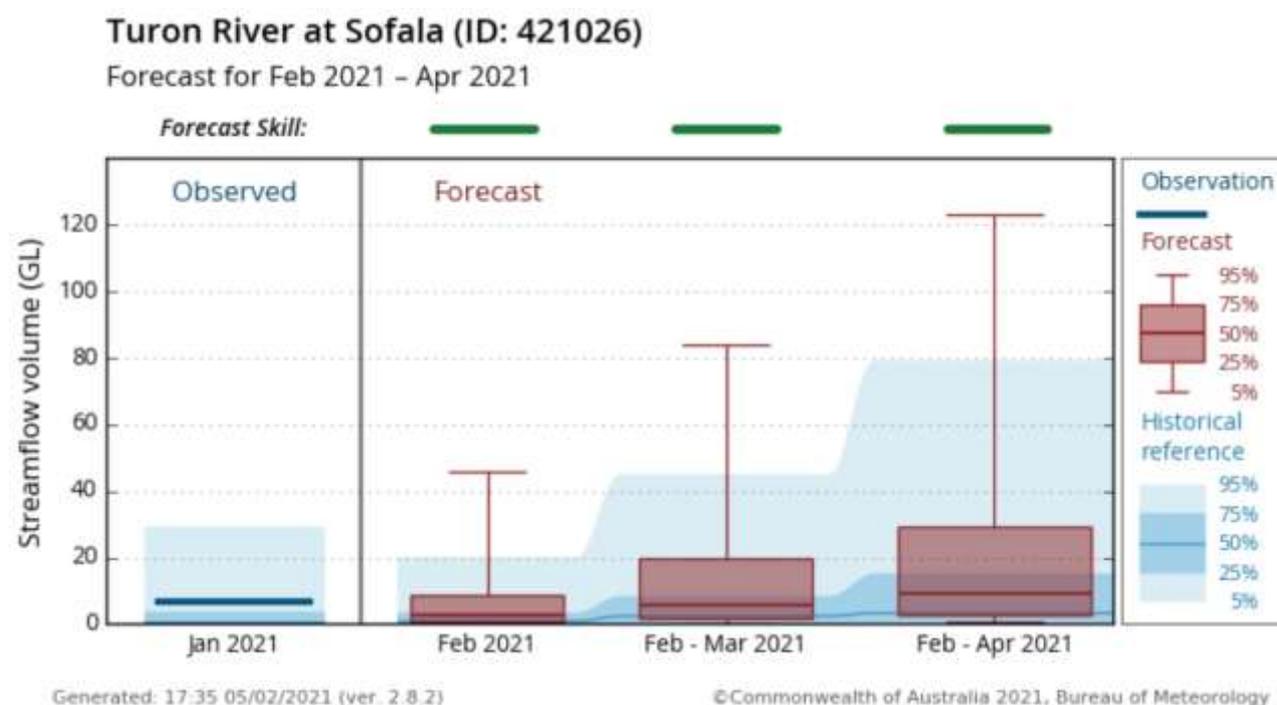
- Burrendong Dam is 39 % full – falling – holding about 484,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 28.5% full – steady – holding about 106,000 ML.

Drought stage

The Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source is currently at Stage 1 meaning normal river operations, and contingency measures are not expected in the current water year.

Seasonal inflow and climatic outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Turon River that drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indicative distribution of potential inflows. All forecast quartiles of total inflows from February to April are well above the historic volumes, forecasting a wetter than historical inflow during this period.



For further information: www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for March to May indicates that rainfall in the Macquarie catchment is likely to be above average. Daytime temperatures are likely to be below average while night-time temperatures are likely to be above average. The current La Niña event is forecast to end during autumn.

For further details: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

Key facts

- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Based on historic inflows over 119 years, there is less than a 10% chance that Burrendong Dam may spill by the end of June 2021.
- Should Burrendong Dam reach 100% in the coming months, general security and EWA carryover volumes will be protected from forfeiture until 31 August 2021. Water users intending

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to store carryover allocations in on-farm storages will be able to order water from any tributary flows during the outage and also on completion of the outage in mid-July.

- Any inability to deliver translucent releases triggered during the maintenance outage will be subsequently made good in consultation with e-water holders.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments.
- Transfers from Windamere to Burrendong Dam are unnecessary until at least February 2022.

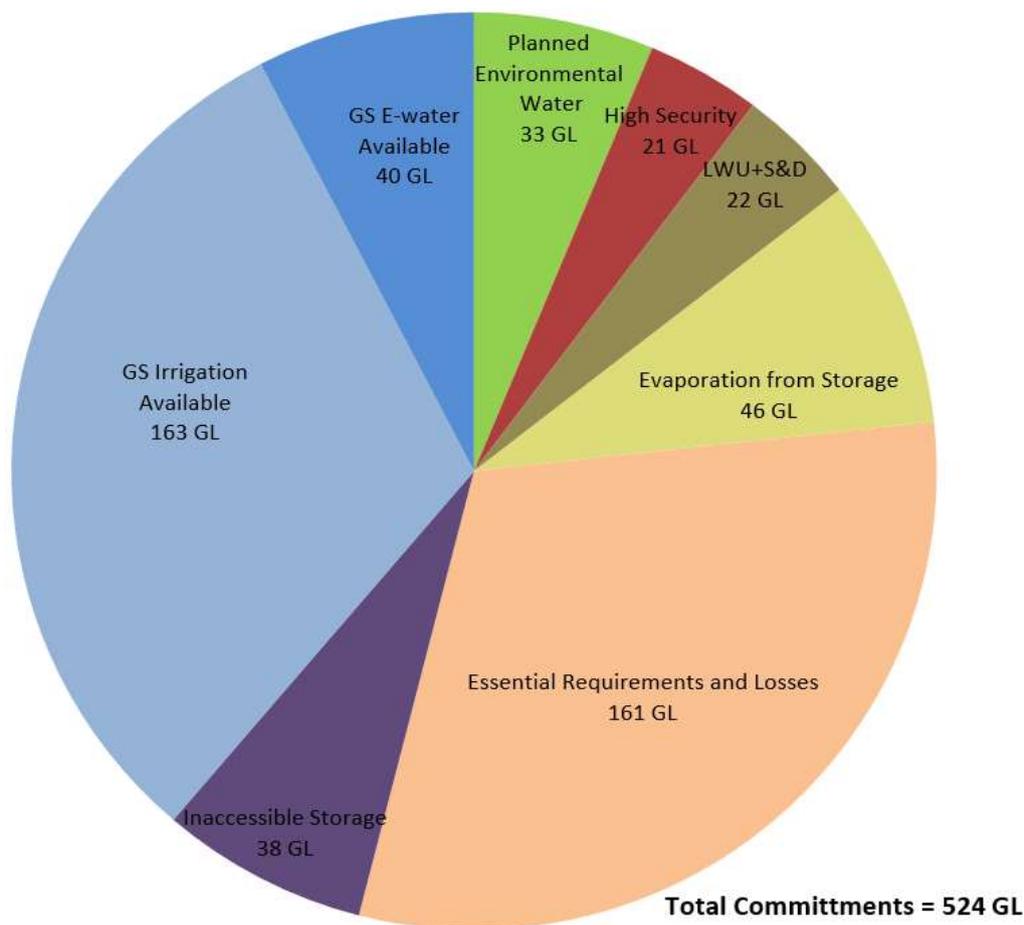
Resource Distribution (March 2021 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	524
<i>less</i>	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	29
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	33
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	22
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	38
High Security ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁷⁾	21
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	174
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	161
Evaporation from Storage	46
<i>equals</i>	
Water available for allocation (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of February 2021 Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus recession flows plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from March 2021 to May 2022 plus 9 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes Cudgegong), discounted for evaporative losses.
- (3) Water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Reserves required to meet the projected use by Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security licence categories below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 15 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Dead storage of 34 GL plus 4 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). We are reporting HEW administered by the environmental water holders here. The associated portions of general security allocation are identified in the pie chart. This reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 40 GL of GS and 0 GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPIE Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites
- (8) All available water is fully allocated with no resource deficit.

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Inflow required to provide the next general security allocation (estimate as at 8 March 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	
	Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional 10% allocation
By end of March	>0	84
By end of April	>0	84
By end of May	4	88

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie-Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 14 April 2021**.

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