

12 July 2021

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

### Water allocation update

**General security entitlements have received an opening allocation of 12%** in the Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source for the 2021-22 water year. All high priority licences were allocated 100% of entitlement on 1 July 2021.

2021-22	High Security	General Security
Cudgegong	100%	12%
Macquarie	100%	12%

Inflows totalling 57,600 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam were observed during June, and a further 30,000 ML of recession inflow is expected to arrive in the coming weeks. These early July inflows have been included in this assessment and allocation announcement.

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

Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments. Transfers from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are currently not required until at least March 2022.

### Burrendong Dam penstock maintenance completed

A recent maintenance outage of Burrendong Dam (main) penstock is now complete and delivery of account water can be made as required.

In the possible event that Burrendong Dam spills (including pre-release) during the coming months, the account reset rule will be enforced, as per water sharing plan rules.

Based on historic inflows over 119 years, there is a greater than 30% chance that Burrendong Dam could spill by the end of September 2021.

### Storage levels (as at 8 July 2021)

- Burrendong Dam is 64.9 % full – rising – holding about 784,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 34.4% full – steady – holding about 127,000 ML

## Drought recovery year 2020-21

A major improvement in water resources across the state was observed last water year. In August 2020, a large rainfall event boosted Burrendong Dam levels by approximately 160 giganlitres (GL). The river system recovered from drought and returned to normal river operations. By September 2020, general security water users received their first allocation (12% of entitlement) since August 2017. Incremental allocation increases continued over spring, autumn and early winter up to a closing general security allocation of 68% of entitlement.

Consistent rainfall events across the mid to lower reaches of the Macquarie catchment saw the Macquarie Marshes fill and connectivity with the Barwon-Darling system occurred. These flows have provided significant instream ecological benefits. Several periods of supplementary flow have provided water users with welcome additional access to surface water and all effluent creek replenishment flows were completed.

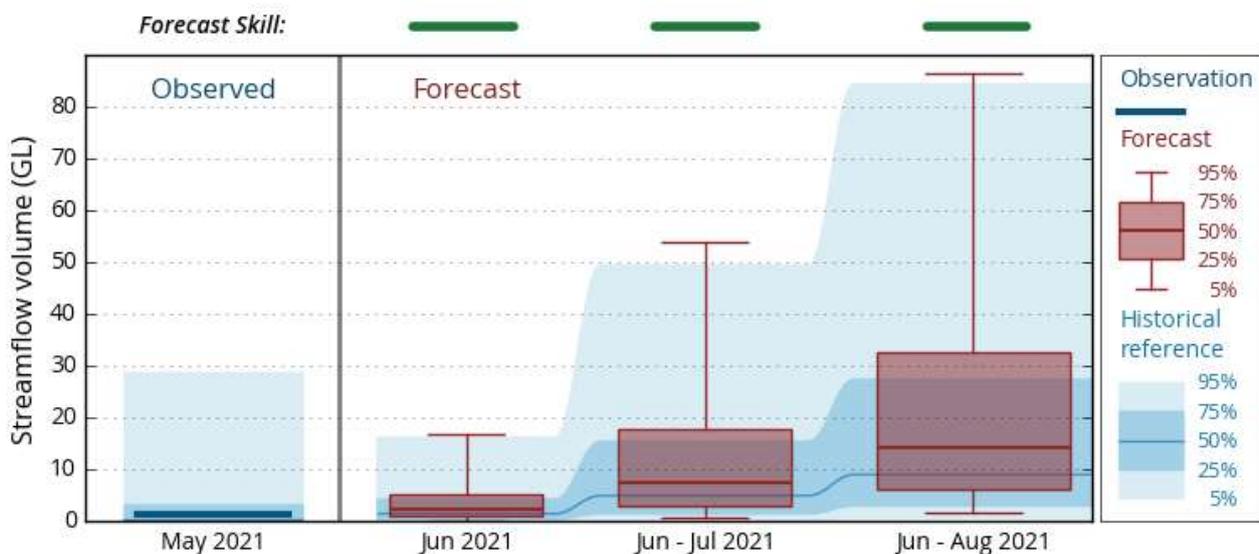
## Seasonal climatic and inflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for July to September indicates that rainfall is very likely to be above average across the catchment. Daytime temperatures are likely to be below average and overnight temperatures are likely to be warmer than average. A negative Indian Ocean Dipole is expected to develop during winter, which increases the change of above average winter-spring rainfall in the catchment.

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 June to August are above the historic volumes, indicating a wetter than historical inflow during this period.

### Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for Jun 2021 – Aug 2021



For further information: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026)

# Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Resource Distribution (July 2021 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources <sup>(1)</sup>	838
<i>less</i>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	399
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	99
Domestic, Stock, Town <sup>(4)</sup>	28
Inaccessible Storage <sup>(6)</sup>	36
High Security <sup>(4)(7)</sup>	25
General Security 2021/2022 AWD <sup>(7)</sup>	76
Essential Requirements and Losses <sup>(5)</sup>	131
Evaporation from Storage	44
<i>equals</i>	
Surplus (or deficit) <sup>(8)</sup>	0

## Notes:

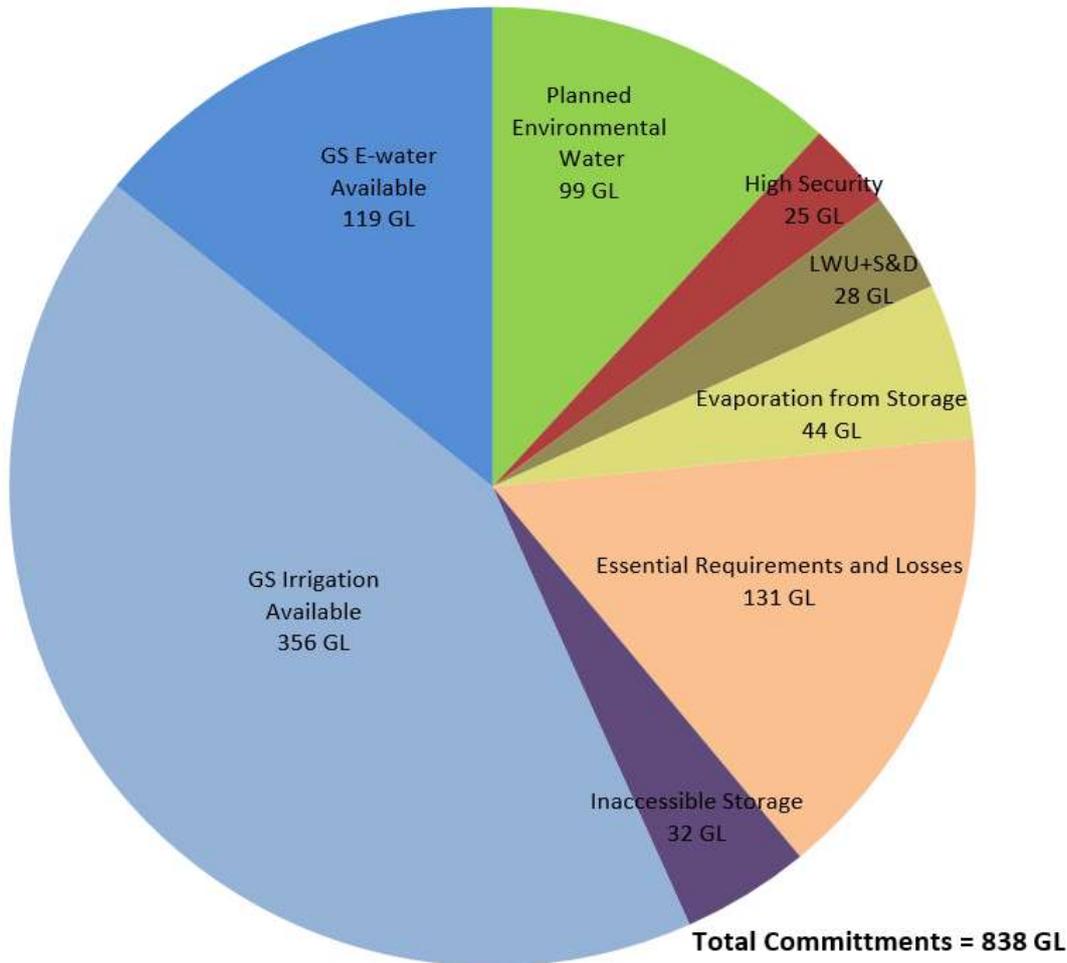
- (1) End of June 2021 Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus recession flows plus 30 GL flows in transit plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from August 2021 to May 2022 plus 34 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes Cudgegong), discounted for 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 11 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 2 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 99 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).
- (8) All available water is fully allocated with no surplus left. The system is secure to May 2022.

Inflow required to provide the next general security allocation (estimate as at 9 July 2021)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	
	Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional 10% allocation
By end of July	>30	115
By end of August *	165	255
By end of September	200	290

\*This jump in inflow is to secure water for an additional 12 months of high priority commitments

## Resource Distribution (July 2021 to May 2022)



## Next announcement

The next routine water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 11 August 2021**.

Subscribe [here](#) to receive the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment's monthly email update on water planning, management and reform in New South Wales.

You can also follow DPIE-Water on Twitter: @NSWDPIE\_Water