

Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

Water allocation update

Allocations for the Macquarie Cudgegong regulated river water sources **remain unchanged**.

2018-19	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage
Cudgegong	100%	0%	 Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	0%	 Stage 3

A temporary water restriction has operated below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 to limit water usage and protected critical supplies. Macquarie regulated river users have been limited to 70 per cent of the volume of water in their carryover sub-account as at 1 July 2018. Without significant rainfall and system recovery beforehand, restrictions will be needed in 2019-20.

Cudgegong regulated river access licences, including general security, are not restricted.

There was just 1,143 megalitres (ML) of inflow to Burrendong Dam during March 2019.

The restrictions can only be eased when sufficient inflows to assure high priority commitments for the 2019-20 water year are captured in storage. Water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly and to maximise water use efficiency. High security licence holders below Burrendong Dam should prepare for less than full allocations on 1 July 2019 if minimal inflow conditions persist for the remainder of this water year.

Updated information will be provided each month on inflows and resource availability.

Deliveries under drought operations in 2018-19, including for stock and domestic purposes, will be weather-dependent and involve water conservation measures to prolong essential water supplies. Water users should liaise with WaterNSW for water delivery arrangements.

Storage levels (as at 9 April 2019)

- Burrendong Dam is 7.0 per cent full – falling – currently at 115,000 ML.
- Windamere Dam is 34 per cent full – falling – currently at 125,000 ML.

Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduced a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Macquarie regulated river water source is in Stage 3. The Cudgegong regulated river water source remains in Stage 1. Account restrictions are in force in the Macquarie. Water supplies are being managed to meet high priority needs for as long as possible. Timely operational contingency measures will be introduced to protect critical water supplies.

For further details: www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events

Outlook on water availability for 2019-20

Under a continuation of the worst-case scenario of little rain and zero dam inflows, it is likely that allocations for higher security entitlements such as Local Water Utility, stock and domestic and high security will be less than 100 per cent on 1 July 2019. Under this scenario water restrictions on general security account water will continue into 2019-20. Even if wet conditions eventuate, there is a 260,000 ML deficit to meet prior to allocating general security water. Trade between the Cudgegong and Macquarie valleys is also likely to be restricted under critical drought operations in 2019-20.

Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April to June shows that rainfall conditions are likely to be average, while maximum temperatures are very likely to be above average.

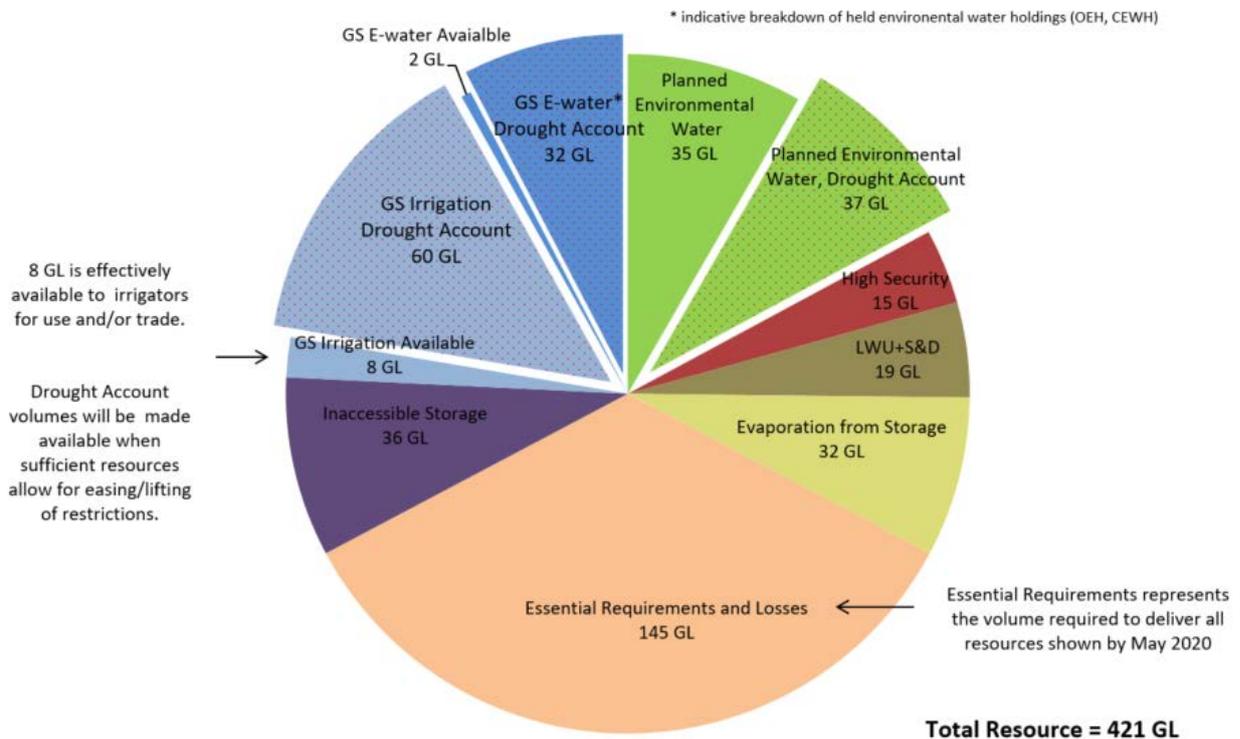
The main climate drivers for Australia are currently neutral, which is why the rainfall outlook is not showing a clear tendency towards a wetter or drier than average conditions. However, the Bureau's climate model suggests there is a chance El Niño will develop in autumn. If El Niño does develop, it would increase the chances of drier conditions in the south and east.

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

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong valleys will be on **Friday 10 May 2019**.

Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions (April 2019 to May 2020)



Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

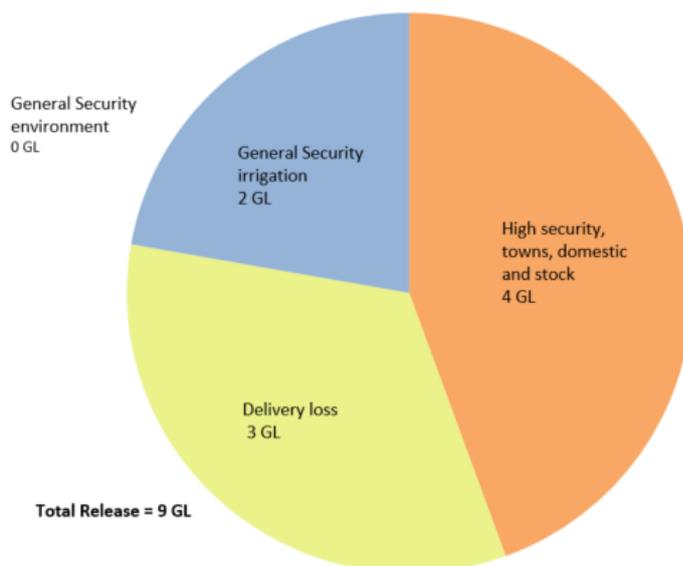
Macquarie Resource Distribution (April 2019 to May 2020)	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource ⁽¹⁾	161*
less	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	102
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	72
Towns, Stock, Domestic ⁽⁴⁾	19 (100%)
Inaccessible storage ⁽⁶⁾	36
High Security ⁽⁴⁾	15 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	0 (0%)
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) ⁽⁵⁾	145
Evaporation from storage	32

* 260GL of additional inflow required to meet the 421GL budget.

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) Essential Requirements: best estimate of the volume required to run the river under dry conditions over the next 14 months to meet all demands. This includes transmission losses and operational loss. 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, we are reporting held environmental water administered by the environmental water holders, with the associated portions of general security allocation also identified in the above pie chart. This reporting of held environmental water is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 34GL of GS and 0GL of HS. 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). Details on environmental holdings can be found on individual agency websites.

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