

13 November 2018

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

### Water allocation update

The system continues to experience a **new record low inflow for Burrendong Dam**. Inflows to the dam since the last water allocation in August 2017 total about 38,000 megalitres (ML). This is only a quarter of the previous record low inflow, which was about 144,000 ML for the 15 months to the end of October.

A temporary water restriction has been issued to ensure that water usage below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 is limited to this reduced water availability. Macquarie regulated river (general security and EWA) access licences are restricted to 70 per cent of the volume of water in the carryover sub-account as at 1 July 2018. Water users with queries about implementation of restrictions or accounting arrangements should contact WaterNSW.

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

Significant inflows to Burrendong Dam are required before current restrictions can be eased or lifted, and thereby enable delivery of all remaining carryover water in accounts.

Cropping and catchment conditions are being assessed to inform demand and deliverability requirements and to allow deferral of the bulk water transfer for as long as possible. WaterNSW will liaise with stakeholders in coming weeks to design optimum release arrangements. At this stage the planned bulk water transfer from Windamere Dam will need to **commence in January 2019**.

There was just 3,000 ML of inflow to Burrendong Dam during October 2018 and sufficient inflow to ease account restrictions this summer appears unlikely. Water users are advised to plan their programs accordingly and to maximise water use efficiency.

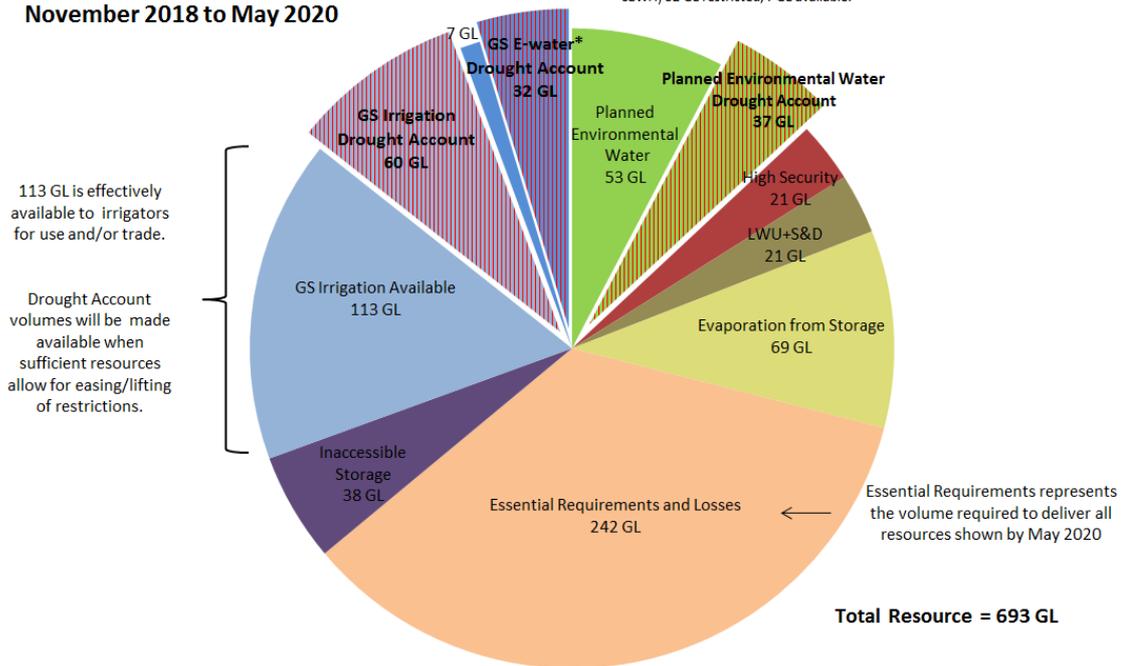
Advice will be provided each month on inflows and resource availability. The current restrictions will be eased as soon as there is sufficient water to assure high priority entitlements for the 2019/20 water year and current carryover commitments.

Deliveries under drought operations in 2018-19 will incorporate water conservation measures to prolong essential water supplies. This may involve implementation of water order debiting, maintaining very low, but steady flows in regulated effluent creeks to minimise operational losses and, where feasible, block releases of irrigation orders, particularly in the lower parts of the Macquarie River.

Under dry conditions, the timing of all stock and domestic deliveries in 2018-19 will depend upon rainfall events producing inflows to storage and flows from downstream tributaries. Water users should liaise with WaterNSW for their water delivery arrangements.

## Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions November 2018 to May 2020

\* indicative breakdown of held environmental water holdings (OEH, CEWH) 32 GL restricted, 7 GL available.



### Storage levels (as at 12 November 2018)

- Burrendong Dam is 20 per cent full – falling – currently holding 266 GL.
- Windamere Dam is 39 per cent full – steady – currently holding 145 GL.

### Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for November to January indicates that rainfall conditions may be variable over the western region of the valley during this period, with a drier than average condition expected early in the period and no clear indication of drier or wetter than average conditions later in the period. Over the eastern region, the outlook does not indicate a tendency towards drier or wetter conditions from November to January. Daytime and overnight temperatures are expected to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT and observations indicate that a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event is likely underway. Models indicate that El Niño thresholds may be met during November, while the positive IOD event will dissipate. When combined, an El Niño and positive IOD event increase the chances of dry and warm conditions, particularly during spring.

### Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Thursday 13 December 2018**.

## Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

<b>Macquarie Resource Distribution (November 2018 to May 2020)</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	363*
<b>less</b>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	212
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	90
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	21 (100%)
Inaccessible storage <sup>(6)</sup>	38
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	21 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD <sup>(7)</sup>	0 (0%)
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	242
Evaporation from storage	69

\* 330GL of additional inflow required to meet the 693GL 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 19 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 4 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 39GL 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.