

11 January 2019

## Macquarie and Cudgegong Valleys

### Water allocation update

The system continues to experience **record low inflows to Burrendong Dam**. Inflows to the dam since the last water allocation in August 2017 total about 49,000 megalitres (ML). This is just 26 per cent of the previous record low inflow.

A temporary water restriction is in place to ensure that water usage below Burrendong Dam in 2018-19 is suitably limited. 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.

There was just 7,300 ML of inflow to Burrendong Dam during December 2018. 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.

Inflows in excess of 60,000 ML are required by the end of January 2019 to secure higher priority needs for the 2019-20 water year and allow potential easing of current restrictions. Advice 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. 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. Water users should liaise with WaterNSW for their water delivery arrangements.

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

### Storage levels (as at 11 January 2019)

- Burrendong Dam is 11 per cent full – falling – currently at 158,000 megalitres (ML).
- Windamere Dam is 37 per cent full – falling – currently at 136,000 ML.

### Drought stage

The NSW Extreme Events Policy introduces a staged approach to managing extreme events, such as severe droughts or poor water quality events. The Macquarie regulated river water source is assessed to be in Stage 3. The Cudgegong regulated river water source remains in Stage 1. Account restrictions are in force in the Macquarie as described above.

Water supplies are being managed to meet high priority needs for as long as possible. Increased operational contingency measures will be used to maintain critical water supplies.

For further details: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/droughts-floods/extreme-events)

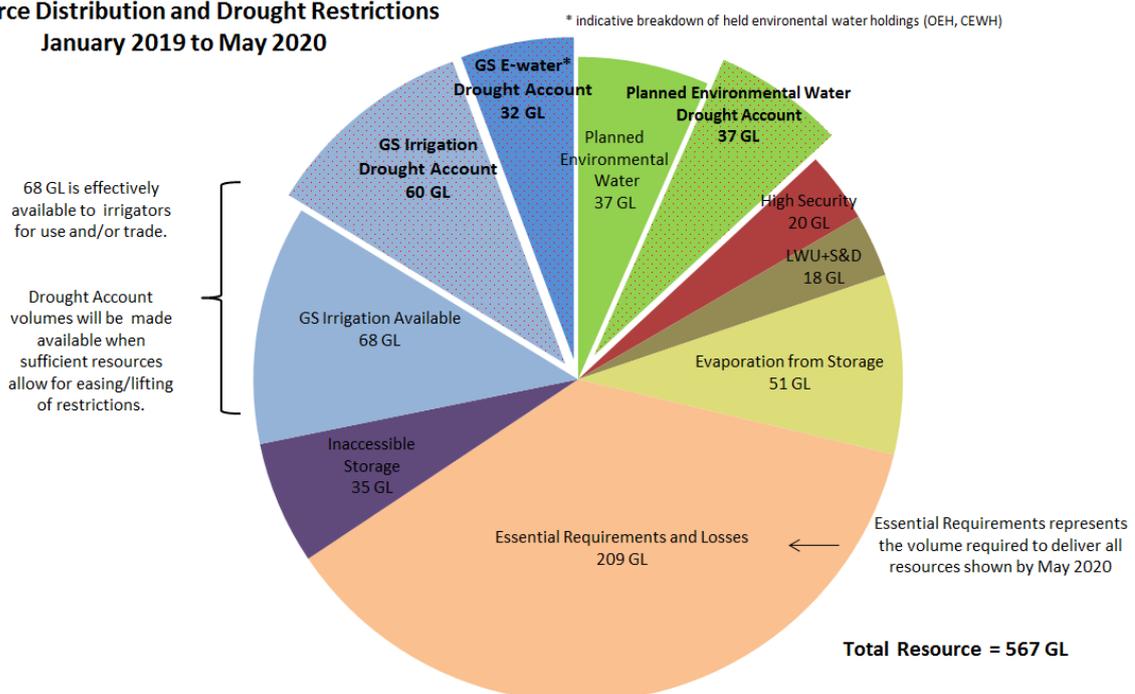
## Climatic outlook

The Bureau of Meteorology seasonal outlook for January to March, issued on 20 December 2018, shows no clear indication of wetter or drier than average conditions for a majority of the catchment. Daytime and overnight temperatures are very likely to be above average.

The Bureau's El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Outlook remains at El Niño ALERT and a positive Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) event, which was present late in 2018, has now ended. Ocean surface temperatures have reduced to neutral ENSO levels but remain above average. Atmospheric ENSO indicators continue to remain neutral.

## Resource Distribution

**Resource Distribution and Drought Restrictions**  
January 2019 to May 2020



## Macquarie-Cudgegong Resource Assessment Data Sheet

<b>Macquarie Resource Distribution (January 2019 to May 2020)</b>	
	Volume (GL)
Total Available Resource <sup>(1)</sup>	250*
<b>less</b>	
Carryover remaining in accounts <sup>(2), (7)</sup>	160
Planned Environmental Water <sup>(3)</sup>	74
Towns, Stock, Domestic <sup>(4)</sup>	18 (100%)
Inaccessible storage <sup>(6)</sup>	35
High Security <sup>(4)</sup>	20 (100%)
General Security 2018/2019 AWD <sup>(7)</sup>	0 (0%)
Essential Requirements (transmission, operations) <sup>(5)</sup>	209
Evaporation from storage	51

\* 317GL of additional inflow required to meet the 567GL 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 17 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 1 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 32GL 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.

### Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the regulated Macquarie-Cudgegong Valley will be on **Tuesday 12 February 2019**.