

22 April 2022

# Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

## Water allocation update

General security licences reached full (100%) allocations on 1 December 2021, hence there is no allocation increase to be announced in this statement. This statement will provide an outlook for opening allocations in the 2022-23 water year.

## Allocations in 2021-22 for Macquarie and Cudgegong

Date	License Category	Increment	Total 2021/22	Account Balance (Macquarie only)
1-Jul	Domestic & Stock	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	Local Water Utility	100%	100%*	100%*
1-Jul	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*
1-Jul	General Security	0.00 ML/unit share	0.00 ML/unit share	65%
1-Jul	Supplementary	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share	100%*
12-Jul	General Security	0.12 ML/unit share	0.12 ML/unit share	77%
11-Aug	General Security	0.22 ML/unit share	0.34 ML/unit share	99%
10-Sep	General Security	0.11 ML/unit share	0.45 ML/unit share	110%
13-Oct	General Security	0.18 ML/unit share	0.63 ML/unit share	114%
11-Nov	General Security	0.14 ML/unit share	0.77 ML/unit share	115%
1-Dec	High Security	1.00 ML/unit share	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*#
1-Dec	General Security	1.00 ML/unit share*	1.00 ML/unit share*	100%*#

\*maximum possible  
#account reset

Wet conditions have prevailed across the catchment over the summer and early autumn months, with approximately 577 gigalitres (GL) inflow into Burrendong Dam during December to mid-April. This has kept Burrendong Dam above 100% capacity and in Flood Mitigation Zone (FMZ) operations. There is an estimated 40 GL of recession flow still in transit that has been accounted for in this assessment.

## Burrendong Dam spill forfeiture

Burrendong Dam is likely to remain in the FMZ into the new water year, and water users are advised to note the following:

- Carryover spill reduction will occur in the new water year as the current account balances will become carryover as of 1 July 2022. Carryover volumes will be communicated on routine July 22 water allocation statement.

- Any inflows into the dam from during July 2022 will be spilt from carryover while Burrendong Dam is in the FMZ and these reductions will be reallocated as general security allocations in the routine August statement. This process will repeat each month until all carryover has been withdrawn from accounts.
- When all carryover has been withdrawn, the general security and high security accounts in the Macquarie and Cudgegong will be reset to 100% at the end of the relevant month.
- Following the first reset in 2022-23, if Burrendong storage level has drawn below 100% and has re-entered the FMZ during 2022-23, a re-reset of allocation to 100% will be made.
- Carryover balances in the Cudgegong River general security accounts **will not be forfeited** until Windamere Dam spills. However, any water assigned from the carryover sub-account of a Macquarie access licence to a Cudgegong access licence will be treated as if it were in a carryover sub-account of a Macquarie access licence. Any remaining balances from that trade will incur **the same spill reduction** that is applied for the Macquarie River licences during the water year.

With Burrendong Dam currently at 110%, this assessment considers that approximately 118 GL, equal to about 10% of the full capacity of Burrendong Dam, will spill under minimum inflow conditions.

## Resource outlook for 2022-23

This 1 July 2022 outlook secures high priority needs until May 2024 before any allocation to general security users. With the current resource situation in the Macquarie catchment, Bulk Water Transfers (BWTs) from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are not required until at least January 2024.

This outlook for the likely 1 July 2022 water availability is based on several assumptions. Water users are advised that this forecast allocation is not certain, may change and should be used with caution.

- Water for all critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs, including local water utility licences, are secure until May 2024.
- High priority water access licence holders, including local water utility, stock and domestic, and high security, can expect their maximum (100%) allocations on 1 July 2022.
- Average carryover into 2022-23 in the Macquarie River is estimated to be 86% of share component and in the Cudgegong River it is estimated to be about 200% of share component. The environmental water allowance is expected to carryover 160 GL.
- The carryover limit in the Macquarie River is 100% for general security users, while the maximum allocation in a water year to general security entitlement is 100% of share component. In the Cudgegong, licences not listed in Schedule 2 of the water sharing plan can carry over up to a maximum of 100% of share component, while those listed in Schedule 2, can carryover up to 15 ML/hectare.
- Likely allocations for general security is anticipated to be approximately 40%, however; this is dependent on final carryover volumes. This will mean that general security entitlement holders collectively will have access to about 128% of entitlement, which will vary depending on individual end of water year account balances.

## Dam levels (as of 21 April 2022)

- Burrendong Dam is 110% full – holding about 1,300,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 54% full – holding about 200,000 ML.

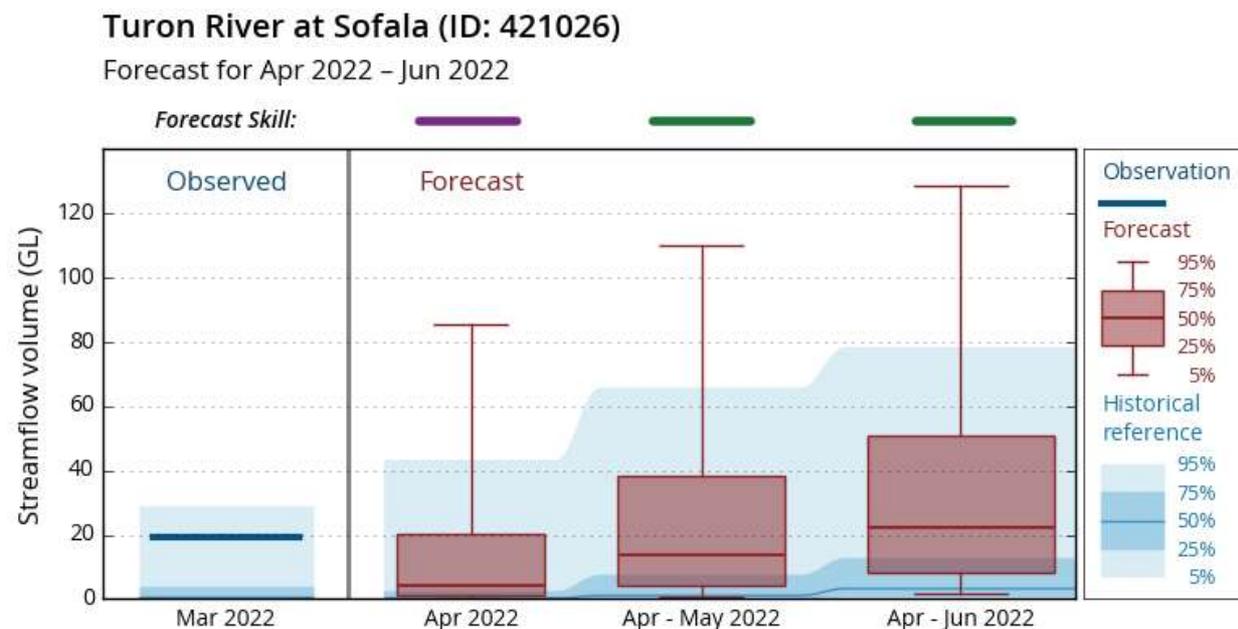
## Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology’s seasonal outlook for May to July indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median. Maximum temperatures are likely to be neither cooler nor warmer than median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the catchment.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary](http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary)

The Bureau of Meteorology issues a seasonal flow forecast for the Turon River at Sofala, which drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indication of potential inflows into the dam. All forecast flow quartiles are higher than the historical quartiles, indicating that inflow over these months is very likely to be higher than historical inflow.

Further details at: [www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=421026](http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/#id=421026)



## Resource distribution

This statement does not include routine resource distribution table and the pie chart. These may not be informative as all accounts received maximum allocation, with surplus volume improving allocation prospect into the next water year.

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## Water allocation guide

The department is producing a series of guides to describe the water allocation methods for most NSW regulated river systems. The guide for Macquarie and Cudgegong regulated rivers water source is available at the link below.

Further details at: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water/allocations-availability/allocations/how-water-is-allocated/resource-assessment-process)

## Further information

The next water allocation update for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be published in **May 2022**.

Information on available water determinations and water sharing plans is available on the Department of Planning and Environment website: [www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water](http://www.industry.nsw.gov.au/water)

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