

12 May 2022

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

General security licences reached full allocation (100% of entitlement) on 1 December 2021, so there is no further allocation increase to be announced in this statement. However, this statement provides an outlook for opening allocations on 1 July for the 2022/23 water year.

Rainfall in April 2022 was mostly above average across the catchment with gauges recording between 50mm - 200 mm of rainfall.

Generally wet conditions look like continuing in coming months across the catchment and Burrendong Dam remains above 100% full, under Flood Mitigation Zone (FMZ) operations.

Resource outlook for 2022/23

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

- Water for critical consumptive and non-consumptive needs 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.
- Allocation for **general security** could be up to 40%, however; this is dependent on conditions to the end of the water year and final carryover volumes.
- Average **carryover** into 2022-23 in the Macquarie River is estimated might be 86% of share component and in the Cudgegong River it is estimated might be about 200% of share component. The **environmental water allowance** is expected to carryover 160 GL.
- This will mean that general security entitlement holders collectively will have access to about 128% of entitlement on average, but this will vary for individuals based on their end of water year account balance.
- Full allocation (100% of entitlement) can be expected for **supplementary** access entitlements.
- Water users are reminded that 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.
- With the current resource situation in the Macquarie catchment, Bulk Water Transfers (BWTs) from Windamere to Burrendong Dam are not expected to be required until at least January 2024.

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 could occur in the new water year as the current account balances will become carryover as of 1 July 2022. Carryover volumes that could be affected will be communicated in the routine July 2022 water allocation statement.
- The volume of inflow into Burrendong Dam during July 2022 while the storage is in the FMZ will be removed from carryover balances. The calculation will be undertaken at the end of July and reported in the routine August water allocation statement. This process will repeat at the end of each month while water remains in the FMZ 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% of entitlement at the end of the relevant month.
- Following the first reset in 2022/23, if Burrendong storage level falls below 100% and then subsequently re-enters the FMZ again during 2022/23, a re-reset of allocations to 100% of entitlement 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 and any remaining balances from that trade will incur **the same spill reduction** that is applied for the Macquarie River licences during the water year.

Dam levels (as of 12 May 2022)

- Burrendong Dam is 117% full – holding about 1,385,000 megalitres (ML)
- Windamere Dam is 57% full – holding about 210,000 ML.

Climate and streamflow outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for June to August indicates that rainfall is likely to be above median. Maximum temperatures are likely to be cooler than median and minimum temperatures are likely to be warmer than median for the catchment.

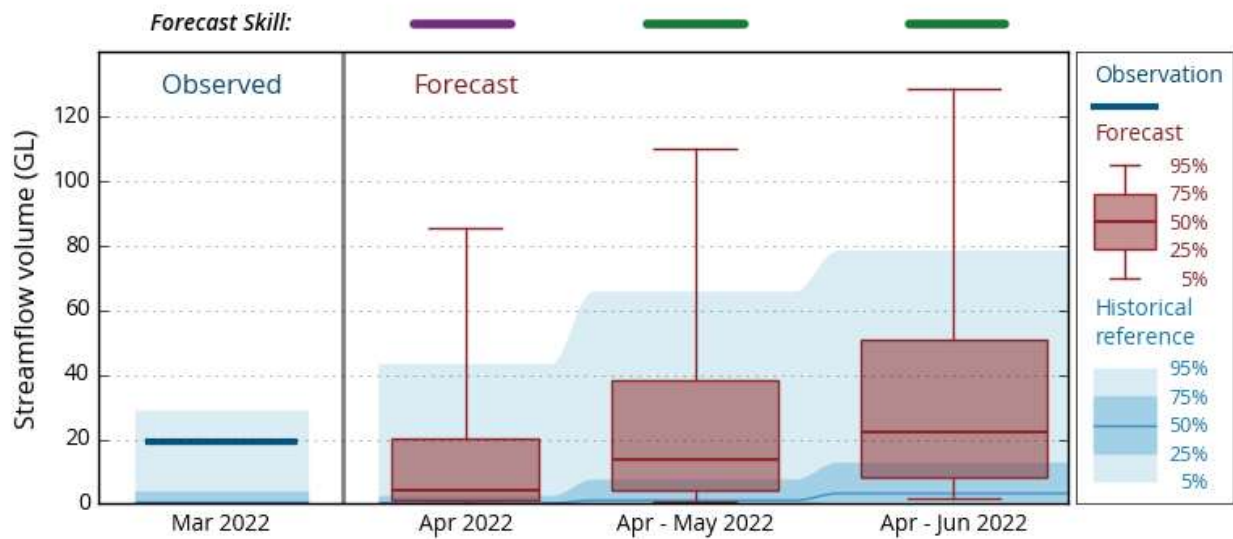
Further details at: www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/overview/summary

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

Turon River at Sofala (ID: 421026)

Forecast for Apr 2022 – Jun 2022



Resource distribution

This statement does not include the routine resource distribution table and the pie chart. These may not be useful as all accounts have received their maximum allocation and any resource improvements are contributing water availability and allocations next 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

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

Further information

With little change expected in water availability in this system for the remainder of the water year, the next water allocation update for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be published on Tuesday 12 July, or earlier if there is a significant change to the resource situation.

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

Feedback on this work or any aspect of the department's service can be provided using the widget at: www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/contact