

14 April 2021

Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source

Water allocation update

There is sufficient resource available in the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source to enable an **allocation increase of 29% of entitlement for general security licence holders**. This allocation brings the cumulative general security allocation to 63% of entitlement for the current water year. All other licence categories have reached 100% allocation for the current water year.

2020-21	High Security	General Security	Drought Stage	
Cudgegong	100%	63%		Stage 1
Macquarie	100%	63%		Stage 1

Inflows totalling 200,000 megalitres (ML) into Burrendong Dam were observed during March and the outlook remains favourable for further rainfall and inflows during the remainder of the current water year.

Indicative inflow volumes required to provide further general security allocations this water year are provided at the end of this statement. The planning outlook runs through to May 2022, some 14 months, and aims to ensure that next water year's higher priority needs can be met before further allocating to general security entitlements this water year.

Burrendong Dam penstock outage

A maintenance outage of Burrendong Dam (main) penstock is being planned for May through to mid-July 2021. During the outage, only the bypass penstock will be available for making water releases from the dam. The release rate from the bypass penstock is limited to about 200 ML/day and is not adequate to meet any large demands or water orders in autumn/winter 2021.

Any inability to deliver translucent releases triggered during the maintenance outage will be subsequently made good in consultation with environmental water holders.

In the unlikely event that Burrendong Dam spills (including pre-release) during this outage, the account reset rule will be deferred until the end of August 2021. This delay will allow affected water users a short period to order water ahead of any forfeiture and reset operation.

Storage levels (as at 14 April 2021)

- Burrendong Dam is 57 % full – steady – holding about 690,000 ML
- Windamere Dam is 34% full – rising – holding about 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 and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source is currently at Stage 1 meaning normal river operations, and contingency measures are not expected to be required in the current water year.

Resource outlook for 2021-22

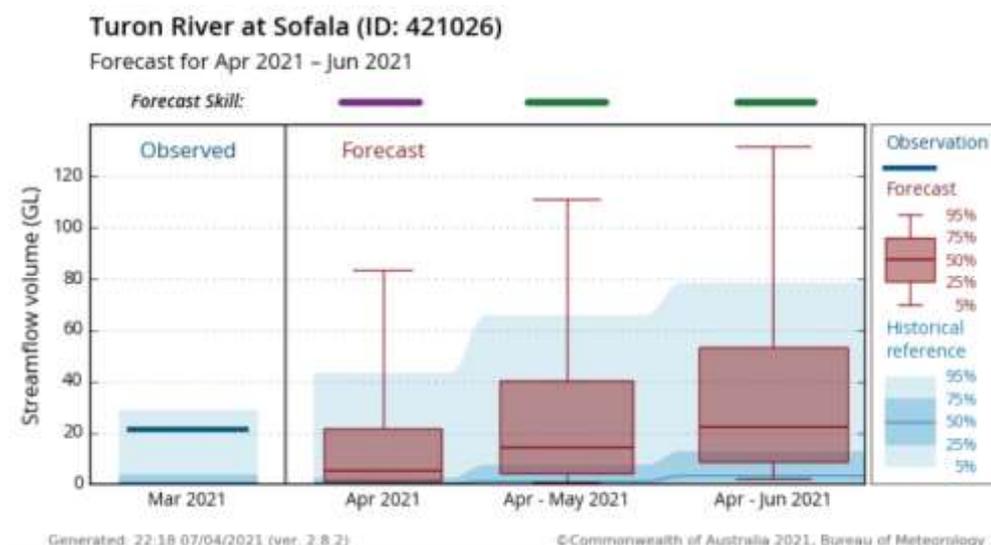
- Domestic and stock, towns and high security licences are likely to receive a full (100%) allocation on 1 July 2021 for the 2021-22 water year.
- An estimated 375 gigalitres (GL) of general security water (inclusive of approximately 90GL of held environmental water) is expected to be carried over into the new water year and be fully deliverable. This equates to approximately 60% of share component for general security licences.
- There is no limit on incremental allocations to general security entitlements in a water year. Therefore, the department will continue to allocate available resource across the remainder of this water year, however; individual water users need to be mindful of their carryover limit.

Seasonal inflow and climatic outlooks

The Bureau of Meteorology's seasonal outlook for April to June indicates that rainfall in the Macquarie catchment is likely to be below average. Daytime temperatures are likely to be above average, while night-time temperatures are likely to be about average. The La Niña has faded and the El Niño-Southern Oscillation is now neutral. For further details:

www.bom.gov.au/climate/outlooks/#/rainfall/summary

The Bureau of Meteorology issues seasonal flow forecasts for the Turon River that drains into Burrendong Dam (see the figure below). This provides an indicative distribution of potential inflows. All forecast quartiles of total inflows from April to June are well above the historic volumes, suggesting likely better than historical inflow over this period, probably because catchments are wet. For further information: <http://www.bom.gov.au/water/ssf/?ref=ftr#id=421026>



Key facts

- All high priority licence categories received full allocations on 1 July 2020.
- Based on historic inflows over 119 years there is a small, at least 10%, chance that Burrendong Dam may spill by the end of June 2021.
- Tributary flows from passing storms downstream of Burrendong Dam will continue to be managed adaptively to meet high priority commitments.
- Transfers from Windamere Dam to Burrendong Dam are currently can be deferred until at least March 2022.

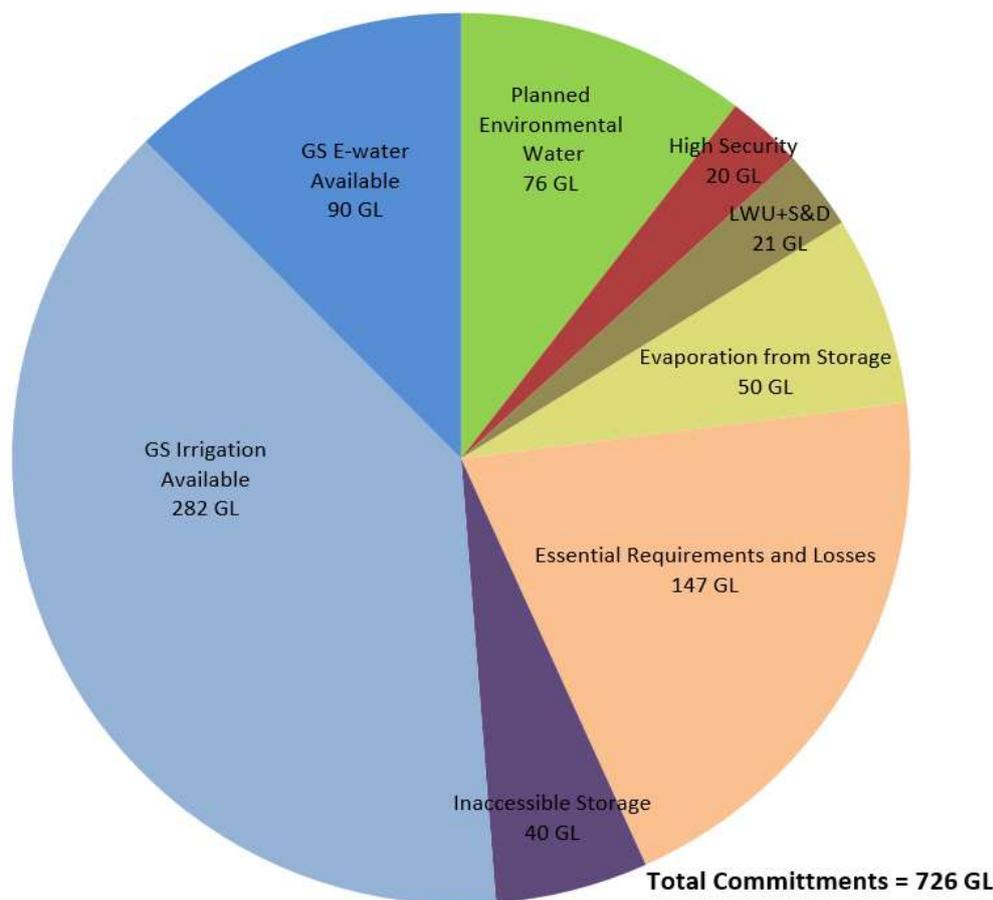
Resource Distribution (April 2021 to May 2022)	Volume (GL)
Current and Future Resources ⁽¹⁾	726
<i>less</i>	
Carryover remaining in accounts ^{(2), (7)}	29
Planned Environmental Water ⁽³⁾	76
Domestic, Stock, Town ⁽⁴⁾	21
Inaccessible Storage ⁽⁶⁾	40
High Security ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁷⁾	20
General Security 2020/2021 AWD ⁽⁷⁾	343
Essential Requirements and Losses ⁽⁵⁾	147
Evaporation from Storage	50
<i>equals</i>	
Water available for allocation (or deficit) ⁽⁸⁾	0

Notes:

- (1) End of March 2021 Storage volume in Burrendong Dam plus recession flows plus minimum budgeted dam inflows from April 2021 to May 2022 plus 25 GL planned transfer from Windamere Dam.
- (2) Volume remaining in carryover sub-accounts (excludes Cudgegong), discounted for evaporative losses.
- (3) Water allocated to the Environmental Water Allowance (EWA) under the water sharing plan to provide for the Macquarie Marshes and the riverine environment. Excludes 'licence-based' environmental water.
- (4) Reserves required to meet the projected use by Domestic, Stock, Town and High Security licence categories below Burrendong Dam over the assessment horizon.
- (5) Replenishments, basic rights and system overheads to run the river under dry conditions over the next 14 months. System overhead includes transmission losses and operational loss. This estimate is regularly refined as the year unfolds.
- (6) Dead storage of 34 GL plus 6 GL to ensure valve operations at very low storage levels.
- (7) This volume may contain held environmental water (HEW). The reporting of HEW is indicative only, prior to reconciliation of usage and net trade, and is estimated to be 90 GL of GS and 0 GL of HS. These entitlements are held and/or managed either singly or jointly by various environmental holder groups, including the NSW DPIE Environment, Energy and Science (EES) and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder (CEWH).
- (8) All available water is fully allocated with no resource deficit.

Water Allocation Statement

Water availability and allocation update



Inflow required to provide the next general security allocation (estimate as at 12 April 2020)

Inflow period	Inflows (GL)	
	Minimum inflow required before AWD can be made	Inflow required for additional 10% allocation
By end of April	>0	85
By end of May	>0	85
By end of June	>0	85

Next announcement

The next water allocation statement for the Macquarie and Cudgegong Regulated Rivers Water Source will be issued on **Wednesday 12 May 2021**.

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